

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 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**

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., Friday, July 28, 2000.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner Ben Price gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four David L. Saussy, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Harris Odell, Jr., District Five Ben Price, District Six Eddie W. DeLoach, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Martin S. Jackel, District Three
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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Chairman Hair said, I would at the beginning of the meeting like to announce that Commissioner Jackel is on vacation this week and that is why he is not here. He asked me to make that statement.

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**V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- 1. PRESENTATION OF THE SAVANNAH SKETCHBOOK TO THE BOARD BY PAULA ROWAN, PRESIDENT OF SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN.**

Mrs. Paula Rowan said, good morning. The Commissioners said, good morning. Mrs. Rowan said, it's my pleasure to present you all personally autographed copies of the Savannah Sketchbook, and I especially want to thank Dr. Billy Hair and all the Commissioners for your important support of this publication project, which I think presents Savannah in a very attractive way for our citizens and for our visitors. This book is composed of 130 original paintings which were done primarily by students at the Savannah College of Art and Design led by two professors, Dr. Josh Yu and Sandra Reed. This is an international group of students from China, Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, and from many states, including Georgia, of course, South Carolina, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maine and Washington, and our students, as they're studying here and especially as they get involved in projects like this, become real ambassadors for Savannah after they leave and they go back to their homes because they'll have a real appreciation of the history and culture of Savannah when they leave, and I'd like to read just a brief quote from one of the students who participated in this project. She said, "Savannah's like a puzzle of pieces brought in from all different cultures and periods of history. I have come to feel like a needle and thread stitching this patchwork together." Our author for this book is Jeff Eley. He's going to present Dr. Hair with his copy. Jeff [Eley] has been here teaching at the college Architectural History since 1983 and he's also a popular lecturer around town on Savannah's history. He's the Vice President for Student Services at SCAD. And Tony Bennett, of course, was gracious enough to provide the forward for this book. You might remember that he opened the Trustees Theater for us in May of 1998 with a grand gala performance, and he actually while he was here created a painting which we've included in the book and which he donated to the college because he was so impressed with Savannah and the college, and he said, "For 50 years I've traveled all over the globe and have visited every major city in the United States at least once. Savannah remains one of my favorites because it is a city built and maintained with great care thanks to your hard work on behalf of the citizens." And thank you for your support of the Savannah Sketchbook. I'd just like to recognize Janice Shay, who is the Director of Design Crafts, who creates all of our wonderful books, and Tom Crites, a member of our Board of Trustees, and Dr. Maureen Burke, one of our deans.

Commissioner Price said, thank you very much. This is beautiful. What a treasure for us to have. My question is, is it possible for us to find out how to purchase individual prints, hanging on walls and what have you? Mrs. Rowan said, yes, and we have the original paintings. Some are at the Trade Center as part of their permanent collection now, but we do have original paintings from the book that are available and prints, and also two little postcard books, which you might have seen around town, which were created and derived from these same paintings and have been very popular with the tourists and residents alike. Janice [Shay] is the person to contact about all of these. Commissioner Price said, great. Mrs. Rowan said, so 525-5200 is our line into Keith Hall, so call Janice [Shay] or me there and we'll be glad to help you with that. Great gifts.

Chairman Hair said, President Rowan, I'd just like to say I think that—, I'd like to commend you and the college. I think you add so much to our city and to our community, and you've just done such a wonderful job there, and I just want to say that publicly to you. Mrs. Rowan said, thank you so much. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Mrs. Rowan said, thank you. Enjoy. Chairman Hair said, thank you for coming up. Thank you.

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## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

### **1. COASTAL COMMUNITY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE - PETE NICHOLS.**

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Pete Nichols.

Mr. Nichols said, Mr. Thompson will get the TVs on. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, I'm really pleased to be here today because we were basically at this same meeting last year, the fourth week in July, that I came to speak to you to show you a preview of what was then our soon-to-be airing TV channel, the government channel, and at that time I told you we were going to be doing basically a local C-Span. That's one of our announcements and what not, and I mentioned at that time that we were looking to the possibility of carrying some educational programming. We would offer the citizens of Chatham County college credit via these programmings. Well, finally that has come to fruition and starting on Tuesday, August 1st, we will be airing a two-week premiere of the Annenberg/CPB, which is Corporation for Public Broadcasting channel. After this two-week premiere we will also come back in September for an eight-week course, ending some time in middle November prior to the holiday season, and then coming back again in early January with another eight-week course. One of the neat things about this project is the fact that it is, I think, a good example of a public and private partnership because this has been put together with not only myself, but the gentleman standing next to me, Jack Starr, who I'll turn the mikes over in just a minute, who is basically the leader of putting this together. We've also incorporated Comcast Communicates to record these programs off of the satellite for us and, finally, Goodwill Industries who will be making duplications of these tapes and making these tapes available to community centers and libraries and senior centers and whatnot for those who want to go in and form study groups with the hopeful goal of earning college credits, and how those college credits would come about would be via CLEP tests, which are the College Level Examinations Program, and we will cover the basic subjects under English compositions, humanities, mathematics, natural science, social science

and history. As far as all of the particulars to this project, I'll go ahead and turn this over to Jack Starr and he can answer any questions as far as this is concerned.

Mr. Jack Star said, good morning. I'm delighted to be here and I'm particularly thankful for the cooperation that the County has given in allowing us to pursue this project to bring college level programming via the County's channel to all the residents of the County, and we've gone a step beyond that by duplicating the tapes. We were able to get a free license to duplicate the tapes, and with the help of Goodwill we will now be able to build tape libraries so that people who either can't get cable or can't record from it or can't see it at the times we broadcast it, will be able to go to some place locally where they'll be able to view these tapes. When Thomas Jefferson first started his university, the university which became the University of Virginia, he was particularly interested in bringing together some of the top intellectuals of his time to talk about academics, and he had an open learning philosophy and that was that you came, you stayed as long as you wanted to, you participated as much as you wanted to, he provided a great library, and then you left, and all of this was free, and he felt that that was the way in which advanced education should be taught. Now I happen to go along with Thomas Jefferson on that, and I believe that education should be as free as much as we can possibly make it free and the people who are willing to make the extra effort to learn should be supported and rewarded, and with that in mind I started the online free University project, which is a support where we provide free online study guides for people who want to study for the college level examinations. Now there are 2,800, I think now 2,900, colleges and universities who will give college credit for some of these proficiency exams and, as a result, students are able to save anywhere from two or three courses to a semester to a year and, in some cases, even two years where they can study on their own at their own time and, of course, the Internet provides us with the facilities to do that. I started this because I found nobody else was doing it. I investigated to see whether or not the lectures were in fact on line. They were, and I thought it would take me a year and a half and I'm going into year four right now, but I have enough study guides out there now to help people earn an AA degree strictly by examination. So the next step, it seemed to me, was to bring this more into the community and when I found out about the availability of the Annenberg/CPB tapes, which have been used in tele-courses in community colleges around the country and that these would be available under free license, I said, "Well, let's try and do something with this." And I received a very hurried, immediate and positive response from the County, for which I am very thankful. And so what we are doing now, although these tapes have not been broadcast in any kind of course sequence but have been broadcast for the general education of the public, we're going to be taping them so that we can provide more sequential support for people who are interested in studying for credit by examinations. But there are a lot of people in the community who are interested in learning about things that interest them, and what we are going to do is take a selection of some of these programs that are made available on tape and bring them into community centers, senior citizen centers, even businesses that may have employees who would like to be able to learn something a little bit more of, say, economics or statistics or some of the other programming that's available, and provide the guidance so that they can establish self-directed learning groups. It's a very, very effective learning technique, unfortunately not applied too often in the public schools, but it is particularly good for adults and for students who are in their junior and senior years in high school, college-bound people, home-schoolers, and I can anticipate a lot of interest from working moms or single moms, who find it almost impossible to arrange their schedules to attend college classes, but who really wish that they could do something more with their education. So I can answer any questions that you have.

Chairman Hair asked, does anyone have any questions of Jack [Star] or Pete [Nichols]? I think it's a great project and I commend you for bringing it to us and, Pete [Nichols], for you working with him. Does anybody have any questions?

Commissioner Thomas said, it sounds great to me. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate your taking —.

Mr. Nichols said, just a couple of things to point out. Since we had our big media kickoff last week, both of us have received a number of phone calls from the citizens inquiring more information on it, and also via Mr. Star's initiative here by putting together what we're calling the Coastal Community Working Collaborative, I also think it opens us up to receiving all sorts of or potential grant money to continue this project and take it even further.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate it, appreciate your effort.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information.

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## **2. CHRIS TAYLOR, S.T.O.P.**

Ms. Chris Taylor said, thank you very much for letting me come, and what I'd like to address, each of you have received copies of five or six letters that I have directed to you on behalf of the members of STOP and the taxpaying public in general, and we haven't received any answers from any of —, any of this, and we just would like to have it go on the record that we have addressed since May 31st, on May 31st, June 6th, June 12th, June 28th and a second letter on June 28th, questions about problems, specific problems in the Board of Assessors office and the Chief Appraiser's office, and we would like to know if any of these things have been addressed by you and what we can —, the public can expect from you.

Chairman Hair asked, Gary [Udinsky], have you responded to any of these in terms of —? Mr. Udinsky said, I have not received any. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Ms. Taylor said, he has received —. I do have copies of two letters of —, and this is of major importance to us —, letters requested formally public, through the Freedom of Information Act, information from Mr. Udinsky's office that have not been met. I have —, and these have been presented twice. This is about half of the letters that went back and forth to the Board of Assessors last year, and I have delivered a second set of these questions to Mr. Udinsky's office, and I still have —, we have not received any information from Mr. Simowitz or anyone else, and the other thing we'd like to ask is there are still two board members. I know —, we know you appointed three new ones, but there are two that are still on there that have been directly responsible for a lot of the problems that have come up in the Board of Assessors office, and we'd like to know what their status is, if you're going to ask for their resignation or if we can publicly.

Chairman Hair said, I think I will address the last question. To my knowledge, I think we've been through this exercise before as far as trying to remove Board of Assessor members before their term expires. I think a previous Commission, prior to my coming on the Commission, actually got into litigation over that and I think the County lost that fight. So I think it's —, I think the law's clearly on the side that we do not have the power to remove the two that remain. We have, as you correctly stated, put three new board members on there, which is a majority of the five, but I do not think that under the current law that we have the power to remove those two board members, and I think when their term expires it would be up to this Commission to decide what they want to do as far as replacing or putting somebody else in there, but I don't think it would be a wise expenditure of tax dollars to go through an effort that a previous Commission went through attempting to do something that the law said we cannot do. Now I know there's a difference of opinion about that in terms of what is cause and what is not cause, and you and I have discussed that and I've discussed that with your group, but I think we have to follow the law, and I think there is —, under our legal counsel, I do not think that we can remove the two that are currently on there. So I don't think you'll see any action, if anyone on the Commission wants to correct me, I'll be glad to be corrected, but I don't think there's going to be any action on those two people until their term expires. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Ms. Taylor, I think that since we've gotten three new appointments in and it's a five-member board, of course that constitutes a majority on that board should any votes, you know, be taken in any direction. I know that their terms are up on another year out, so I don't know what else we can do, as the Chairman has said, legally we could do, with the remaining two board members, plus there's a question of continuity. There's a lot of training involved with these new members and to have to go through all of them being trained at the same time from the get-go for lack of a better phrase, might be —, might take away something as far as their service and their ability to deliberate and make the correct decisions, so —.

Ms. Taylor said, all right, well, we're fully aware of that and also would highly recommend that when you do make new appointments that you actually search out people who are familiar with the tax system. There are some very good CPA's and other people in this community that could serve on that board that would have a head's-up on it going it rather than a long training period to get these people informed, but our real concern, and we don't know whether this is true or not true, but we've been told that the County Attorney, Mr. Hart, has been telling Mr. Udinsky that he does not have to provide us with information, and now this is public information and it's been requested through the Freedom of Information Act, and we're very concerned that this —, all of a sudden this information that was available last year is now being cut off completely to the citizens of this County.

Chairman Hair said, well, I don't believe that's true. I'm going to ask Mr. Hart to address that.

County Attorney Hart said, I haven't spoken to any member of STOP about denying them access to any public record or the public record. Any information that is a public record will be provided to people upon request in accordance with the law. The only thing that is —, that there has been any limitations in regards to what can be provided is information that is not available within a public record that would require the Assessors office to actually go out and create a public record. The law does not require that. It is not expected of anybody to have to do that, and to a large extent this Commission and the Assessors office have on occasion gone out and created those records in order to make them public records in order to provide that information. So I don't know where that information is coming from, but I will be glad to talk directly and look that person in the eye and explain it to them that that is not the case.

Ms. Taylor said, now it wasn't me directed, but that's what I was told. Chairman Hair said, well, but I think that answered your question, Ms. Taylor. I mean, you asked a question and I think it's —, he's clearly stated that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I do think it's important that we not come to the podium and say, "I have heard." If you —, you at any time can see this gentleman right here. Ms. Taylor said, well, I don't presume —. Commissioner DeLoach said, for you to walk up —, for you to walk up and insinuate —, an insinuation on the fact that you have heard something, that's —, we don't need to do that. Ms. Taylor said, no, I understand, but I —. Commissioner DeLoach said, we don't need to create that —, we don't know —, if you understand it, then you wouldn't do it. The fact of it is, we just don't need to create that animosity because that's not the case, and if you walked into his office or you walked up here, you could get what —, I mean, you would have a direct —, you could look at him and you could get that answer without having to come to the podium and say that. I mean, there was no need to say that. Absolutely no need to say that. You could have walked to him

and said, "Why can't I get that information?" And that's all it would have taken. That's the only thing I wanted —, I don't want to insinuate anything in any proceeding. Just if it's fact, put it out there and we'll address the fact. That's nobody up here that won't address a fact, but don't who said, we said —. Ms. Taylor said, no, I understand that, but I do know two copies of two letters that were refused information and I'm just asking why we can't get the information. Commissioner DeLoach asked, have you walked to Mr. Hart and actually looked at him and said, "Why can't I get that information?" Ms. Taylor said, well, let me ask you something. Is the procedure that when we want information we go to Mr. Hart's office first and then to the Tax Assessor? I mean, is he —? Commissioner DeLoach said, no. Chairman Hair said, no, that's not the procedure. Ms. Taylor said, these are directed directly to the Tax Assessor's office and I have a memo saying, and I understand what Mr. Hart is saying about not having to create —. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Taylor said, information. I have a copy of his memo or a memo saying that that's what he said. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Taylor said, but the point is that the information was there and the information should have been made available to the public.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Murray asked, when you said that the letters that you've sent requesting information that the Tax Assessor's office said they never saw, does that go all the way back to the original letter? When you came up here, you —. Ms. Taylor said, well, some of my correspondence goes back 13, 14 months, but the questions have not been —, that were addressed directly to the Board of Assessors to Mr. Felser and then to Mr. Simowitz that have not been addressed at all, we've been told that we would get answers, but that —, then they held it up for the DOR report. We have —, then it was held up because the commercial was going to be addressed, and we know that the auditors have been in town and have worked on the commercial, but that report is not out yet. We do know that [inaudible], I believe the 12th or 14th, the State Audit released their findings and found that 35% of the residential properties were not uniformly appraised. This is still a problem with us. I'm sorry, we've got —. Commissioner Murray said, well, I've just got some recommendations. Since you're here and you have copies of those letters and Gary [Udinsky] is here, if you could put them in his hands so he could have the copies of them, and the other thing —. Ms. Taylor said, I will be more than happy to. Commissioner Murray said, in the future when you send something through the mail, I would send it certified mail and that way somebody signs for it, or if you hand carry it down there, then get somebody's signature that they received it. That way there's no question about whether it came or didn't come, and then they would have to sign [inaudible] should be addressed. Ms. Taylor said, well, I have a letter confirming that he got the —, from Mr. Udinsky personally, and we were supposed to have met, and I could not wait longer, he was on the phone, and so —, but he did write me and tell me he did get the information, and —, but anyway, gentlemen, that's what we wanted to do was to get it on the record —. Commissioner Thomas said, and lady. Ms. Taylor said, that we're still not —. Commissioner Thomas said, and lady. Ms. Taylor said, I'm sorry, mam. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. Ms. Taylor said, I certainly didn't mean to slight you. Anyway, we just want it on the record that things are still not right in the Assessor's office.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Thomas, are you —? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I think both of the questions that I was going to ask —. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Thomas said, has been asked because my concern was the, you know, insinuation of what the Attorney, you know, had done, and the other thing was to suggest that she give Mr. Udinsky those copies of the letters that he says that he did not receive and, better still, to do exactly what Commissioner Murray has indicated to send it where she can get a signature and that way you would be sure that it has been received. Ms. Taylor said, right.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Odell said, Ms. Taylor, we were concerned that you indicated that the appointments, the three that we've just made, that we should consider people in your opinion —, let me finish —, who would not need the required training. It's my understanding in reviewing the law, the law mandates a week's training period —. Ms. Taylor said, well, I didn't mean it that way. Commissioner Odell said, let me finish. Ms. Taylor said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Odell said, you didn't intimate or mean that the people that STOP would offer would be so qualified that the law would waive the week's training? Ms. Taylor said, oh, no, no, no, no. I did not mean that and I didn't mean that the three people you have appointed are lacking in any way, shape or form. We're just concerned that those two that have been on there that have been there for years and have caused a lot of these problems are still there. Commissioner Odell said, I understand your position though I don't agree with it and I think a lot of politicians are concerned and a little bit frightened to tell STOP to stop. Having just gone through an election, I'm not one of those. I think the people that we appointed, having served on the Commission two terms, this problem existed before this group of Commissioners. It existed —. Ms. Taylor said, right. Commissioner Odell said, this problem existed before the Board of Assessors. We replaced all of the Board of Assessors. I just have a problem with making accusations against people to intimate that they have done something wrong. We have a —. Ms. Taylor said, well, sir —. Commissioner Odell asked, may I finish? We have a grand jury system, and if they've done something wrong then I'm certain our DA would look into that, but if they are unacceptable to STOP, STOP is not the only cluster of people in this County who has an opinion. Ms. Taylor said, I'm more than aware that —. Commissioner Odell said, and you're not entitled to have your way always because if we did that, then we've have to have a STOP to stop STOP. Ms. Taylor said, all right. Now I understand that, sir, but the research that our people have done has been confirmed by the Department of Revenue and by the State Audit. We're not —, all we're asking for is that a free flow of information be given to the citizens. These are not —, actually the two people that have requested information are not members of STOP. They were just given to me because —. Commissioner Odell said, I don't think that there's anyone here who wants there not to be a free flow of information, but I think there's a difference between free flow of information and creating documents that do not exist in their natural state and the cost to prepare those documents. I've received numerous documents from

the Tax Assessor's office in response to questions from STOP. If I were —, was a neophyte, I'd be of the opinion that you've received nothing, and that's not true. You've received answers. They may not have been the answers you wanted, but they have responded to your requests. Ms. Taylor said, not always, sir. Now, I'm sorry, not always, and since there's been such a silence from the County Commission, I mean, if we had gotten an answer from any of you to any of my letters saying, even acknowledging the letters, I wouldn't be here today. I'm here to get the letters on the record that we've been writing the letters and asking questions and we've not gotten any answers to them. Commissioner Odell said, I totally agree with you that we, as the Commission, presume that the decision to respond should have been elsewhere. We got copies —, we got copies of several hundred things. It is not our intention that we should individually respond. Ms. Taylor said, no, I understand that. Commissioner Odell said, let me just assure you that STOP is not the only group concerned about taxes in Chatham County. Ms. Taylor said, oh, I know that. Commissioner Odell said, and you're not —, you're not the only group who can vote and make determination as to who should sit on the Board of Assessors, and that will not be the only input evaluated. Do you understand that? Ms. Taylor said, yes, I understand it, sir. Commissioner Odell said, and I —. Ms. Taylor said, I'm just saying that —. Commissioner Odell said, I really think that the people who serve on these boards most often are done a major disservice and injustice. They are given credit for problems that some are real, some are imagined and their intent and their motivation to help is demeaned, and they never have an opportunity to confront their accusers. It's accusation without trial. It's accusation without them having a fair opportunity to be heard, and a lot of people look at this and believe there are two people left and they are the problem. They're not the problem. They're not the problem. Those two people are not the problem. Just as you wanted to go on the record on that, I want to go on the record on that. I don't think they're the problem, and just as I respect your right to have a different opinion, I don't think STOP respects others' right to differ from STOP. I think five years from now we'll have a group called STOP STOP. Ms. Taylor said, that may be, sir. We're only out here trying to get the information correct and provide you with information. We did not provide you with any information that had not been verified and we feel very honestly correct. We have sent this information on and I believe it is being looked into, but we just want you to know. Commissioner Odell said, I think Gary Udinsky has heard you that we have not answered and hopefully that we will —. Ms. Taylor said, I will provide him with a copy of every single thing and —, so that he can answer directly, and I'll provide Mr. Hart with copies of our —, the copies of the Freedom of Information Act requests that have not been met.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Saussy, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Saussy said, thank you. Ms. Taylor, do you consider STOP as a public organization? Ms. Taylor said, we're —, I think we're classified as political action committee. Commissioner Saussy said, political action. Ms. Taylor said, right, but right now we been just involved in trying to do some research to the uniformity problem in the County, which we discovered and brought before y'all and took to the Governor, took to the Department of Revenue and they verified that, yes, there is a problem here. The State Audit in June released that, yes, there is —, the DOR said, 37%, the State Audit said 35%. Commissioner Saussy said, I think we understand what [inaudible]. Ms. Taylor said, right. So, I mean —. Commissioner Saussy said, I just wanted to make sure what kind of organization you were, and you're trying to put out information that is correct. Ms. Taylor said, that is correct, yes sir. I mean, we've tried to verify every single thing that we've put out so that we are not —, and I don't mean that we are making idle accusations. I've got records back and forth and from the Department of Revenue and from Mr. Udinsky's office that show that we are —, you know, we're not putting out false information about —. Commissioner Saussy said, well, Ms. Taylor, I think you probably are putting false information out because during my campaign there was an information thing —, leaflet put out that was totally false about me, and my things, and it was paid for by STOP and supporting my opponent, and what was put on that leaflet was absolutely wrong and I can prove it. Ms. Taylor said, well, then please come to a meeting and prove it. That would be fine. I mean, we —. Commissioner Saussy said, I don't think I need to come to a meeting. Ms. Taylor said, well.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm going to —. Commissioner Saussy, are you —? Commissioner Saussy said, yes. Okay, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I just wanted to make a comment before it becomes an issue, and that is that we have received from all of the new, the three new appointees, their property disclosures. We do have them. Ms. Taylor said, oh, good. Commissioner Murray said, and they're on record, so that is not an issue any more.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, and then we'll wrap it up.

Commissioner Rivers said, Ms. Taylor, let me ask you, what is the objective of STOP? Ms. Taylor said, well, sir, we got formed because the reevaluations were going up so fast and we had so many people about to lose their homes and we knew there was a problem in the Assessor's office as to why certain areas of Chatham County were going up so quickly and others were being ignored, and so we have done the research, we've got the proof, I mean, you know, the records came from Mr. Udinsky's office. We're not making up any records. Commissioner Rivers said, no, I —, that's —, I just wanted to know what the objective of the group was because I spent —. Ms. Taylor said, the objective of the group is —. Commissioner Rivers said, last year I spent more hours and gave many hours coming in here listening to things going back and forward, innuendos, and us directing the Tax Assessor's office to provide you with certain information, and I was of the opinion that all of that had begun to subside. I thought that we were working towards uniformity within and getting all of the residential uniform and then going back and looking at the commercial. I thought that process was being done, yet at the same time you have to remember one thing, that the Tax Assessor's office —, the Commission controls very little. The Legislators can do more to stop the —, to improve the equity between properties than anyone of those two bodies can. They're directed and given guidelines by the State. Now they've got to conform to that, so —, and what you're saying too

is that there's nonconformity there since all this has happened, that we still have nonconformity. One thing that's going to happen, we're going to have a referendum and it's going to freeze taxes. Do you think that's going to be uniform? Do you think that's going to bring us equity? Ms. Taylor said, well, it's going to save a lot of older people from losing their homes, sir, and —. Commissioner Rivers said, it will save a lot of old people from losing their homes, but there also can be a law to adjust and to keep people, older people in their homes, and I think we need to look at how we devise that type of law in order to deal with that —. Ms. Taylor said, we're working with —. Commissioner Rivers said, instead of dealing with people per se. Gary [Udinsky], let me ask you something. Are we out of —, are we nonconforming in our taxing district? Are we still out of kilter? Mr. Udinsky said, the answer's no. I have a letter here, an E-mail from a Wayne Blackwell, who's the Principal Property Appraiser for the Department of Revenue. In addressing the question of the Department of Audit's sales ratio study, he says this. Essentially, I asked him to look into it. He says: "As you and I both know, when analyzing measures of uniformity for universal properties," which means all properties in Chatham County, "there will be those samples that do not follow exactly the trends in the market, mainly because the market is imperfect. If you cherry-pick or mine the data and focus on the specific data points within the entirety of the given samples, you may not generate a true picture of the measure sought." Essentially, he's saying, if you pick out the bad guys and you concentrate on the bad guys, you're going to come to the wrong conclusions. The Department of Audit's study shows that Chatham County is well within all the acceptable measures of both uniformity, level of assessment and bias. Commissioner Rivers asked, but you don't agree with that, Ms. Taylor? Ms. Taylor said, no sir. Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you one last thing if it's feasible that we can do. Gary [Udinsky], all the questions that they've got unanswered, can we possibly answer those questions or can we get the Attorney together along with Chairman of the Tax Assessors Board, yourself, and resolve this thing? I'm personally tired of hearing it, so that we arrest it then it will be a dead animal. Mr. Udinsky said, Commissioner Rivers, let me respond in two ways, if I can. First of all, there is a little bit of misunderstanding here. Ms. Taylor referenced memos that she wrote, of a letter she wrote of May 31st, June 6th, June 12th, June 22 and June 28. Those are the letters that I'm saying I'm not aware of. There was a package of information delivered to my office some number of months ago which was essentially copies of previous letters that had been written over the last period of time, year or 15 months, I don't know. Every Georgia Open Records Act request has been responded to. Every single one of them. Many of them have been responded to in that document does not exist. If you ask a question, or a Georgia open records question like why is it that so and so and so and so and so and so, you can't really respond to that under Georgia open records because that takes analysis or recomputation or takes creating documents that don't exist. So when you ask a why question, you can't really respond under the Georgia open records and, Jon [Hart], if I'm misstating that, would you help me out here. So every request that we could respond to, we did respond to, and the ones that we couldn't respond to with documents, we responded to saying that document doesn't exist. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. If we can, if we can, that's if possible, Jon [Hart], to get with them and look at those letters and give them the information that they've received [sic]. Those that they haven't, that they come back and have a question and we'll answer those questions and resolve it. I mean, just sit down and resolve it. I don't care how much or how long it takes. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman, if we can request that that they go ahead and resolve that situation.

Chairman Hair said, I think that would be appropriate to do that. I'm going to recognize —.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, could you be on that also? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, it's just —. Commissioner DeLoach said, I just want somebody from the Commission so that we get somebody from the Commission to wrap this, you know —. Chairman Hair said, I'll be happy to do that. I'll be happy to make to —. Make sure that I'm included in that meeting and I'll be happy —, and then I can report. As a Commissioner I can report back and make sure that that —.

Ms. Taylor said, Commissioner Rivers, thank you so much. That's all that we've asked.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, I have two points. One point is in regards to open records requests, as you know, the County Attorney's office under the Enabling Act works for the Commission and staff through the County Manager, and any requests for legal opinions or responses, while we try to be open to the general public and ask general —, answer general information, but if it is something that requires a significant amount of legal work, that has always, and rightfully so in order to accommodate the expense of time and legal services rendered to the County, as the Commissioners themselves know, is generally directed through the County Manager to our office or through the Chairman to our office, and we receive a lot of open records requests and, quite honestly, we can answer them much more rapidly if they go to the department that they're seeking the information from. If there's an issue, it will end up on our desk, but if there isn't an issue, then it's just routinely answered, and it would be much more effective to do it that way. Chairman Hair said, I think, Mr. Hart, I think if —, to follow Commissioner DeLoach's suggestion, and I think if I serve on that, then I will act as the adjudicator and decide whether or not it requires a legal opinion or not, and then I can make that decision and I can make the request to you and it not come from —. County Attorney Hart said, and the second request that I would have that if there are all these memos and things that are unresponded to, that if they could give us a single document that would cull through what has been answered and what hasn't been answered so that we could work from a list and not duplicate.

Chairman Hair asked, can you do that, Ms. Taylor? Ms. Taylor said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. All right, that's good. County Attorney Hart said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, all right, let's take one quick comment and let's wrap this up, okay.

Commissioner Price said, it's a question for Gary [Udinsky]. Gary [Udinsky], has the State started it's commercial properties audit yet? Mr. Udinsky said, yes, I believe it has. Commissioner Price asked, any idea when it's going to wrap up? Mr. Udinsky said, you know, I don't. I know that they appear under a deadline to complete the review of the '99 digest

by August 1st, and my understanding is that they will not put much effort in the commercial [inaudible] until some time after that, but I don't know when they intend to be finished. Commissioner Price asked, have they even started the commercial line? Mr. Udinsky said, they have collected several thousand pages of documents and several hundred thousand data records, electronic data records. We've provided that to them already. Whether they've started analysis I don't know. Commissioner Price said, you know, I recognize this is an election year, I recognize that a lot of the commercial properties involved are owned by entities that are big contributors to a lot of campaigns, you know, around the State to the —, itself, and I think this is a shell game going on right here. I think the commercial audit is just as important as the residential audit, and I think that it's got to get done and it doesn't need to be pushed aside until after the election so that it doesn't step on anybody's toes. That's ridiculous. I mean, I don't know what we could do to speed them up and focus their attention, but this is, as Eddie [DeLoach] would say, a crock. Mr. Udinsky said, the only input I've got is that as soon as they requested —, they gave me about two pages of requests for information for all these reviews that they're doing, and we provided it extremely timely. So when their report will come out I just don't know.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you, thank you very much. I just want to make a closing comment since I've withheld my comments to this point. I think to add some balance to this, in fairness. I do think that there has been things asked for that necessarily was received. I also think, however, though to imply that we haven't a problem in, or we don't have a problem in assessments in Chatham County, you know, you must be from Mars because we do have a problem with assessments. We —, you know, I'm not suggesting that all of the problem is related to Mr. Udinsky's office or the Tax Assessor's office, but, I mean, how can any of us believe that we don't have total uniformity in this County when I had probably the mother of all cases given to me last week where I had a man call me up and tell me that his house went up in value \$800,000. It went up in value 800,000. Now how in the world can somebody listen to a case like that, and this man is one of the most reputable people in Chatham County, so I'm sure he is correct. How can we say that that's what should happen? So I do think in the sense of fairness that there could be honest disagreement of opinion about certain things, but I don't think there can be an honest disagreement of opinion about facts, and I do think that because of groups like STOP and other groups, not just STOP but other groups, I think they have —, they have done a service to at least make sure that they have highlighted a problem that maybe we all knew existed, but we didn't necessarily know the extent of the problem, but at the same time I think, as Commissioner Odell said, I mean, there's —, we're not going to make everybody happy and we're not going to make STOP happy all the time, we're not going to make anybody else happy, but I do think that it is incumbent upon us as public officials to try to get some balance between what is, you know, a perfect system and what is a fair system. I don't think anyone says that we're going to have a perfect system, but certainly we can have a system that is fair, and I think anybody that read the State Audit and read the response to the State Audit from the Tax Assessor's office has to also know that, you know, there was a problem and it was not just, you know, a group of citizens that made this problem up, that there truly was a problem there. So I do think that the dialogue is healthy. I know it's not always pleasant for us, but I do think the dialogue is healthy in the sense that it brings light to something that we need to address, and I think we have addressed it, but I don't think that we've necessarily gone as far as we need to go and we need to continue to work on it. Thank you.

Ms. Taylor said, thank you very, very much to all of you, and mam. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Ms. Chris Taylor of STOP is to furnish to the Chief Tax Appraiser a copy of those letters requesting information under the Open Records Act which STOP asserts not been answered, and she will prepare one document setting forth all questions which STOP asserts have not been answered. Thereafter, the Chief Tax Assessor, the Chairman of the Board of Assessors, the County Attorney and the Chairman will meet with STOP's representative to review the questions and furnish documents pursuant to the Georgia Open Records Act.

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### **3. JOHN RIGGS (BUSINESS LICENSE).**

Chairman Hair said, the next item on the agenda is that we have a request from a citizen, Mr. Riggs. We have —, this is a similar request we've —, we don't have a lot of these, but this is a case where a gentleman lives in a trailer park and has a business, but it's —. If you remember, a couple of years ago we had several other cases like this where there is no people that actually come to the business. This man works out of his trailer and he is semi-retired and he made a request, he tried to follow the law and made a request for a business license and the staff, correctly so, said that they do not have the power to grant a waiver for his business license because it is in a home, and I would like to request that we grant this waiver to Mr. Riggs. I believe —, Russ [Abolt], correct me if I'm wrong —, I believe staff —. Go ahead.

County Attorney Hart said, your ordinance is pretty clear about not permitting trailer parks, and the only reason I bring that up is I think last year or year before last —. Commissioner Murray said, we approved one. Chairman Hair said, we certainly did. We approved one last year. Commissioner Murray said, we approved it and [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, we approved the waiver of a —, it was a case exactly like this.

Commissioner Murray said, it was a man that was doing a business, it was a catalog type sales business or something out of the trailer. Nothing —, no trucks were going to be coming in and out and cars would not be coming in and out as a

business. This is a —. Is Mr. Riggs here? Chairman Hair said, I —, he told me he may be out of town today and may not be here, but I —.

Commissioner Price asked, what kind of business is he in? Chairman Hair said, he —, it's a wholesale industrial business. He calls on industries and sells industrial supplies. Commissioner Price asked, is that construction consultant? Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Commissioner Price said, it says the owner operates a construction business. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price said, okay. Chairman Hair said, yes.

Commissioner Odell asked, but none of those are stored —? Chairman Hair said, oh, absolutely not. Commissioner Odell said, none of the tractor or trucks or anything —. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Odell said, come to that park. Chairman Hair said, that is correct.

Commissioner Price asked, what would be the difference then if somebody made a living at home and there's a ton of this going on, people work out of their house and actually, you know, setting up an office in their house and actually doing the consulting and telephoning people? Chairman Hair said, the difference is this man is trying to follow the law. Most people are doing it and don't try to get a business license. He's —. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, sir. Chairman Hair said, this only came up because the came attempted to get a business license. You've got, as you said correctly, Commissioner Price, you've probably got hundreds of people operating out of their homes that should have a business license —. County Manager Abolt said, if I may clarify. Chairman Hair said, but they don't.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, that's not the issue. You have very strict controls in the mobile home area because traditionally they're very compact and there were some serious abuses in times gone by. and by the law, as it applies to mobile homes, it's more strict than traditional homes in other subdivisions. In the past it has presented a problem.

Commissioner Price said, well, I think that if we've set a precedent and already did this a year ago, and I can't exactly recall the circumstances, but —. Commissioner Murray said, I can give you the person's name if you need to research it, but we did do it. Chairman Hair said, we did grant a waiver. Commissioner Murray said, his name is Alvin Doty. Chairman Hair said, the only reason I say that, Commissioner Murray —. Commissioner Murray said, it was done and we did approve. County Attorney Hart said, the only reason I said that, Commissioner Murray, is last year, and my memory on time fails, we went back and wrote the home occupation and business ordinance in mobile homes and, at the direction of the Commission, we made it pretty strict. Chairman Hair said, I was —. County Attorney Hart said, square footage sizes and a lot of things that were put in their at the request of the Commission. Now I don't know whether that later came after that or —. Chairman Hair said, no, it was not. Commissioner Price said, the Facts and Findings from the Inspections Department says the consultant activity utilizes a home office and telephone use only and does not require equipment, construction vehicles or outside workers. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Price said, our own department here is saying —. Chairman Hair said, that it's not a problem. Commissioner Price said, it's not a problem. The way I read this, other than it's just —, it's red tape. I mean, it's —, it doesn't apply.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we keep a list of exceptions? I mean, —. Commissioner Murray said, it should be done [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, my only concern is I think that this should be done because it's —. If he got calls and he has three or four lines, who cares? The purpose of the ordinance is to keep the traffic down in that compressed area. Is that true, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, and this would not violate the intent of the ordinance. Or would it?

Commissioner Price said, I have another problem with this, with the ordinance as it stands. I mean that you're actually saying to people that live in mobile homes you don't have the freedom of somebody who lives in a brick and mortar home. That's basically what we're saying by not giving them —. County Manager Abolt said, but again —. Commissioner Odell said, attaching the mobile home owners.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Dr. Hair. The issue here is a very specific policy decision of the Board that, you know, in place is an ordinance, and that's what Mr. Anderson is trying to describe here. Certainly if you wish to exercise discretion, you can do that. The only thing I would urge, and the Chairman is very good about process. This gentleman came forward initially and said he had a problem. I had asked the gentleman to just put it in writing and give us some documentation, some record of what the situation is. He chose not to and he talked to a member of the Board and it's on the agenda. We told the gentleman it was on the agenda. The gentleman said, too much red tape, I'm not going to come down there. All I'm trying to do is protect the administration of it. If a person wants a to an ordinance that this body and only this body can waive, I think that they owe a courtesy to y'all to at least come forward in the minutes and make this known. Otherwise, we have then on the day-in-day, we're enforcing ordinances that you passed —. Commissioner Price said, I agree with that. County Manager Abolt asked, see what I mean? And there must be some, some sanctity to waivers. Commissioner Price said, Billy [Hair], let's at least get him to come to talk to us.

Chairman Hair said, I have no problem with that. Commissioner Price said, let's do that. Chairman Hair said, I have no problem with that. Commissioner Price said, I'm in favor of doing it, I just —. Chairman Hair said, I have no problem with that. Commissioner Price said, I think that there is a, you know —. Chairman Hair said, but I just think that —, I think that's very fair and I have no problem with tabling it to the next meeting and we'll get the gentleman here, but I do think this needs

to be approved. You know, I think you're absolutely right, you know, we're creating a group of second-class citizens by saying if you live in one house you can have a business license, but if you another one you can't have a business license. I think that's wrong. If —, in fact, we may need to change the ordinance, and that may be something at least to —, between the next —, now and two weeks, if the County Attorney would look at. County Attorney Hart said, I'd be glad to. Chairman Hair said, I think that the ordinance might need to be amended and maybe what we need on the agenda two weeks from now is not a waiver, but an actual change in the ordinance, and we'll have to rely on our attorney to do that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would say either than, changing the ordinance, or coming in with some kind of documentation of waiver. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, waiver form. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Rivers said, that that person would sign agreeing that they would not violate the —. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with that. I totally agree with that. Commissioner Murray and then Mrs. Whitaker.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I do remember the one we did and I remember when it was done, and that's why I gave you the name in case you need that to go back and research who did it, but it's Alvin Doty. He came before us and requested that and he explained the type business he was going to run out there, what he was doing, and there was no traffic coming in. It was just utilizing an office there. I do understand too that in most mobile home parks they are much closer together than in residential neighborhoods, and I know you have to have certain restrictions, but for somebody that's just running a business out of a mobile home or their own home, whether it's mobile or not, and it's just a telephone type business, it just is being explained then what we have in our report, then I really don't see the problem with that. I do not remember, however, us approving to put restrictions in that would stop any type of anything in mobile home parks. You say we've got that ordinance and, if we have, then I probably voted for it, but I don't remember it. County Attorney Hart said, well, I'm not saying anything. It's just very strict in regards to square footage and —. Commissioner Murray said, and it should be strict, but at the same time we did give the waiver, and I remember when we did that and I remember why we did it, and it's the same circumstances that the Chairman is explaining right now with this individual. I, too, think we need to take a look —, wait until the individual can be here and explain it in person. I don't think that we should just do it if someone's not here, but I will —, I'd like to ask some questions about that business when he's here.

Chairman Hair said, I would also like to request that the attorney, it may be that it's in your legal judgment that we need to make a change in the ordinance, and then I don't see the need for the gentleman to come in the next two weeks and we'll just change the ordinance and that would cover that, but you need to let me know so I can communicate that. If we aren't going to change the ordinance, then he needs to be here. If we're going to change the ordinance, I don't see the need for him —. County Attorney Hart said, well, we're going to have to make a policy decision on changes if we decide to change it, and I think the Commission raises —, several of the Commissioners raise a very good point that with the Internet and Internet access this is a —, this is not just a mobile home situation —. Chairman Hair said, exactly. County Attorney Hart said, but it's pretty broad [inaudible] —. Chairman Hair said, which leads me to lean towards maybe a change in the ordinance is more appropriate than an individual waiver. Chairman Hair recognized Mrs. Whitaker.

Mrs. Hilda Whitaker said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, since the ordinance was dug up, I'm concerned that under the affordable housing requirements of which we come under under the comprehensive plan, our ordinance, not the City's ordinance, uses the correct terminology as defined by HUD, and I would like to submit my only copy that I —, of the proper definitions that should be used defining manufactured home communities instead of trailer parks so that we will be in compliance with how [inaudible] so that it is affordable housing and we do not imply that we are —, some citizens aren't as good as others. So if I could give this to Ms. Tillman. Chairman Hair said, thank you, that would be fine. Mrs. Whitaker said, and I would like —, I encourage you to work on getting the ordinance changed. It's really deficient and the definitions are deficient.

Chairman Hair said, I'm not so sure, Mr. Hart, that we don't need to, in your research, I'm not so sure that the ordinance doesn't need to be expanded beyond mobile home parks, maybe just a general ordinance that deals with business licenses in homes would be more appropriate and would cover manufactured and not manufactured housing. I think that would be a more complete solution to the problem than maybe just trying to draft an ordinance for mobile homes and have a separate one for, you know, so just think about that when you research —. County Attorney Hart said, well, it's going to be —. Chairman Hair said, we don't need to discuss it today, but —. County Attorney Hart said, this is not going to be something that's going to be done, you know, in a day or so because it —, what you're doing here has widespread —, it effects your zoning ordinance, for example. Chairman Hair said, I'll tell you what let's do. Let's table it to the second meeting in August and that will give you a month to do that. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

Commissioner Odell asked, are we going to table both of them, the ordinance and this request? Chairman Hair said, the ordinance is not on the agenda.

County Manager Abolt said, may I suggest this, sir, because of the right of this individual, may I suggest then, because I think the Attorney's right on, we invite Mr. Riggs to come forward on the 11th, given your current set of situations. He obviously has some immediacy to his need to conduct business. If you wish to give him a waiver, give him a waiver. Allow us, no doubt, to have to work with MPC. We'll have to go to MPC —.

Chairman Hair said, all right. I'll entertain a motion to table until the 11th. Commissioner Thomas said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to table to August 11, 2000, the request of Mr. John Riggs for a variance to the Mobile Home Park Ordinance to allow him to operate a business out of his mobile home. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**4. REQUEST FROM TAX COMMISSIONER POWERS TO UTILIZE SERVICES OF ICS EMPLOYEE TO IMPLEMENT TAX COLLECTION FOR THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH.**

County Manager Abolt said, one of our employees has passed at the Tax Commissioner's Office, Tag Office. He's with the family. Therefore, between you and I, I believe we can present.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let me —. I think I can explain this enough to maybe, rather than delay this for two weeks. This is a request, what has happened here is that Commissioner Powers has been working with the City of Port Wentworth to implement a new tax collection system, and you have it in your folder that basically this is a request to use one of our employees off their regular hours, and the hourly rate and everything is in your package. I think it's a good thing. I think Commissioner Powers needs to be commended for working with one of the townships to do this. I don't see any problem with it. I don't think staff sees any problem with it, the Attorney sees a problem with it —.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, for purposes of information for the Commission, this Wednesday or Thursday night Port Wentworth is going to entertain this same agreement, and Port Wentworth is willing to reimburse the County for the additional —. Chairman Hair said, a hundred percent. County Attorney Hart said, a hundred percent for the additional time spent so it's really no cost.

Chairman Hair said, I think it's a great —. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Murray asked, isn't Port Wentworth the one that just implemented a tax? Commissioner Price said, that's what this is about. Chairman Hair said, right, this is related to that. This is what they need for infrastructure to do that.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Tax Commissioner Powers to utilize the services of an ICS employee to implement tax collection for the City of Port Wentworth. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**5. COST ASSOCIATED WITH YOUTH FUTURES COMMUNITY SUMMIT.**

Chairman Hair said, the Youth Futures Authority in September is going to have a community-wide summit. This is, if you know anything about the Youth Futures Authority, they are basically a —, they do great work and they've taken it upon themselves —, Bernie Polite is the Chairman of the Youth Futures Authority, and he has requested that the City and County participate in funding a very small part of the cost of the summit. The City of Savannah, we already have correspondence from the City of Savannah that we sent over to Michael Brown's office, and they're willing to participate, and we're asking for \$3,500 for the County's share. This would basically be rental of the Trade Center, that's what our share would be, to rent the Trade Center to hold this community summit. I think it's money well spent and the City is coming up with their share.

Commissioner Price asked, where would it come from? Contingency? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Chairman Hair said, it's part of the budget.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second.

Commissioner Murray asked, which Contingency? County Manager Abolt said, the SSD. Commissioner Murray asked, how much do we have left in that? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, this will be your new budget. Commissioner Murray said, the new one.

County Attorney Hart said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] how much is going to be in there. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve \$3,500 from SSD Contingency in response to the request from the Youth Futures Authority toward the cost of the Community Summit. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. WALTER STEWART FOR PROJECT JUST DO IT (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes, Mr. Stewart came to me, it's been about a month ago, and told me a little bit about his Project Just Do It, and I think it's a really worthwhile project and he wants some participation, bodily participation, from us in his project. Mr. Stewart, would you come up and tell us a little bit about it.

Mr. Walter Stewart said, good morning. It's a pleasure to be here this morning. I just come to greet the Commissioners on a project that's not new, but the concept is kind of different inasmuch as when we look at our city today and our youth and during the Summer months in that if they're not playing baseball, most of the time they're out idling their time away. And so what some volunteers and I attempted to do was to use baseball as a tool to get them off the street, and once we get them off the street that we try to foster and try to counsel in a more positive direction of working together and loving one another. Unfortunately, I had to pick up the paper one morning and saw one of my students, this was about eight years ago, laying on the front page where he lost his life in Hitch Village, and another tragedy to that is that the experience from that just to see a young man laying on the ground for three hours, you know, with a hole in his head, you can understand what kind of fear that that brings to the youngsters you see behind me, and what we try to do and all in Project Just Do It is that we know that our older kids hang out on the streets, so what we try to do is empower them to walk your brother or your cousin or your nephew or your friend to a ballpark so once we get the older kids down into the area then we can better relate to them one on one and we can better tell them another way, but just to go up on the street corner and say y'all know that's not the way to go, just come off the corner ain't going to get the problem done. So what happens if you'll notice, even on Capital Street, there's a flux of young men walking down East Broad, Waters Avenue, and the youth you see behind me, they all come from every one of the districts that's represented here this morning.

Commissioner Murray said, excuse me just a minute. Could you have them all come up here. Just come on up. Commissioner Price said, come on up here. Commissioner Thomas said, all of you.

Mr. Stewart said, and none of them are my baseball players. What we're trying to do is trying to empower them that when they go back to school that they can be a positive influence in their classroom by learning what they have learned for the last three months and just presenting themselves together on the baseball diamond, just to —, if you can influence your other classmate that we've got to follow procedures and we've just got to do it, as instructed by our teachers and our councilmen and whatever, and we talk a lot but we named it Just Do It because of the time now that we must do some things other than just talk, and so what we've attempted to do with any youngster is to make them role models or leaders of their particular classroom and their particular [inaudible], their particular church group, or whatever, and this is —, it's a process that only requires patience and the only criteria for these youngsters to come is sportsmanship. We don't play for trophies, they don't have a win or loss record. We don't play for trophies and not a win or loss because we consider all of them of being winners by the mere fact that they decided that we would do something. We can not —, we would have the room filled this morning if our program was based on a team versus team or a champion versus champion and, therefore, we would be proud of this moment, but it's not based on that, and we try to eliminate the team concept of winning and losing. We eliminate the idea that as you see the names on the teams here, we named them according to professional teams. We try to eliminate the [inaudible] park versus [inaudible] field or whatever, and that way we mix them and intertwine them together regardless of what area they live. No particular team come from one set area. For example, this boy here lives way out on Highway 17 and he plays with this kid here on Habersham Street, so what we do is that we try to intertwine them together to rekindle that love one to another, and on the invitation of Commissioner Saussy, and I talked to our Commissioner, Joe Rivers, and he is well aware of the project is that he thought it was a idea, a good idea this morning to bring the youngsters here to see first hand what we're attempting to do, and what we also attempted to do was to try to get this project out and tomorrow morning is that we have a —, what we call a Victory Over Violence Parade that will begin at 36th and Waters and proceed down Waters Avenue to Gwinnett, up to Gwinnett to Hubert Middle School. We had tried to extend the invitation to our elected City and County officials. If they could just come and they could interchange with the youth on tomorrow for a day of fun, to play softball with them against either the —. First, we'll tried to get the City and County Commissions to play against the other and that fell through, and so what we are hoping that we can get them to just come in and just watch the kids or just come in and we can just give a —.

Commissioner Murray said, we would love to play the City Council. Mr. Stewart asked, huh? Commissioner Murray said, we would love to play the City Council. Commissioner Price said, the City Council knows better. Commissioner Odell said, we would win.

Mr. Stewart said, well, I'm saying, I don't —, I can't pinpoint how many of them will be there and how many of them will play, but we had assurance from Mr. Floyd Adams that he will be there and he will play, so we —, whoever will show us that we will try to make it as fun as possible so our kids can get to meet our elected officials and our elected officials can get to meet our youth, and in turn they can talk one on one and there can be something positive in that. We have a flyer that we want to leave. Unfortunately, this is a volunteer effort from myself and Mr. White here, and we don't have access to a typewriter all the type and we were kind of late getting our information typed out and getting our flyers distributed, and so we hope that if you're available tomorrow morning that you will join us and will join us in this effort, and I just want to read briefly the news bulletin: Since May interested concerned volunteers have been working with our youth from various areas

in the City to rekindle that love from one to another and their positive [inaudible] and love. They use baseball as a tool to get them off the street and into the guiding counsel and role models to energize them to use their gifts and talents to win someone else off the street who are idling their time away. In other words, these youth here that we hope from what they have learned is that they will use their energy that they will be able to win some other youth off the street, and our lesson is taken basically from I Corinthians, 13th Chapter, and it says: And now abides faith, love [sic] and charity, but of these three, the greatest of these is charity. We ask that you join us in the final phase of this project by participating in our Victory Day, which is tomorrow, and then we ask you if you have time that you would join us in our Victory Day events which will be at Hubert Middle School and we will be there from ten o'clock until.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Dr. Thomas I have a question. Do you have EMS scheduled to be there? Mr. Stewart said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, good. If you're going to have the City Council and Chatham County Commission there you might need them. I just wanted to make sure my liability's covered. Mr. Stewart said, yes sir. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas. Commissioner Rivers said, they've got designated hitters and runners. Mr. Stewart said, we've already designated someone to run for Mr. Adams.

Commissioner Thomas said, first of all, I'd just like to commend you for your efforts in what you're doing. The County —, we do have a countywide program called the Summer Bonanza Program, and it's been in existence now for 10 years. I'd like to invite you to have these young people and any others to join with us throughout the Summer each year. We have additional activities going on. Unfortunately, tomorrow I won't be able to be there to play with you because we will be at the Aquatic Center on tomorrow, and that's 200 young people, and our goal is also to get our children off the streets and to make sure that they understand the workings of their community, and also we challenge them academically in school and then try to follow up on their academics throughout the school year. So I invite you and these young people —, oh, one other thing, which is ongoing that might be very beneficial to them. We have a computer lab in the Moses Jackson Resource Center on Richards Street, and I invite you to bring them and you can probably enroll them in the computer classes and help them there. So —. Mr. Stewart said, these three down here live right by Moses Jackson. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, so if you're not already in the program, you know it's there, and we have certified teachers there and we'll be happy to work with them in that regard.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Stewart said, one other final thing is that we are aware of the Summer Bonanza with Mr. Jim Golden, who has been real instrumental down through the years, and we want to bring out, we want to mention a thought being in our minds that next year we're hoping to expand. We're asking the youths to put further in the street into a more viable [inaudible] of our activities and he agreed to help us in any shape or form so that next year we will be using one of the County facilities at President Street or Runaway Point facility. Commissioner Thomas said, very good. Mr. Stewart said, we are aware of, you know, of the Summer program, both City and County.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to say thank you to a friend, who has done a whole lot for this community. We know, I used to laugh at Stewart because Stewart is a great recruiter. Stewart recruits ball players from every point within this County. I wonder how he gets them to all the games when he has to go from Runaway Point, Wilmington Island. Wherever he has to go to get youth to join in his program, there you'll find Stewart, and, Stewart, you've done a great job through the years, even when you couldn't find coaches to coach football, you've come out and taken teams, two and three teams, and I've got to commend you. You have done a tremendous job. Keep going, and as we can render help to you, we will give you that assistance wherever we can, and I'm glad that Jim Golden is going to make those fields available to you, and I'm sure my fellow Commissioners would agree that we can do to assist you in your program, assist you in directing youth in the right direction, we'll be more than glad to help you.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Saussy to wrap it up.

Commissioner Saussy said, yes. I think Mr. Stewart has done a great job and will continue to do so on this Project Just Do It. One of the things I did want to mention though, although he's not asking for funding, I think that if we —, the churches and all in the different neighborhoods, if we could get them to fund a team for \$300 that's pretty darn cheap to keep these kids off the street and get to them knowledge of what they should be doing. I just commend you for that, Mr. Stewart, and thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Saussy, for putting it on the agenda.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information.

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## **2. CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY (COMMISSIONER SAUSSY).**

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Saussy has asked for a —, I'm going to ask for unanimous consent for him to add one item to this section. Does anybody object? [No objection was voiced.] Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I, as everyone, has become very concerned with the crime and the violence in this City and County, and I just think that we need to get behind our police forces, all of them, and really, really get, if you want to, get angry about what's happening. There's too much complacency in this town, and we as leaders really need to get behind and push very, very hard. If we have to put more money into the situation, then let's do it, but let's get rid of this crime that we've got. It's just terrible. We had another murder last night. That's number 23, and that's terrible. When we've got a sister city over in Charleston that has done a great job with simple, simple things, we can do the same thing here if, if we all get behind it, and we have not as a community really gotten behind it. We need to push, push, push. Put the money there where's it's needed and get the police out on the streets and do something about this problem. Now I'm inviting all of y'all, along with me and all of us as elected officials, to really get behind this thing. How I don't know yet, but I'm going to really push it. I hope you'll join me.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Saussy. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I can agree with what Commissioner Saussy's saying, but we have more than just one aspect of the crime, I think, and one of them, I believe, regardless of how many police officers we have on the streets, is not going to solve that. It's going to have to come from the families, it's going to have to come from the churches and the community organizations around. The police cannot do anything about domestic violence or spouse abuse or those type things. They're not in the homes, they can't be in the homes unless they're called to go there. I think —, so we've got more than just somebody going out on the street corner and pulling a gun and shooting somebody. We've got other types of crimes taking place too, and it's going to take more than just —, I agree that we need to put the money into the law enforcement agencies to go out and do their jobs. At the same time, we need to try to come up with some type programs or encourage the community to come up with programs, whether it be through the churches or whether it be through community organizations to help also, and I think the fact —, we just had a prime example a few minutes ago when Mr. Stewart and the youth that he had up here. With those type things going on, I think it's a long term way to solve some of it, but just to put money out there to do a job and —, I don't think it's going to work unless we do have a plan to go with and we do have support from the community and the community gets involved in it also, from the neighborhood organizations to the rest of it, because it —, I think what I would really like to see at some point, Russ [Abolt], and I don't know if we have the statistics or not, but a breakdown on the murders. I know we haven't had near the murders in the unincorporated area that we've had in the City of Savannah, but a breakdown on those of what type murders, whether they're domestic or it happened within a home or whether it was a murder on the street or a murder during a robbery or something like that. I don't know if we can get the breakdowns on those or not, but if we could I would like to see it. I think —, and I really think that it needs to be published what type crimes are being committed in the news media so the citizens can see what's happening. It's not —, I mean, we can sit up here and we can just put tons of money into it, but if that's not where the money needs to go and what needs to happen, then we're throwing money away and we still aren't solving the problem, but yet we, because we happen to be the elected ones sitting up here, are going to get the blame for it, and I can understand citizens thinking that way, but I think we need to publicize what's going on and what's out there, so —.

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

Commissioner Odell said, well, I agree with David [Saussy]. I think we do have a problem, a substantial problem with crime, but I think the Chief would bear me out on this, 80% of all of the crime probably in this County is drug related. Is that high, Chief?

Chief Sprague asked, 80% of the crime throughout the County, City of Savannah, et cetera? No, I wouldn't agree with that 80%. Commissioner Odell asked, how high do you think it is? Chief Sprague said, drugs always take the rap for any crime as a design, but there's a lot of real criminals out there, as you know as a defense attorney. I'd be guessing, but when your talking burglaries committed by addicts, drug addicts, when you look at the number of those, that's probably pretty high. Probably 50 or 60%, I would say because you have other just run-of-the-mill burglars and break-ins where those crimes are classified. I think, with regard to drug arrests that that's a good portion in this County from CNT, from the other police departments that are making not investigatory type arrests of people with drugs and vehicles, et cetera. My —, if you want to ask my feelings on what I think should be done for the crime problem in the County, in the unincorporated area or Savannah, I'd be —.

Commissioner Odell said, I do. I want to [inaudible], but I'd like to make a couple of additional points. Having practiced law for 20 years and looking at property type crimes, I think that there's been an increase in property type crimes, and that is breaking in vehicles, breaking in homes, and the reason for that is that we are fueling an addict's habit. If you car's outside and someone can break in it and steal a radio, they can sell that radio and get the next high. I really think that we're not as a community going to approach reduction in crime, property crime, until we develop some effective treatment program so that the markets for drug users are reduced, and we have an opportunity to do that which doesn't involve the expenditure of additional funds. That opportunity is that first offenders caught with one block of crack cocaine we should have a program through our probation services. Probation should not be an extension of police. It should be an opportunity to look at that person, determine the unmet need and, that is, a lot of criminals have problems reading and they look at this as being an opportunity for them to make a living. During the probation stage we can make that determination whether or not this person has deficiencies and what needs to be done, and we've got them for an extended period of time to correct that. So until we change the standard as far as probation, until we change the concept of drugs for one rock users,

that person should be in a mandatory treatment program. If we dry up the market, we dry up the need for the large number of deaths that I believe are drug related. I don't know if you've looked at it, Chief, but in my limited unprofessional review, if you look at, I'd say the 23 or so murders, they have either been family related or related to a crime, i.e., a ongoing drug activity, or drugs were related, either being consumed by the victim or the perpetrator. So when I use that number, 80%, that's how I used it. Commissioner Rivers asked, you're talking about homicides? Commissioner Odell said, I'm talking about homicides.

Chief Sprague said, yes, and the numbers I read that were produced by the Savannah Police Department about a week ago, it was in the newspaper, were confirmed. There were two drugs out of the 21 or so at the time, about seven or eight that were, they didn't know. There was no arrests that had been made so they didn't know, and then there were domestic and other areas.

Commissioner Odell said, Chief, the only reason why I would disagree with that, I have a couple of those cases and having gotten an autopsy report through discovery, I know that drugs were involved. Maybe police could not know at that point, but I think drugs are the scourge of this community, and until we have a way of addressing that, and I think addressing that is by once a person gets in trouble and it's a minor problem, that we take that opportunity to compel some type of home drug treatment. Chief Sprague said, I disagree with your statements though that you're --, your limited unprofessional views on this. You're a very professional person and very well educated. Commissioner Odell said, you just want a raise. Chairman Hair said, the next item is the budget, okay.

Commissioner Rivers said, Chief, in his defense, and I'll tell you, everything that happens on that east side from Hitch Village and all that shooting and everything, I can tell you, I can tell you that those individuals are involved in drugs. I can tell you that because I get it, I know them when I see them. Chief Sprague said, but the question though was the crime for the burglaries, et cetera. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not talking about burglaries. Chief Sprague said, the homicides, we've had three. I know, in response to Commissioner Murray, one was a person we arrested who got drunk and let his small three-year-old child drown in King's Ferry. The second one was sort of Fed-Ex delivered to us last weekend in the back of a van from out of state. The third instance, which happened last weekend, we've lodged burglary charges at this point. That autopsy is still --, will be processed next Monday in Atlanta. We did lodge homicide with malice charges against the driver of the vehicle that caused the death of two persons. So that's the basis in the unincorporated area. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand that. Chief Sprague said, with regard to the 23 homicides to date in Savannah, I suspect that there's a good number of them, I don't think I'd go 80, but possibly 50% of them have connections to drugs, but I don't --, with regard to that nexus, when you go back to '91, the Ricky Jivens gang, there you had drug murders being committed by an organized gang. I don't think that relates in the 23 to date now. Going back to my experiences with the Counter Narcotics Team countywide, that unit in my opinion is still doing a very difficult job every day of the week, and in many, many areas, possibly the courts, you get a one rock of crack that person was in, it's usually a young person, possibly a first offender, you're talking about the probation area uses. Some judges may think that's a nickel/dime case, but that citizen that sees that person come out the next day and he's back, say, the second night, the third night, selling one more rock, those rocks aren't being --, aren't from the addict, but from a stockpile of 20 or 30, but they only sell them one at a time so that when they're caught, it hits that, man, what are we handling here? Nickel and dime cases. But the citizen, the person that lives in the neighborhoods where that's happening, they're the ones where the impact occurs. they see that person revolving and selling crack. Commissioner Odell said, in their neighborhood. It brings in an unpleasant environment, people coming in to buy. Chief Sprague said, exactly. Commissioner Odell said, it reduces the livability of a neighborhood.. Chief Sprague said, let me get to my --, and I'll give you a quick proceed on this. I think that first time offenders, that comes into play or that the juvenile offenders, if they're dealing in any drug where it's a for-profit angle, and I'm excluding an addict who's buying in this case, I think we should look at the drug courts, I think rehabilitation is a valid point of interest, and it's also very expensive. Very, very expensive. Commissioner Saussy asked, but is it more expensive on the front end or the rear end? Chief Sprague said, that's something that needs to be investigated, but what I'm saying is for those short-term kids or young people who are just on a merry-go-round coming out of neighborhoods, going to court and being released the next day to do it again because they haven't felt Pavlov's theory, they haven't hit any punishment at all, why not combine thoughts, which would cost some money too, about drug detention centers that --.

Commissioner Odell said, but the FBI 1999 report differs with that, and basically it says what you're saying is hit them hard first time and that deters. That theory wasn't supported in the FBI report. When they did the Presidential Report on Crime, that theory was not supported. Having read that, my position is that, just as yours, Chief, the first time it happens, we bring them in, we do a substantial psychological assessment. Okay? We develop a plan, which they have to pay for. If you are into penny-ante crime because you cannot read, then we develop a program to get you to read that you have to go to as a condition of your probation. You don't go and you don't learn how to read, then we put you in jail, so that at some point we can break that cycle and people stop blaming mommy and daddy for stuff that happened 25 and 30 years ago, that they get over it, but we have to help, and the only way we can do that is as a society say that we have to address this problem enemy and make them stop. I think to have a psychological, in-depth work-up is, I think it's possibly key.

Chief Sprague said, I think the solution is many, many faceted. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Chief Sprague said, it's not one thing the Police or the Counter Narcotics Team or rehabilitation, education, I think it's all over the field, but what I do believe is missing is a short-term, you can all it a slap on the wrist, but if you take that person that sold that rock of crack and instead of going in the front door of the courthouse and out the back within days and back on the street corner where the neighborhood sees it, it's visible and here he is, he's out, it happens up to three times, four times in cases, if you can put that person in a detention facility, and I'm not talking about a correctional facility with concertina wire or anything like that, but some place --, and even if they've got to build a fence the old fashioned way from the revolutionary times with

wood or with spikes, give them something to do other than going back to a street corner and selling narcotics, and have people like Mr. Stewart affiliated with that facility. The volunteers in this community were rich with very talented people that worked with kids, and I [inaudible] from club to club because I'm a member of one of them, and I know I was able to get the Kiwanis at The Landings to come into the City when I was at CNT for volunteer support. We have a lot of talent out there and I just think we need some sort of a central committee to organize it and go after it in a consistent and efficient manner.

Commissioner Odell said, and develop a plan. We could do that. Just one last comment and I'm finished. So that there's no misunderstanding, Chatham County gives more time for drug offenses comparatively than any other place other than Columbus, Georgia, and down in that area. If you look at the report that was done by the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* as to crime and sentence, we load up on folk, and loading up on folk is not the solution. We have to break the cycle. Otherwise, middle-class people will bear the brunt and will continue to bear the brunt unless we break the cycle. Chief Sprague said, I'm not familiar with those statistics.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you very —. Let's —.

Commissioner Thomas said, let me just ask him one question. Chief Sprague said, yes mam. Commissioner Thomas said, I know have been zeroing in on those who sell, you know, drugs and stuff like that. Has there been any effort to look at the, you know, where the supply is coming from? Do you know of any suppliers that are supplying the drugs to these people because, you know, I know in a couple of communities it was reported seeing some people delivering, you know, the actual suppliers bringing the stuff to the people to sell on the streets. Now, do we ever concentrate on those people? Do you have any way of knowing who these people are other than those who happen to maybe report the tag numbers or something of that nature? Chief Sprague said, mam, Mrs. Thomas, during my tenure at the CNT we did have an arm that did do long-term investigations. I know it's still there. During that time, and since I left under Commander Smith, we did wiretaps. That was going after the sources of supply. We worked investigations that CNT initiated and worked it with the FBI, the DEA. We have a regional drug enforcement safety system [inaudible] task force operation. They go after suppliers and try to keep the drugs out of this area. The answer and a short answer to your question is yes, but I'm not privy to those type of investigations now because I'm not at CNT. Commander Smith is, but he wouldn't be at liberty to go into any depth on them. Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I understand that. I was just curious as to whether, you know, we are concentrating on those areas as well. Chief Sprague said, yes mam. Commissioner Thomas said, because that's where the supply is coming from. Chief Sprague said, the CNT has sent CNT units to Arizona, Florida, New Jersey on cases involving heroin, large cocaine supplies that are coming into the Savannah/Chatham County area. I know Commander Smith has since that time sent CNT agents to develop cases in other areas that were impacting on the availability of drugs in Savannah/Chatham County, and I know that continues.

Chairman Hair said, Commander Smith is here. Would you like to —. Maybe we can get it straight from him.

Commander Smith said, I appreciate Chief Sprague filling in for me. Actually, I was down stairs and I ran into a citizen who was telling me, giving me drug information, which is something that happens very commonly for me. I'd like to respond to a lot of the different things that you've said. Mrs. Thomas, in terms of us getting the dealers and the suppliers, we do that. We've extradited people from California who have been sending drugs into this community. We intercept drugs coming from places like Texas and California and Arizona. We intercept packages when they're delivered to houses and [inaudible] the suppliers. I know often times when you talk about major dealers, there's a concept and I was on Cable Channel 7 the other day and I was asked a question by Carl Guillard about Mr. Big. I think there's a myth about Mr. Big who handles —, who brings in all the drugs in this community, who never touches the product, who lives —, sometimes I'm told he lives at The Landings and sometimes I'm told he lives in Ardsley Park and sometimes I'm told he lives in Habersham Woods, but nobody ever knows what his name is, they just know where he lives. I think the truth of the matter is, there's a lot of Mr. Big's. There's a lot of little Mr. Big's who get in their car down to Miami, go to the bottom, make the --, if they make the right contracts and don't get killed, they come back. They can take a thousand dollars and go to Miami and come back and sell that ounce of cocaine hydrochloride for \$2,800. It's a hundred dollars a gram. If they go down and cook that —, get that ounce of powder that they buy down there and bring it back to Savannah and cook it into crack, it yields \$5,300 so they made a \$4,300 profit. Tremendous profit potential. I think that, as far as law enforcement, we're doing a tremendous job. We put a lot of people in the hopper. The problem, as Chief Sprague said, people go to court and —, I'm sorry. They get arrested and the next night they're right back on the street corner and people see them on the street corner and say, I called last night, how come something wasn't done? I saw them pick them up, why is he still on the corner? Well, the reason he's on the corner is because people have the right to bond out of jail, and we can't —, if the Constitution says they can bond out, they bond out and they're right back there and they're [inaudible] of the citizens being there.

Commissioner Odell said, so that you correct that, any person making bond in Chatham County, Effingham County and Liberty County, one of the provisos in all of the bonds is not to violate any laws. So if they are picked up, they are arrested, and then they make bond and come back out and sell drugs, then what people need to do is to call you all and say the guy is back out there selling drugs, his bond will be revoked.

Commander Smith said, I agree, and there are times when we do arrest people for a second and a third time, but also I'm telling you that citizens who see somebody out on the street, they know that he was selling drugs, they've called on him before, and just his presence on the street drives them crazy, and they call me and say, he's back out, as if because he's back out we should arrest him again. We, as you know, we have to have probable cause to arrest them. I want to address

one thing that's near and dear to my heart. In this community we know we have a tremendous drug problem and we say that drugs, you know, we have a homicide rate, and I've heard people say that, you know, drugs —, in fact, I think, Commissioner Odell, you said just a minute ago —. Commissioner Odell said, I did. Commander Smith said, drugs, you know, are the major cause of crime and not the —. Commissioner Odell said, drug use. Commander said, drug use, but almost, you know, if somebody has a garden post stolen, it's almost a mantra in this community to say it's drug related, everything is drug related in this community, and I'm not saying that drugs aren't responsible for a lot of things, but not everything in this community is drug related. Now, let's look at what other communities do. Other communities are looking at a comprehensive approach to attacking crime. Do we know what our drug using population looks like? Do we do voluntary and anonymous surveys of high school kids, college kids, people who have been arrested? Do we do drug screenings? Do we look at people who are admitted to the hospital, emergency admissions, to find out how many drug overdoses we have, babies who are born addicted to drugs? Do we have a profile or a snapshot of this community to say that on July 28th, the year 2000, this is what —, we had certain indicators or markers, and this is what the drug problem in Chatham County looks like, and then a year from now we again revisit those markers and say, okay, this is what the community looks like. No, we don't do that. So, in other words, we're just out there without any markers. We're just subjectively saying, well, the situation is getting better or the —, well, we've never said the situation is getting better, the situation is getting worse. A subjective opinion that the situation is getting worse. But, I'm kind of rambling on. Let me —, I'd like to respond to any questions or concerns you might have.

Commissioner Saussy asked, what do we do to correct that? Commander Smith said, well, one thing I'd like to see is some way of gauging in this community what —, where we are, a profile of this community, surveys in high schools and colleges and surveys, volunteering anonymous surveys in prison, drug screens perhaps for people who are arrested, information on how many people are being admitted to emergency rooms. You know, a profile of the drug use in this community. That would be one thing. Now, one of —.

Commissioner Odell asked, and that should be done annually, Steve [Smith]? Commander Smith said, well, you know, annually would be great. All these things cost money. Commissioner Odell said, then you could track it obviously. Commander Smith said, yes, obviously you could track it, yes. I mean, truly, you know, I mean, certainly the law enforcement has a part in this and a big part in this, and certainly we identify those people in the community by arrests that are using drugs, but if you think about it, our entire —, our entire power lies in the fact of receiving information from citizens, working that information, making arrests, and participating in prosecutions, and if the person decides to come back and get involved with drugs again, I was at a Weed and Seed Meeting yesterday, and I heard all the concerns about how we're going to turn youth around in this community, but I have a tape, and I think I'm going to edit this tape. I got involved in an interview with a young man that was 15 years old, and rarely do I personally get involved with interviews of people that we arrest, but we had arrested this individual twice before, so I wanted to sit down and talk to him and ask him basically how we can stop you from using drugs. I wanted to talk to him personally and to talk to him I had to get his grandmother to come in and, you know, allow me to talk to him and sign his rights form that she understands and information from her to talk to him, and it was most —, naturally enlightening because I've had these conversations with young men before, but basically he —, and I'm going to get this tape, I think, blur his face out, edit any identifying information. I'd like to take this, you know, and perhaps show it to y'all. Just the attitude that you can't make me go to school, I'm not going to go to school. His grandmother said I've raised him since he was a baby, but I can't control him anymore so I kicked him out of the house along with his 15-year-old brother who he was selling drugs with, and there's a whole army. I can tell you a whole army of young kids in this community who are on the street, living by themselves or living with their friends, living here one night and there another night, dealing drugs and, in terms of employment, they will tell you, you can't make me get a job, I don't want to get a job, I don't want to go to school, you can't make me go to school, and you can arrest me, but when I get out I'm going right back to dealing drugs. And I'd like to take this tape and take it to this community and maybe put it on Cable 7.

Commissioner Rivers said, that's nothing new. Commander Smith said, no, it isn't. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I know that, I encounter that. Commander Smith said, absolutely. Commissioner Rivers said, but you can make him go to school, you can make him and we can change the system so that when these kids go to the detention center they're made to get an education, they're made to get a skill, and when they come back out, they've got something that they can work with. All you do is a turnstile —. Commander Smith said, that would be the ideal —. Commissioner Rivers said, because we put them right back out. Another thing you can do, we can put a proviso in any probation that if that kid is in a known drug area, he's gone. Bye. We can do that. We can profile these guys enough to know you —, I can within a month, if you're arrested within a month I can tell you what he's doing, whether he's back out there, whether he's got a job. You give me 100 of them and I've got —, give me the time to do it, and I can profile all of them and tell you what they're doing. Commander Smith said, I agree. Now, from our position though, if he doesn't have a job, that's not —, I can't arrest him for not having a job. Commissioner Rivers said, no, you can't arrest him for not having a job. Commander Smith said, we need comprehensive community-wide involvement on this problem. Commissioner Rivers said, but we know that he doesn't have a job and he has some means that he keeps money —. Commander Smith said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, you can identify him and you can follow his habit, you can find a way —. Commander Smith said, Commissioner Rivers, I can tell you that I arrest kids off the corners who have \$3,000 or \$4,000 and within hours their grandmother's in there telling me why did we take her son [sic], I won this money in the lottery, I won this money in the horse race —, in the dog tracks down in Florida. Actually, true cases, and saying, I just gave him \$4,000 in cash to pay some bills for me. The grandmothers are —. Commissioner Rivers said, but you can verify all that whether she won it at the lottery and all that. Commander Smith said, oh, they have the —, they have the receipts for five years ago showing —, I'm telling you, they have the receipts for five years ago. I'm just telling you that —. Commissioner Rivers said, we know that in a lot of those houses

where those grandmothers are too that there are things going on there that are illicit and that we could deal with that, but we don't deal with it.

Chairman Hair said, I think this is a good discussion, but I'm not sure this is the forum. I think this thing has gotten out of —, I think we need to do this maybe at a different time. I would like to say this though, and this is not meant to be any criticism of anybody or any agency, but it's the truth. You know, in the last couple of weeks I have talked to a number of people in the various chains of law enforcement, and what I find is that whatever chain —, part of the link of the chain you're talking to, it's always the other link's the problem. You know, if you're talking to the law enforcement officers, they say, well, it's the judges that put them back on the street. If you're talking to the judges, you know what they tell me, what a judge told me last week? The police don't bring them cases that they can keep them in jail, and they don't bring me the right kind of cases. A very —, a senior judge in this town told me that last week. So I'm not sure that we can solve this problem, and I think we're fooling the public and fooling ourselves if we believe that a single link in this chain can solve this problem. It's going to take every one of the links to solve this problem. It's going to take you guys and it's going to take the courts and it's going to take the District Attorney's office and it's going to take —, but even that is a short-term solution to this problem. I mean, locking people up and throwing away the key might sound good and it might be good for politics, but that's not solving the problem. You know, that's going to cost the taxpayers a tremendous amount of money in the long term, and, you know, we've got to deal, in my opinion, with the root causes, and locking people up is not the root cause of crime. You know, the cause of crime, in my opinion, is not just because I'm so smart, but just look at all the research on it. It says it's education and the jobs. You know, that's a large part of it, but if you don't have the churches and you don't have the families and you don't have the school system, you know, we're spinning our wheels at the law enforcement level, but I think if we are serious about solving crime in this community it's going to take every part of this community. It's going to take the school system, it's going to take the police departments, it's going to take the judges, it's going to take the District Attorney office, it's going to take whoever deals with the families, and if we don't do that, I think we're fooling ourselves. I mean, that's the —, now, is that going to take time? Sure, it is. Are we going to flip a switch and solve the problem over night? No, absolutely not, and I think we're, you know, again we're misleading people if we think that we are. We can't put enough police officers on the street to solve this problem. I mean, this is —, you know, you guys come in after the fact. The crime's already been committed, you know, and you say, well, prevention, you do a lot of prevention. Well, you do some prevention, but basically you're doing the apprehension part of the crime. I just think that we need a community-wide effort to do this, but if everybody is not willing to come to the table and say, yes, you know, we're part of the problem. I haven't had a single group in this chain to say that we're part of the problem. It's always the blame of somebody else is part of the problem, and I think until we all want to honestly and factually come to the table and say, yes, we might can do our job better, and then the courts say we can do our better, the schools say we can do our jobs better, if everybody were to come with that kind of honesty and say, yes, I think all of us have a way to prove, I think we'll solve it. Otherwise, I think we're just, you know, we're just having rhetoric that might look good on TV, but we're not solving anything.

Commissioner Saussy said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Saussy said, I think you've got the right idea, and that's exactly what I wanted to bring up in the first part of this thing. It's going to take everyone of us, everyone of us. Are we willing to do it? Now I'm willing to start right now with forming some kind of group or whatever to do —, whatever it takes we have got to do it, and unless we've got the backing of all of us, it's not going to work. Chairman Hair said, well, I would agree with that Commissioner Saussy, but that's a part of what I'm saying. Commissioner Saussy said, and I've got no political agenda now. Chairman Hair said, you get nine of us —, you get the nine of us agreeing that that's what we want to do, but we can't get the other parties to the table because we're not —. Commissioner Saussy said, but I think we can. I think if we push hard enough, we can get all the parties that need to be at that table. I don't think we've pushed hard enough. Commissioner Price said, I think we [inaudible].

Commissioner Odell said, I think if this Commission was to set up a review panel or a task force, I'm going to say, David [Saussy], for them to [inaudible], we could meet with these two gentlemen and start developing a plan.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, with your permission, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, I will allow these gentlemen, ask them to commit to writing not only what you heard today, but also specific recommendations. If it's done with the understanding we're not trying to tell other people how to do their job, we're giving you a professional evaluation. We'll do exactly what the Chairman said. We'll make a critical analysis of ourselves. The only caveat I make, when we come forward with this I don't want other jurisdictions to say that somehow we're telling them how to do their job. Commissioner Saussy said, no. County Manager Abolt said, we're in this together. We understand it, we'll do it.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let me suggest something to the Commission. I think, you know, I don't want a knee-jerk reaction today. I think, let's think about this between now and August 11th, and let's all think about this, and let's come back on —, and in that intervening time I will, I will take it upon myself to contact some of these people, the judges, the Mayor, the District Attorney, and I will take that upon myself, and see if we can get them to —, who will be willing to sit at the table with us, because if we do a task force, we've got to have everybody, everybody there, and I think if all of us think about it between now and August 11th, and I encourage you guys from the law enforcement side to do likewise and submit your ideas to us. I think then we could come back and maybe on August 11th maybe have some sort of plan of how we might attack this. I think that's good. Let me recognize Mr. Pierce and then let's wrap this up, but I will recognize Commissioner Murray one last time after Mr. Pierce. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. John Saxon (Piccolo) Pierce said, we've got to have some walking police. Walking police [inaudible], and you check the doors. That's the only way you can solve the problem cause you can't sit up there and [inaudible] the problem. A real long time ago we used to have walking police, walking. Get out there and walk. And the chief and those come in there, and that's how to solve the problem.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. I appreciate your comments. Commissioner Murray's final comments and then we'll wrap this one up.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I agree with what's been said, and I certainly think that we need to initiate setting up a task force or a group to meet with all the agencies and groups around Chatham County and all the municipalities. At the same time, I understand that we have nine of us up here and even though we agree on most of this, we still have nine different opinions. None of us is certified law enforcement officers. I do think that those people we have in those areas that are, certainly we should respect that and give them the resources to do their job with recommendations to them, and I think that can come out of this group if it's formed to do that with. Also, there's a lot of criticism from time to time about our Counter Narcotics Team not picking people up from the street corners, and in my opinion that's not their job. Their job is to go out to those people that are bringing the drugs into the community, not those that stand on the street corner selling nickel bags, or whatever you call the stuff, and I think that some of the other agencies, cities' police departments, Savannah Police Department, some of the others do that. They have teams that do go out and pick people up on street corners, but I also know that there's a lot of stuff that goes on that our law enforcement agencies know about and have that's confidential, and it shouldn't be out to the public, and it shouldn't even be out to each one of us, even though we might think it should be. But there's an awful lot that happens and an awful lot going on that the general public does not know about, but it's being done, and I just support what those agencies are doing, and I also support forming this group to try to do something about it. But I agree, it's not just one aspect and it's not just going to be our law enforcement, it's going to be all of us together trying to do the job that needs to be done to resolve. It's not short term, it's going to be a long term situation.

Commissioner Thomas said, just a very quick notation. I'd just like to say that the CNT officers, they're making a concerted effort to participate in neighborhood meetings and discussions, informing these people as to what their jobs, you know, expectations are and how they can operate and what the community themselves can do, and I think that's a very good component. I've seen them to several meetings, and I think that's something on the upscale as far as informing the citizens of this County as to what's happening because there are a lot of questions as to, well, why —, we called you last night, you know, and you picked them up and they're right back out there. So they're out there answering questions and they're trying to educate the people, and I think this is going to help a lot because then the citizens will have a better handle on what they're doing and how they're doing it and what our responsibilities are as citizens.

Chairman Hair said, I'll make one final comment. I think that it's going to take a very, very strong person to lead this effort, and I'll tell you why. Because what's going to happen, and I've seen it hundreds of times in my life, you know, everybody's going to say, yes, we'll come to your meeting and we'll sit down and we'll talk about it, and it will quickly turn into a blame game. It will quickly turn into, well, it's the City's fault, or it's the DA's fault, it's the judges' fault, or CNT's fault, and I want to tell you right now, I'm not willing or interested in participating in that kind of show. And that's exactly all it will be. Commissioner Thomas said, a show. Chairman Hair said, if people are not interested in coming to the table, willing to admit their own faults and their own weaknesses, and with plans to improve those, then I think that it's a charade and I have no interest in being part of a charade, but I think if we can convince people to come with the right attitude that it's not —, maybe I'm not doing my job as well as I should, and everybody's got to take that attitude going in, or what can I do to improve what we're doing, and then I think that's the only way it will work. Otherwise, it will turn into a, you know, finger pointing and, you know, you'll spend two hours, you'll have a nice lunch and you'll go home and you'll feel good, but you won't have done one thing to solve crime in this community.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information. The law enforcement officials are to put in writing their thoughts on the issue of the current state of crime in this community and what they believe can be done to solve the problem. This item will appear on the agenda for August 11, 2000, for discussion with the idea of forming a task force or group to work with the law enforcement agencies in Chatham County and other groups to help in solving the problem of crime in our community.

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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 TRANSFER OF \$20,000 FROM THE 1985-1993 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY PROJECT TO THE SR307 (US 17 TO I-16) PROJECT AND A TRANSFER OF ~~-\$263,000~~ \$300,000 FROM THE 1985-1993 SPLOST, US 80/JOHNNY MERCER FLYOVER PROJECT TO THE MCCORKLE BIKE TRAIL PROJECT AND A CHANGE IN FUNDING SOURCE ON CHANGE ORDER #5 TO THE SERVICE CONTRACT WITH HUSSEY GAY BELL AND DEYOUNG FOR THE PLACENTIA CANAL DRAINAGE PROJECT.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir, go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, there was a supplemental report issued last night. Let me give you the background quickly. The amount of money you have to transfer is actually \$300,000 based on staff's recommendation. What has changed in the report you just read into the record is that the apparent low bidder was nonresponsive; therefore, we need a little bit more money to complete the project, so the amount of transfer is \$300,000. Everything else remains the same. When you get to the Purchasing report, it will be the second low recommended for award as opposed to the apparent one.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], on this, that's the 263 now moving to 300,000. County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir. Commissioner Murray said, okay. The question I have, and I didn't see it in the report unless I just overlooked it, where will this bike path be extended to? County Manager Abolt said, this is the balance of the McCorkle Trail on the east side, I believe. Al [Bungard]? Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Golden, can you answer that question? County Manager Abolt said, no, Mr. Bungard. Chairman Hair said, Al [Bungard], I'm sorry. County Engineer Al Bungard said, it's -, I assume it's the [inaudible] you made before. It's the part around the Sheraton Golf Course -. Commissioner Murray said, okay. County Engineer Bungard said, and there's the part on the other end where it ties into U.S.80. Commissioner Murray said, so all of that will be done in this project then. County Engineer Bungard said, actually two phases. One phase is on the Highway 80 end and the other part's down there by the golf course. Commissioner Murray asked, and once this is approved how long do we have to wait for the contract to be awarded and the bid for the project start? County Engineer Bungard said, well, you're going to approve award of the contract later on in today's meeting, and then we'll issue -, we'll have a preconstruction -. Commissioner Murray so we just have to be -. County Engineer Bungard said, we're talking about a month probably before somebody's out there.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Golden, did you want to -? Mr. Jim Golden said, well, you know, U.S.80's being widened so we have bicycle trails included in that, widening the road all the way to Bull River Bridge, so the McCorkle Trail will tie into that. Chairman Hair said, okay.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the following: A transfer of \$20,000 from the 1985-1993 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Project to the SR307 (US 17 to I-16) Project and a transfer of \$300,000 from the 1985-1993 SPLOST, US 80/Johnny Mercer Flyover Project to the McCorkle Bike Trail Project and a change in funding source on Change Order #5 to the service contract with Hussey Gay Bell and DeYoung for the Placentia Canal Drainage Project. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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2. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY 2001 (JULY 1, 2000 - JUNE 30, 2001) BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY.**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, this is as proposed by staff. We did acknowledge in our Facts and Findings you had two major elements of testimony during your public hearing. One came from the category of those testifying in support of additional funds for the Library and the other was from a gentleman and others supporting the application for MedBank. If you wish to direct more money to the Library, that will require a reduction in other areas of the budget. On the MedBank

proposal, you might be better served if you wait for your recommendations from the Grants-in-Aid Committee, which will be forthcoming next month. All in all though you do have a budget in front of you that complies completely with State law. There is no tax increase. There is a millage rollback that when you add together the M&O, SSD and CAT, it amounts to about a .74 mill, or almost three-quarters of a mill reduction based on funding this budget only with new growth as opposed to revaluation.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair said, motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Rivers asked, could we –? Chairman Hair said, let's get the second on the floor. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rivers and then I've got a comment.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], I looked for it last night when I was trying to find it and I could not find it, but I had gotten a letter, I think we all did, from CAT where –, David [Persaud] that might have been one that you did to come up with the amount of revenue that is generated in a year's time from the Spanish Hammock area for the CAT tax. County Manager Abolt said, that came from Mr. Lansing through Danny Powers. Commissioner Murray said, okay, but you weren't –. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no sir. Commissioner Murray said, well, since Danny [Powers] is not here –. County Manager Abolt said, you'd have, I think, it's 6,000 –, 7,000. Commissioner Murray said, 6,000-something. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, and that was probably done at my request because I've been talking for the last two years about how do we tax those people when they don't have the service, and I thought that was in the State that they had to receive the service. Is that recommendation in here that that's being pulled out? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. That will have to come through CAT. We've taken the CAT budget and we've taken out any requests for millage increase. That's what you have in front of you. Commissioner Murray said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, that issue is solely between the staff of CAT, the Tax Commissioner and yourself as the CAT Board so you may want to address that as a CAT Board member. Commissioner Murray said, I'll address it now.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, that's all right. I'm reading here that the recommendation and for funding the Med Foundation [sic], MedBank Foundation, should be extracted out. We'll wait for Grants-in-Aid if that's included in the motion.

Commissioner Saussy asked, do we know that they're getting it? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Rivers said, no, we don't know that they're getting it, but we will consider that. Commissioner Saussy asked, we can sit up here and say right at that time –? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Commissioner Saussy asked, is that what you're saying? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, yes.

Chairman Hair asked, when will that be forthcoming? County Manager Abolt said, in August. Chairman Hair asked, after the budget is approved? County Manager Abolt said, you've always done –. Every other year you always adopt a budget. You have an allocation, lump sum, for Grants-in-Aid. Shortly after you adopt the budget, usually the first 30 days after the budget's adopted, the Grants-in-Aid Committees, both of them, come forward with their recommendations, usually within the limitations of that lump sum. You have the option if they come forward with their recommendation, if MedBank isn't included, if it doesn't address the full \$40,000, you can change that. If you wish them to reconsider, fine. If you wish to fund what they recommend and direct us to find what additional monies you want to direct to MedBank, fine. The only difference in what you've heard and the testimony from the proponents of MedBank is they were going through the process, but they wanted some guarantee that regardless of how the process came out, they would still have their funding. Commissioner Saussy said, they wanted it –. County Manager Abolt said, they wanted –, when they referred to in the budget, they want it locked over and above Grants-in-Aid.

Chairman Hair said, well, I don't have a problem with the process. I think the process we're going to follow is okay. I do think though that at the time in August, I do think MedBank –, you will see me as a strong supporter of \$40,000. I think that's a great way to prevent a lot of expenses, so I –. As long as we have a chance to discuss that and I have a change to try to convince y'all to support that in August, I'll be glad to do that.

Commissioner Rivers said, no doubt about that, but we can get that out of Contingency or somewhere –. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Commissioner Rivers said, that we don't have it within the budget. All I'm saying is that if you're going to do it, make sure that we've got a permanent revenue stream for it that exists. Chairman Hair said, I understand, and I respect that.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Price and then we already have a motion and a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Price.

Commissioner Price said, Russ [Abolt], the increases for the cost of living for the employees –. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Price asked, we [inaudible] that in the last several months. I'm assuming all that is going to be –. County Manager Abolt said, cost of living is covered. Remember now, cost of living is not all that the compensation plan says. I can make no guarantees as other elements of the cost –, the pay plan to be implemented until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, and then when Mr. Kaigler and Mr. Persaud can look at individual issues, when a department head –, just like Commissioner Rivers says, we've got some new found continuing source of revenue, we have documentation in the compensation study that there should be some internal adjustments, we'll come back to you and make those adjustments. Commissioner Price said, we're also self-insured as far as employees. Remember we had some problems –, we had

some problems in high rates of claims coming through. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. We will have a report, as promised, in August identifying that and the fact that we're covered. Commissioner Price said, at the time -- County Manager Abolt said, we have a liability. We have a liability, we're covered. It is a --.

Finance Director David Persaud said, the expenditures have leveled off as of June. It's normalized. We'll be at [inaudible] cost earlier in the year, but it's declined. Commissioner Price said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Frank [Murray], I'm sorry. Did you --? I thought I --.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. On the employee raises we had asked [inaudible] to look into some type of merit program. Is that --? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. All you --, all we have --, by approving this budget, you're approving five percent for COLA, and COLA for the law enforcement officers. There's nothing else. Commissioner Murray said, so in other words, when we give employee raises, it's going to be COLA, it will not be any merit involved so everybody across the board will have the same percentage of raise, is what you're saying? County Manager Abolt said, at this point we do not have the money to go beyond COLA.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt the FY 2001 (July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001) budget resolutions for Chatham County. Commissioners Rivers and Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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### **3. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT YEAR 2000 CHATHAM COUNTY GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS, SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT, CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM MILLAGE LEVY PURSUANT TO ADVERTISEMENT HAVING BEEN PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1.**

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second.

Chairman Hair said, second. I've got a question, and I did read it but I don't remember exactly. Does this include any increase in millage for CAT? County Manager Abolt said, there's no increase in millage, sir. No, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, it's a rollback in CAT. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Rivers said, if you want to give them an increase, I'll split it --. Chairman Hair said, no, I was going to --, I was going to vote against it.

Commissioner Saussy asked, does this also give a rollback in the Board of Education? Chairman Hair said, well, according to them, they've already rolled it back. Commissioner Saussy said, well, we've got to approve it one way or the other though. Commissioner Murray said, well, why don't we vote on each one individually. We should be doing it anyway.

Chairman Hair said, I'll be happy to do that. I think that's not a bad idea. Do y'all want to vote on them individually? Let's vote on them individually. Alright, I'll entertain a motion and a second to approve first --. County Attorney Hart said, there's already a motion on the floor to approve. Chairman Hair asked, can we remove that --? The Clerk said, you will have to withdraw it. Chairman Hair asked, would you withdraw that? Would you withdraw the motion? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, I'll withdraw --. Chairman Hair asked, the second, will you withdraw the second? Commissioner Price said, I'll will. Chairman Hair said, okay. All right, we'll withdraw the motion. All right, now I'll entertain a motion to approve --, we can do the General M&O and SSD together, I think, right? Does anybody have any problem with that? All right, this is a motion to approve the General M&O and SSD budgets of Chatham County. Commissioner Thomas said, I move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, now I'll entertain a motion to approve the Chatham Area Transit District's budget. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] County Manager Abolt said, it's actually the millage rate. Chairman Hair asked, pardon? County Manager Abolt said, you've

already approved the budget. This is the millage rate. Chairman Hair said, yes, this is the millage. I understand. Okay, and now the –, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Board of Public Education –. The Clerk asked, was there a vote on that CAT –? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price said, I erased it for you. The Clerk said, I know you did and I didn't see it. Commissioner Murray said, he was too quick on the button to erase it, Sybil [Tillman]. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Price said, I was just trying to help you, Sybil [Tillman]. The Clerk said, thank you. Commissioner Murray asked, this is on which one? Chairman Hair said, this is on the School Board budget. All right, was there a motion on that now? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Price said, Priscilla [Thomas] made the motion and I second. By the same people. The Clerk said, okay. Chairman Hair asked, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion is –, passes. Okay.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner DeLoach moved to adopt Year 2000 Chatham County General Maintenance and Operations and Special Service District millage levy pursuant to advertisement having been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rivers moved to adopt Year 2000 Chatham Area Transit District millage levy pursuant to advertisement having been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
3. Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt Year 2000 Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and County of Chatham millage levy pursuant to advertisement having been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1. Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Price, DeLoach and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel 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.)

Chairman Hair said, now I'll entertain a motion to approve the Action Calendar. County Manager Abolt said, sir, on that one, if you will, go back on the Purchasing Report regarding the McCorkle Bike Trail, Item K, and there's a change on who the contractor is. It's not Merco Trucking, it's the second one. Chairman Hair asked, what is it? Who is it? County Manager Abolt said, sir, if you could just pull Item K. Mr. Lynch said, Claco, sir.

Commissioner Murraysaid, I've got some. Chairman Hair said, all right. Commissioner DeLoach, which item did you want to pull please. Commissioner DeLoach said, 9 and 10-C. Chairman Hair said, 9 and 10-C. Commissioner Murray said, I had 9 also and, let's see, what else. Commissioner Thomas said, 5. Commissioner Murray said, K and L. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute, K. Commissioner Murray said, and L. Chairman Hair said, K, L and N. Yes. Commissioner Murraysaid, yes. Anything else? Anybody else want to pull anything. Commissioner Thomas said, 5. Chairman Hair said, I've got you, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you have A? Chairman Hair asked, 8? Commissioner DeLoach said, 10-A? Chairman Hair said, no, we don't have 10-A. Do you want to do 10-A? Commissioner DeLoach said, 10-A. Chairman Hair said, okay, 10-A.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the balance of the Action Calendar –. I need a motion. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: Action on each item is shown as though an individual motion were made thereon.]

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved that the Action Calendar (Items 1 through 10-P) be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 9, 10-A, 10-C, 10-K, 10-L and 10-N. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel 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 JULY 14, 2000, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 14, 2000, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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2. **CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 7 THROUGH JULY 19, 2000.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 7, 2000, through July 19, 2000, in the amount of \$2,423,459. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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3. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER REPRESENTING THE DEVELOPER, TURNER'S COVE DEVELOPMENT, L.L.C., FOR THE COUNTY TO APPROVE THE RECORDING OF THE FINAL PLAT FOR TURNER'S COVE, PHASE 2.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from the Engineer representing the developer, Turner's Cove Development, L.L.C., for the County to approve the recording of the final plat for Turner's Cove, Phase 2. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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4. **REQUEST FROM SAVANNAH LAND COMPANY, DEVELOPER OF RICE MILL PLANTATION, FOR THE COUNTY TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS, TO BEGIN THE WARRANTY PERIOD, AND TO REDUCE THE BOND AMOUNT FOR RICE MILL, PHASE 6D.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from Savannah Land Company, Developer of Rice Mill Plantation, for the County to approve the construction of the improvements, to begin the warranty period, and to reduce the bond amount for Rice Mill, Phase 6D. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY GRETA A. POTTER, 1251 WEST 42<sup>ND</sup> STREET, FOR THE WIDENING OF OGEECHEE ROAD FROM LYNES PARKWAY TO VICTORY DRIVE.  
[DISTRICT 8.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just need further clarification on that. Is this a part of the —, of that total package —? County Manager Abolt said, yes, it is. Commissioner Thomas said, that you're looking at? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, for that [inaudible] have, you know, raised concerns about that. County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, with your permission, we've met last —, week before last with the staff of the City of Savannah, our engineers, their engineers. We're exploring different options on the easterly approach to that project that might be able to influence the Department of Transportation to not effect as extremely as initially planned some of the property, but this, though part of the project is not a part of the controversial end, this is an early acquisition, willing seller. Commissioner Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner Murray said, I want to ask you a question.

Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to approve. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Price said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved to approve early acquisition of the property owned by Greta A. Potter, 1251 West 42nd Street, for the widening of Ogeechee Road from Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,450 RELOCATION OF WATER AND SEWER LINES FOR THE HIGHWAY 80 WIDENING PROJECT FROM BRYANWOOD ROAD TO THE BULL RIVER BRIDGE. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve an agreement with the city of Savannah in the amount of \$34,450 for relocation of water and sewer lines for the Highway 80 Widening Project from Bryanwood Road to the Bull River Bridge. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR CHAIRMAN AND CLERK OF COMMISSION TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH SAVANNAH LAND COMPANY FOR STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FAWCETT CANAL. [DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request for the Chairman and Clerk of Commission to sign an agreement with Savannah Land Company for storm water improvements to the Fawcett Canal. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO MAKE REPAIRS TO ONE PORTABLE BAND SHELL STAGE, PURCHASE A NEW BAND SHELL STAGE AND PURCHASE A FLAT BED TRUCK AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE APPLICATION.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve a request to submit an application for a Department of Community Affairs Local Assistance Grant to make repairs to one portable band shell stage, purchase a new band shell stage, purchase a flat bed truck, and to authorize the Chairman to sign the application. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT APPLICATION (TEA 21) FOR PHASES I AND II, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION, OF THE SAVANNAH OGEECHEE CANAL PROJECT AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS.  
[DISTRICTS 6, 7 AND 8.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, this is an item that concerns the people out along the Canal Bank Road and that area with the S&O Canal. All I wanted to do was see if we couldn't tie a request for a citizens meeting in that area to go over what our overall plan is. I know we don't have the funds or anything to actually do this project, but since there's a study going on, I think we need to inform the citizens in that area and then, if we could, I'd like to tie that study –.

Chairman Hair said, that needs to be a part of the motion, I think. All right, do you want to make a motion to approve it with that stipulation. Commissioner DeLoach said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request to execute a Transportation Enhancement Application (TEA 21) for Phases I and II, Design and Construction, of the Savannah Ogeechee Canal Project and authorize the Chairman to sign all documents, with the stipulation that a citizens meeting be held to inform the citizens of the overall plan. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Change Order No. 7 to the contract to perform drainage analysis and recommend storm water improvements along the Hardin Canal to provide design and permitting of the SR 307 Raspberry Canal culvert replacement	SPLOST	Thomas and Hutton	\$16,700	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway
B. Reject proposals received to provide a Day Reporting Center for children under supervision of Juvenile Court who have been suspended from school	Juvenile Court	N/A	N/A	N/A
C. Contract for paving Colt Road	SPLOST	J.S. Morgan, Inc.	\$87,196	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Ridge Road, Redgate Farms, Colt Road and Marshall Avenue

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
D. Change Order No. 21 to the contract for the construction of Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase I for the summation of all overruns and underruns for final payment to contractor	SPLOST	APAC -Georgia	\$474,505	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Phase I
E. Change Order No. 9 to the contract for HVAC replacement and renovation at the Judicial Courthouse to convert existing pneumatic controls to digital electric	Building Maintenance and Operations	Erickson Associates, Inc.	\$27,570.40	Bond Proceeds - Judicial Courthouse HVAC Replacement
F. Change Order No. 10 to the contract for HVAC replacement and renovation at the Judicial Courthouse to convert electrical disconnects to a six wire configuration	Building Maintenance and Operations	Erickson Associates, Inc.	\$6,710	Bond Proceeds - Judicial Courthouse HVAC Replacement
G. Annual price agreement for the purchase of herbicide products	Public Works	Red River Specialties	Varies by item	SSD - Public Works
H. Annual price agreement for the purchase of mosquito control chemicals	Mosquito Control	Clarke Mosquito Control Products (sole source)	Varies by item	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
I. Annual contract with option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide conflict resolution to offenders and families as referred by Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	The Mediation Center	Not to exceed \$17,000	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court (Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant)
J. Annual contract with option to renew for two additional one year terms to provide an assessment and intervention program for minor sex offenders as referred by Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Family Reconstructions/ SOAP	Not to exceed \$17,000	General Fund/M & O - Juvenile Court (Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant)
K. Contract for the construction of Robert McCorkle Bikeway Extensions	SPLOST	<del>Merco Trucking Company</del> Claco Construction	\$262,416 \$282,201	SPLOST (1985-1993) - McCorkle Bike Trail (pending transfer)
L. "Short List" for the design/engineering of the renovations to the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum	Inspections	•Cogdell & Mendrala •Bazemore Mastrianni Wilson •Poticny Deering & Felder •L. Scott Barnard and Associates	N/A	N/A
M. Annual price agreement for the purchase of mosquito control chemicals	Mosquito Control	•Van Waters and Rogers •Clarke Mosquito Control Products	Varies by item	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
N. Confirmation emergency purchase of one tractor	Public Works	LJL Truck Center	\$66,906	CIP - Vehicle Replacements

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
O. Contract to relocate Army utilities on the north side of Perimeter Road on Hunter AAF so that Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road may be widened in the area vacated	SPLOST	White Electric Company (sole source as requested by the Army)	\$130,064	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road Widening
P. Terminate contracts for microfilming services	Various	SDM, Inc.	N/A	N/A

**As to 10-B through 10-P except 10-A, 10-C, 10-K, 10-L and 10-N:**

Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 10-B through 10-P, except Items 10-C, 10-K, 10-L, and 10-N. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

**As to 10-A:**

CHANGE ORDER NO. 7 TO THE CONTRACT TO PERFORM DRAINAGE ANALYSIS AND RECOMMEND STORM WATER IMPROVEMENT ALONG THE HARDIN CANAL TO PROVIDE DESIGN AND PERMITTING OF THE SR307 RASPBERRY CANAL CULVERT REPLACEMENT; DEPT.: SPLOST; SOURCE: THOMAS AND HUTTON; AMOUNT: \$16,700; FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993) - JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. The reason I –, I was just bringing this point up here on the Raspberry Canal because it's an issue that's been a problem for a number of years in that area. I just wanted to make it public knowledge that we are trying to do something in that area to improve their situation. I think that picks up some of Harris' [Odell] area now, but it is an item that is of concern for those folks in the Silk Hope area.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Do you make a motion to approve? Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval. Commissioners Price and Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**As to 10-C:**

CONTRACT FOR PAVING COLT ROAD; DEPT.: JUVENILE COURT; SOURCE: J. S. MORGAN, INC.; AMOUNT: \$87,196; FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993), RIDGE ROAD, REDGATE FARMS, COLT ROAD AND MARSHALL AVENUE.

Commissioner DeLoach said, this is another item of just information for the general public on TV. There's a gentleman out there, I can't remember his name at the present, who has been wanting this road paved ever since it was put on the list, and I just wanted to make sure that it's public knowledge now that Colt Road is going to be paved, and this gentleman will relax and enjoy himself in the future.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, I've just got one –. Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second.

Commissioner Murray asked, how can you get roads paved out there and we can't get the rest of the dirt roads –? Commissioner DeLoach said, we don't have any paved out there. All of y'all's are paved. Commissioner Murray said, we still have a couple that aren't.

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

**As to 10-K:**

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ROBERT MCCORKLE BIKEWAY EXTENSIONS; DEPT.: SPLOST; SOURCE: ~~MERGO TRUCKING COMPANY~~ CLACO CONSTRUCTION; AMOUNT: \$262,416 \$282,201; FUNDING: SPLOST (1985-1993) MCCORKLE BIKE TRAIL (PENDING TRANSFER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair asked, you pulled this one, Russ [Abolt]?

Commissioner Murray said, I just thought we needed to know what name it is now. Mr. Lynch said, it's Claco. Commissioner Murray said, Claco Construction. Mr. Lynch said, Construction of Ellabell. Commissioner Murray asked, what's the exact figure? Mr. Lynch said, \$282,201 for the contract. The amount of \$300,000 requested included, I believe, contingency.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? I need a second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**As to 10-L:**

"SHORT LIST" FOR THE DESIGN/ENGINEERING OF THE RENOVATIONS TO THE RALPH MARK GILBERT CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM; DEPT.: INSPECTIONS; SOURCE: COGDELL & MENDRALA, BAZEMORE MASTRIANNIWILSON, POTICNY DEERING & FELDER, L. SCOTT BARNARD AND ASSOCIATES; AMOUNT: N/A; FUNDING: N/A

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't have any problem and there's no funds on it, but I just have some questions. There's getting ready to be more renovations done there? County Manager Abolt said, this is -, remember this is the one y'all approved funding for months ago. We're finally getting around to it. Commissioner Thomas said, right. Chairman Hair said, they just hadn't gotten to it.

Mr Lynch said, this is awarding the design on that. Chairman Hair said, it's already been funded. We've already approved the funding. Mr. Lynch said, short list for design. Commissioner Murray asked, do you have a dollar figure we approved for funding? Mr. Lynch said, 90 -. Commissioner Thomas said, we did that -. Mr. Lynch said, not broken out separately, sir. Commissioner Murray said, I was just trying to get some numbers because it's been quite a while, and I don't think those numbers are going to be good today once you go out and get the design and stuff.

County Manager Abolt said, sir, according to the staff report, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October last year, you approved 90 -, just under \$97,000. Mr. Lynch said, which is construction and design. We don't know what the design will be until when we get to the fee proposal.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I guess my next question is, if we approve something that far back why have we waited almost a year to put it out for design work? Mr. Lynch said, I can't answer that question, sir. I don't know the answer to that. Commissioner Murray said, it's going to be like some other projects, the price is going to -, the cost is going to escalate on it. Mr. Lynch said, it could be. I don't know the reason it was -, it did not come to us, as I recall, until about a month, month and a half ago.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Anderson is out of town, but in the staff report he refers to the scope of work depending upon the work of a -, what is referred to as a museum consultant for preservation.

Chairman Hair said, I think Commissioner Murray raised a good point, but we can deal with that at the time the numbers come back. We don't really until that point. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Price said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Just a procedural thing, Mr. Abolt. It seems to me that short lists, could that not be included in the information items and not an actual -, I don't know why we'd be approving a short list. We could see the short list, but do we actually need to approve the short list as opposed to putting it on the Information section? County Manager Abolt asked, what does the Purchasing Manual -? Mr. Lynch said, at the present time, and we can of course change it, the manual does call for Board approval, but we're completely at you gentlemen's and lady's discretion. Chairman Hair said, no, that's fine. I mean, I just think it's -, it's no big deal. I just thought it would be easier to put it under Information. I don't know why we would be approving a short list. I mean, that's something it seems to me staff should be doing, but -?

**As to 10-N:**

CONFIRMATION EMERGENCY PURCHASE OF ONE TRACTOR; DEPT.: PUBLIC WORKS; SOURCE: L JL TRUCK CENTER; AMOUNT: \$66,906; FUNDING: CIP - VEHICLE REPLACEMENT.

Chairman Hair said, Item M, Annual price agreement for the purchase of Mosquito Control chemicals; Mosquito Control; Van Waters and Rogers, Clarke Mosquito Control Products; Varies by item. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, I didn't pull that. Chairman Hair said, okay, did anybody pull that? I need a motion to approve it anyway. Commissioner Saussy said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. [NOTE: This motion is moot because Item M was included in the motion to approve the Action Calendar items not pulled for individual discussion and action.]

Chairman Hair said, that-. Commissioner Murray said, I pulled N. Chairman Hair said, oh, you've got N. Commissioner Murray said, yes, not M. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, my only question is why is it an emergency purchase? Mr. Lynch said, primarily, sir, because until we issued the purchase order, we were having to pay \$100 a day for a loaner tractor. As soon as we issued the purchase order and until delivery of the truck, that loaner is free. Had we waited, it would have cost us right around \$900,000 more because we -. Chairman Hair asked, \$900,000 more? Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to see that

truck. Mr. Lynch said, 900 to a thousand, not 900,000. I apologize. I was trying to talk fast. Commissioner Murray said, I just wanted to know what the emergency was. Mr. Lynch said, that's the reason.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve Items 10-B through 10-P, except Items 10-C, 10-K, 10-L, and 10-N. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 10-A. Commissioners Price and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
3. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 10-C. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
4. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 10-K. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
5. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 10-L. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]
6. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Item 10-N. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel 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.

None.

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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:**

Report received as information.

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**2. LIST OF PURCHASING ITEMS BETWEEN \$2,500 AND \$9,999 (SEE ATTACHED).****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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**3. WRITTEN ROAD REPORT.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Report received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner DeLoach and unanimously approved, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was recessed at 11:25 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing, land acquisition, litigation and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

Following adjournment of Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION****1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**2. REQUEST BOARD INCREASE HOURLY RATE FOR ATTORNEY STEVE SIMS FOR HANDLING TAX APPEALS (JONATHAN HART).****ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Saussy moved that the hourly rate of Attorney Steve Sims for handling tax appeals be increased to \$75.00. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**1. BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner DeLoach moved that the following appointments be made to the Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals with the term expiration dates as shown: General Contractor - David LaBarbera, 11/28/03; Mechanical Contractor - Walter Canady, 11/28/04; Architect - Walt Bazemore, 11/28/03; and Representative from Fire Services - Wesley Meadows, 11/28/03. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Jackel was not present.]

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 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