

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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 9:00 a.m., Friday, October 6, 2000.

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II. INVOCATION

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

Chairman Hair said, I'd like to first introduce our Youth Commissioners who were with us today. We have Sumati Gupta -, did I get that close? She's a Junior. She's also -, at the Jenkins High School. She's representing the Indian Youth

Group Association. We have Joseph Geffen, who's an Executive Member, 12th grade at Savannah Country Day, representing the Jewish Educational Alliance. I'm really going to need help with this. Shradha -, is that close? Subramaniam. Ms. Subramaniam pronounced her last name correctly. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you for correcting me. She is an Executive Member and also a Senior at Jenkins High School, representing the Indian Youth Group Association. We appreciate you folks being here this morning. As we go through the deliberations just raise your hand if you have a question or a comment and I'll recognize you and we'll proceed.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2000 AS "DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH" IN CHATHAM COUNTY.

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda this morning is a proclamation to declare the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Chatham County. Who's going to receive this? Okay, please come forward. Do you want to bring up anybody else? If you want to bring up anybody, come on up anybody that would like to come up. We'll make this a group photo.

Chairman Hair said, I will read the proclamation first. Chairman Hair then read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, domestic violence affects millions of Americans, crossing all economic, racial and social barriers and causing emotional damage, physical harm or death to members of the family; and

WHEREAS, national studies show that 95 percent of all victims of domestic violence are women, and that battering is the single major cause of injury to women, exceeding rapes, muggings and auto accidents combined; and

WHEREAS, in Chatham County the Chatham County Police Department responded to almost 1,000 domestic disturbance calls and made almost 150 arrests in 1999; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to promote support for the shelters and programs designed to protect battered women and their families and to reduce domestic violence, the Georgia Network Against Domestic Violence is sponsoring special activities during the month of October 2000; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence has ended lives, destroyed families, harmed children and has entered the work places, churches and schools of this community; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County government condemns domestic violence and supports the efforts of SAFE SHELTER and the SAFE SHELTER OUTREACH PROGRAM to make the home a safe place for all the citizens of Chatham County.

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

"DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH"

in Chatham County, Georgia and encourage all citizens to be good neighbors in identifying and promptly reporting incidences of domestic violence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this 6th day of October 2000.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Gail Reese-Wheeler said, on behalf of SAFE Shelter and the families that we serve, we do want to say thank you. We greatly appreciate the support, the continuing support that we receive from you all. Once again, on behalf of all the agencies that provide services to victims of domestic violence, we thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, Gail [Reese-Wheeler], I just want to give you a personal thanks. I was –, I'm proud to say I was a former member of the SAFE Shelter Board and a past president, and have been off for a couple of years, but you know you always have my continued support, and we want to –, I want to personally thank you for the wonderful job you've done out there and for what your board has done in moving ahead with building this new SAFE Shelter. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, thank you. Commissioner Jackel said, just that y'all had the vision and the determination to take the SAFE Shelter to a whole new plateau where it's never been before, and to set that goal and to achieve that goal is just all wonderful. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, thank you, and on behalf of our board of directors, who have worked very hard and made this commitment, of course, you aren't on our board any more, but we still call on you. Certainly we thank you. Commissioner Jackel said, please continue to do so.

Chairman Hair said, thank you folks for being with us this morning.

Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, I think it's just great that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and as Youth Commissioners we had a seminar on domestic violence and we learned a lot about it. I just want to know what you're planning on doing to educate the public about domestic violence. Are there any activities planned this month?

Commissioner Jackel said, I think some of the members of the board can tell you. Gail [Reese-Wheeler], could we –. Commissioner Price said, we have an item coming up on our agenda today for a possible grant. Chairman Hair asked, we can have you –, could we have you come back up please and answer the Youth Commissioner's questions?

Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, I'm sorry, I was running my mouth I was so excited. Chairman Hair said, the question was what kind of activities do we have planned for this month? Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, okay, for Domestic Violence Month we have the luncheon that will be on October 17th. That is where the Lt. Governor will be coming down. He will serve as our speaker. We also have an art exhibit that's being held at the JEA. Okay, that will be up this week. Cheryl Branch, who's our Coordinator, has coordinated a lot of this and, Cheryl [Branch], if I'm not saying something that is not accurate, please assist me with it, but basically we have the luncheon and we've been very fortunate to receive a grant from Phillip Morris. They've given us \$40,000 to increase the awareness, so we have a lot of media, TV and print media that's going out. We're also working with the shelters within our district. I think it's on Wednesday, the 19th, I think, that all the –, all the print media will all discuss domestic violence. So from Savannah to Waycross to St. Mary's to Hinesville, all of that on that particular day, everybody will read about domestic violence. So we're really working hard this month to increase our awareness. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, may I also say that in the high schools there's lots of people, a lot of girls who want to be loved and they go out with boys to be loved and they get beaten. So it's very important that we tell –, we let high school girls know, and guys, that, you know, you don't need that to feel loved. So I'm, you know, I think it's really great what you're doing, but maybe you ought to think about extending to schools. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, we are in some of the schools; however, we will give you a card that you can call us and we'll be glad to set something up with you. Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, okay. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, thank you. Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, Gail [Reese-Wheeler], just one second if I might. One time when I was on the SAFE Shelter Board I was trying to raise money for the SAFE Shelter Board and I was invited out to Guyton to give a little talk about the SAFE Shelter, and I gave my talk and one of the gentlemen in the audience said, well, that's fine about the wonderful work you're doing, but what's that got to do with Guyton, and I said, well, our statistics show that we handled nine –, no, six people last year that were from Guyton, and he said, well, you know, it's a small town, and I don't believe you helped anyone from Guyton, and I said, well, sir, all I can tell you is when they come into the SAFE Shelter they fill out some information and they listed Guyton as their home address, and I said we don't have the FBI investigate to make sure that they're really from Guyton, but that's what they did, and he said, well, I still don't believe they're from Guyton, and there was a social worker there from Guyton and she said, well, I took three women and their children down there and six people from Guyton wound up at the Savannah SAFE Shelter. Well, that didn't convince him. He said, well, they must live out in the country and just claim Guyton. So I guess the whole point in the story is this thing cuts across all socioeconomic lines, all regional lines, all ethnic, race, religion, everything, and it's a problem with all age groups, and it's a problem we all need to be concerned about because the next person we're going to introduce is our new Chief of Police –. Chairman Hair said, well, we'll get there. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Chairman Hair said, we're not there yet. Commissioner Jackel said, I know that, but I just wanted to say we need our people safe in the streets, but it's just important that they're safe at home. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, absolutely. Commissioner Jackel said, most important that they're safe at home.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Gail [Reese-Wheeler], if you can, and I thought that that was a wonderful suggestion coming from the Youth Commissioner, and I would hope that you would encompass them, not only for this month, but year round and having them to have some type of project to carry the message out into the school. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said,

absolutely. We will do that, and as I said, we are in some of the schools, and I'm certainly glad to hear that. We will communicate with her and make sure that that's taken care of. The SAFE Shelter has an outreach office that basically is out there providing awareness throughout the year, so we will work with her and make sure that we keep that continuous contact.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate you folks being here. Also, if you look on Item 7 of the Action Calendar, we're also going to approve later in the meeting a \$500,000 block grant to the SAFE Shelter. Chairman Hair recognized Ms. Montine Earls.

Ms. Earls asked, how do we make arrangements to attend the luncheon on the October 17th. Ms. Reese-Wheeler said, it will be twelve noon at the Mulberry Inn on the 17th. If you will call SAFE Shelter at 234-9999, we will make arrangements to get the tickets to you or we will make arrangements for those that want to come to the luncheon we'll [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you again, Gail [Reese-Wheeler], for being here.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTION OF CHIEF DAN FLYNN, NEW SAVANNAH CHIEF OF POLICE (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair said, the next item on the agenda we're going to have the introduction of our new Police Chief, and I'm going to call on Commissioner Jackel to introduce him.

Commissioner Jackel said, it's my pleasure to introduce the City of Savannah's new Police Chief, Dan Flynn, and we want to welcome him here. Our Chairman has led us and I think we have had the best cooperation with the City and other municipalities that I think any of us can remember, and I wanted to have him here so we could all meet him and continue that spirit of cooperation that we've had. He's already met with our Police Chief, he's met the County Manager, and we want to keep this cooperation going between the County and the City and our police departments and the Counter Narcotics Team. It is my sincere pleasure to introduce Chief Flynn.

Chairman Hair said, welcome, Chief.

Chief Flynn said, good morning. Thank everyone for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to be here this morning to meet with each of you. It's certainly a great honor for me to have been selected to be the Chief of Police of Savannah and be here in Chatham County, and I'd like to say to you that for 27 years before coming here to Chatham County I worked in a County system that operated very much like Chatham County does, and I have a very strong appreciation of the importance of the good working relationship between the local municipal government and certainly the law enforcement area and the County governments, so I'd like you to know that you can certainly count on me to continue that and build that partnership and enrich those working relationships anyway that I can. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Chief, and that goes both ways. Let us know what we can do to also assist you. Thank you. Chief Flynn said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Commissioner Jackel.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed the meeting as the County Commission at 9:15 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Upon adjournment of the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 9:48 a.m.

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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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REPORT ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chairman Hair said, before we get into Items for Individual Action, I'm going to ask for unanimous consent to report back to the Commission on something I was asked to do with Mr. Hubbard at the Chamber without objection. You'll remember I think two meetings ago Commissioner Murray brought up the issue that he had heard that some members of the Chamber of Commerce or someone associated with the Chamber of Commerce were making statements about supporting AIM and supposedly if we didn't support AIM there would be some political retribution taken, if you remember that discussion, and I, at the wishes of Mr. Hubbard, President to the Chamber of Commerce, and I discussed it with him and I expressed our deep concern about that. He was not aware of any activities, but he did say that he would bring it up at his board meeting and make sure that they understood that the Commissioners were very concerned about that and that would be unacceptable behavior, and so he agreed to do that at his next board meeting, so —, but he said he was unaware of any specific things, but I just wanted to report back to the Board because I was asked to do it.

Commissioner Murray asked, can I make a comment? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Murray said, the only reason I brought it up is an individual that is serving in office and is running for office right now came to me one night and told me that that happened that morning. As I said at the meeting when I brought it up originally, I don't think we need to get into names right now, that was not important, but I did want the people at the Chamber to understand that that is not part of their function to go out and tell people that that your going to support a certain way or support certain issues or they would do what they could to get them out of office. It's been addressed, and I appreciate you addressing it, and hopefully it's a dead issue at this point, but if it continues, then I will certainly bring it up again.

Chairman Hair said, he did state to me that there certainly was no official policy on that and that he couldn't guarantee that some individual had made the comment, but he said that certainly there was not a policy or any type of process in place to do that, and certainly not something the Chamber would be interested in.

Commissioner Murray said, I will say Mr. Hubbard was not the one that was involved in it, so —. Chairman Hair said, he was very gracious and he —, I met with him at great length on this issue and he assured me that he would take it to his board.

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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. BUDGET TRANSFER FOR DEMERE PROPERTY.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Hair, gentleman, this just makes it possible to deal with the administrative act of shifting money in SPLOST to purchase the Demere property.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, I will move for approval. Commissioner Saussy said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Price said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Price said, I want to maybe express on behalf of all of us the appreciation to Frank, Commissioner Murray, for helping to guide us through this effort and the contacts he's got at the State level and what have you, and I think this will be a fantastic recreational facility for the people on the eastside and they should be very proud of what Frank [Murray] has done for them.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I think it's been a long process going through this and it came up a number of years ago and we weren't able to put anything together to do it, and this time it wouldn't have happened without the support of the people sitting up here, the Commissioners, that supported this project going through, and it's --, I think it's going to be good for the total community, not just Wilmington Island or Whitemarsh Island, but the overall community because the YMCA has now started putting their new facility on the Islands in this area and the schools back up to that property. We have a community center that also backs up to the property, and now the County will maintain the rest of that property. It's a large section of land and it will not be developed for residential or commercial development any more. It is part of the greenspace planning, part of the plan that the Governor put out this year, and we will be receiving some funds from that hopefully in the near future that would help offset some of the cost of this, but the money that was utilized on it as the greenspace money that we had set aside in the one percent sales tax, so that to me is another reason why I really support the sales tax and I think when we look at the sales tax when we vote on those referendums, you know, you don't always agree with every project that's on there, but if you'll look at the overall community and what we've been able to do with it over the years that we've had it, from roads to different community centers to recreational facilities and other things, then I think you will see that this community had really benefitted from it, and at the same time people will complain about, well, what will it cost to maintain these facilities once we've built them with the sales tax money, but the use that the citizens of this community get out of all of it I think really offsets the maintenance costs that we have going into it and I think we need to continue it, and I would be one if it comes up again in 2002, I believe when another referendum will be held --, 2003, then I would support it because that is the only tax at this point that the citizens get an opportunity to either vote it up or vote it down, and I think that whether we agree with it or disagree with it from our standpoint as Commissioners that we need to all it to go on a referendum and let the citizens have their say-so, but thank you to the rest of the Commission for supporting this project also.

Chairman Hair said, thank you for your leadership, Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Subramaniam.

Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, I think you basically answered my question of what are you going to do with the property, but where is it? Chairman Hair said, it's right off of Johnny Mercer Boulevard, just east of Johnny Mercer Boulevard, and --. Commissioner Murray said, it goes from Bryan Wood to Johnny Mercer and backs up to Long --, I mean, not Long Point, but Battery Point and the schools. It's just south of the schools. It's 200-plus acre tract of land. Youth Commissioner Subramaniam asked, okay, and you're putting up community centers and stuff like that? Chairman Hair said, we already have a community center. Commissioner Murray said, the community center is already built. It's built on School Board property that backs up to this property.

Commissioner Price said, it's a large recreational area that will be nature trail and --. Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, oh, that's so nice. Chairman Hair said, it won't be an active park, but more of a passive park. Commissioner Murray said, it will be not be like your regular large park like Lake Mayer or Charlie Brooks Park or Scott Stell or any of those. Those are some of the restrictions we have on it at this point. It will be kept passive and a lot of greenspace still left there, but it's going to be something that they can utilize.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Gupta.

Youth Commissioner Gupta asked, when will that be completed maybe? Like --. Commissioner Price asked, what's the guesstimation on that? [Unintelligible comments when several individuals began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, this is just to buy the property, okay, that's what this action is and then it will be a plan to develop it later. Okay? Commissioner Murray said, a long range plan though.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. [NOTE: As is noted above, a vote was previously taken on this motion and was unanimously approved.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve a budget amendment to SPLOST 1993-1998 to reflect unrealized revenue of \$3,075,760 and an increase in the Open Space/Greenway/Bikeway Project for \$3,075,7670 toward the purchase of the Demere property for a passive park. Commissioner Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Thomas were not present.]

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2. PLAN OF ACTION IN THE EVENT THAT HUMANE SOCIETY DECIDES TO END SHELTERING STRAY CATS AT THE END OF THIS MONTH.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, [inaudible] via written correspondence as to our negotiations and renegotiations of a contract with the Humane Society to shelter stray cats, our official contractual relationship goes back now nine years. We were at a point of fully understanding the position of the Humane Society and their desire to have a certain cost paid by the County to shelter cats. We were looking today in the event the Humane Society did choose to no longer provide the service as of the 1st of November to give you an option. Yesterday afternoon Chairman Hair and I had the good fortune in the meeting that was called for another purpose to meet with Humane Society President, Helen Stone, who I believe is in the audience, and to get from her her position in a position of authority on what the Humane Society would or could do on this. At least it's my clear understanding that they made a business decision, which I certainly understand, that unless they were to be compensated in the amount that they have requested, which is approximately \$44,000, they do not feel they can continue this service. We do have numbers now were we to do it in house and have the Police Department do it with our existing shelter, that we would have in effect a \$33,000 first year start-up cost, and then a \$30,000 annual cost. We feel from the standpoint of protecting the taxpayers and doing the fair thing with the animals and being humane to them, it might be more appropriate at this time to thank the Humane Society for all they've done for us over the last nine years, but to enter into an arrangement wherein the Police Department would provide this service from the 1st of November on.

Chairman Hair said, as the County Manager mentioned, we did meet with Ms. Stone yesterday and I think we have a clear understanding. Ms. Stone, would you like to say anything?

Ms. Helen Stone said, I'd just like to say that it's not the Humane Society does not want to continue to provide this service. We did figure what it would cost us to continue to do it. The Executive Director Rob Lee came up with the figures with our accountant and, of course, there is a difference in the level of service that is provided between what the County will do and what the Humane Society will do, but that is truly the least amount of money that we could do it for, and we certainly understand if that's not the route that the County wants to take.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Geffen.

Youth Commissioner Geffen said, I just wanted to suggest if the money that they're asking for can't be located to house the stray animals, perhaps a little money could be located just to publicize how to control like the cat population if you have -, if you own a cat or how to adopt a cat if, you know -.

Chairman Hair said, I think the Humane Society does a wonderful job and that actually they do a pretty good job, not that we can't do better, of course, but also this issue is strictly an issue of whether the County is going to do it or whether the Humane Society is going to do it. The service will be there. The cats will taken care of, but it's just a matter of whether -, and as the Manager said, the Humane Society's being doing it for nine years, and we -, quite frankly, it's a budgetary issue. We've reached a point where they say the absolute bare minimum they can do it for is \$44,000. The County's staff says we can do it for \$33,000 the first year and \$30,000 thereafter, so we can save the taxpayers a lot of money. So it's just -, it's simply an issue of who's going to do it, whether the Humane Society, but I think your point's very well taken. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd just like to thank the Humane Society for what they've done. They stepped up to the plate when we were having some problems with the cats and stuff, but we then had some on the Commission that thought the answer to that was put all the cats in crocus sacks with books in it and throw them in the river, which did not go over very well with a lot of people and certainly with a lot of the Commissioners, but they do a great job out there and as a matter of fact we have a cat that we got from the Humane Society but they do a good job and I'd just like to thank y'all for the job you've done and the support you've given the County through the process. If things work out later on that something can be done, then we can certainly look at it again. I don't think it's something that's in concrete that we're going to have to continue this way forever, but I think for budget reasons we have to look at it.

Ms. Stone said, we're always open to any suggestions to work with the County. I think Mr. Lee, our Executive Director, does have a statement he would like to make that can be released to the media and to questions that y'all might like to ask.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Lee, would you like to make a statement?

Mr. Rob Lee said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, and with all due respect to the Commission's decision to provide care for impounded cats at your own facility, the Humane Society does regret being unable to continue to provide this service for you. We also have provided a level of care that we have established for these animals and that we've given the residents of Chatham County over the past 15 years, many of those early years with no compensation at all from the County. We regret the officials have failed to recognize that we're, in fact, unable to provide some of the information, some of the detailed information that their internal auditing system is asking us. The fact of the matter is that we've never maintained our records in a method that would allow us to determine the information requested

without a complete and [inaudible] audit of several past years' records, which we're unable to afford and frankly just don't have the time or the staff to do ourselves. The Humane Society has always considered the care of cats entrusted to us by the County as part of our regular operation, not as a separate or adjunct duty. There's never been any effort to differentiate on our part between cats that are turned in to us by citizens of the County or County Animal Control. Some animals have come to us as other parts of that operation; however, we differentiate in the level of care those animals receive. That accounts in large part for some of the differences in costs mentioned by Mr. Abolt. As far as personnel costs go, we are not a very large organization and we operate pretty much on a day-to-day basis and trying to break out individual personnel costs on a prorated basis is literally impossible. There are days in which I spend cleaning cat cages because of the lack of available personnel. We demonstrated that the total number of animals brought to us as stray cats both by citizens in the County and Animal Control amount to nearly 40% of our total animal intake and that these same animals account for over 50% of the total euthanasia that we're required to perform annually. We feel that with those facts in mind that a request for funding that amounts to less than 15% of our total annual budget is justified and is necessary for us to continue to provide service at that level of care. Our decision has not been not to provide service to the County, but to provide service that we feel is the actual minimum according to both our mission statement and our effort. Once again, while we respect the County Commission's decision to provide these services themselves, we also sincerely hope and expect that the services they provide will be at least the same level of service that we've been able to provide and we will continue toward ensuring that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Lee. We appreciate you being here. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], on this with the County now taking this back and doing it ourselves, have we got anything in place or established to this point that if a hurricane were to come through with evacuation or anything like that? County Manager Abolt said, that would be part of our contingency plan. Commissioner Murray said, it's part of that, okay. County Manager Abolt said, yes, the Police Department would provide that service. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, I have somewhat of a concern as to whether we can provide the level of service that has been provided especially with the Animal Control when they're so lowly manned right now. How are we going to do this? I mean, I need a little bit more detail on what's happening. County Manager Abolt said, okay, sir. I'd be glad to defer to Major Oliver, but essentially we plan to augment staff plus make modifications within our existing shelter that have already been set forth by the Department of Agriculture and we're sure from the standpoint of the facilities it will be very humane. Obviously, we will be monitoring the staff involved, and if this is a problem at Animal Control, as you so accurately mentioned, it is an issue that, you know, we're patently aware of. The issue here becomes one of the dollars to be charged, and we feel we can provide comparable service that is humane and, in fact, as the Chairman alluded to, save the taxpayers on a recurring basis about \$14,000 a year. Specific questions should be directed to Major Oliver from the standpoint of how we'll [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, Major, if you'll update us.

Major Oliver said, good morning. We would require an additional kennel worker, Mr. Saussy, one new kennel worker at this time, and that will take care of the situation for right now. With slight modifications at the shelter, which will be approved by the Department of Agriculture, we can provide the service. We are down some kennel workers at this point, but we have permission to go ahead and hire those, so we'll be doing that immediately.

Commissioner Saussy asked, so we are hiring some new ones now? Major Oliver said, right. Commissioner Saussy said, we really need them out there, as everybody's aware of. Major Oliver said, we do have that permission. Commissioner Saussy said, you'll have dogs and cats all over the place.

Commissioner Murray asked, the kennel's still right behind the Humane Society? Major Oliver said, yes sir.

Commissioner Saussy asked, how will y'all go about or will you be in coordination with the Humane Society of adopting these cats? Major Oliver said, we will be available for the adoption when we have cats that [inaudible] –. Commissioner Saussy said, so y'all will have that? Major Oliver said, [inaudible] adoption of cats. We'll work in coordination here. Commissioner Saussy said, in coordination with the Humane Society. Major Oliver said, sure.

Chairman Hair said, I don't think takes a motion, does it. County Manager Abolt said, yes, because in effect you're making a budgetary action, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Price said, I move for staff's recommendation. Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you very much, Ms. Stone, Mr. Lee, for being here. We appreciate the fine work you folks do.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to have the Board of Commissioners authorize Animal Control to move forward with the modification of the Animal Control Shelter, purchase required cages and food, necessary equipment, and to hire an additional kennel helper to house and care for stray cats. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO CREATE AND TO FILL A NEW CASHIER II POSITION WITHIN THE INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the request to create and fill a new Cashier II position within the Inspections Department. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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4. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTY'S SUGGESTED NEW ROLE IN RECYCLING.

County Attorney Hart said, Chairman Hair, gentlemen, this is a very auspicious occasion, at least in my estimation. We've carried forward at your direction leadership, what we believe to be an extremely successful program on recycling, having the County come forward as the lead agency. The briefing you're about to receive today has the importance not from the standpoint of what has been done and resting on that, but rather coming forward with a very ambitious program that would carry this forward to what so many of you have already envisioned. Today is just an information briefing, but if everything is satisfactory –. Apparently someone didn't like what I said. If everything you hear is satisfactory, we will proceed with some ordinance changes, but our very ambitious, very far reaching, and in effect consistent with your initial direction. We want to make sure you agree with this before we proceed any further. I would like to introduce Robert Drewry and then Virginia Lamb, two people that have done so much to carry out your direction and, quite frankly, have done an outstanding job in my estimation.

Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. I've reiterated this before and I'm going to do it again. Because of the successful, successful yard waste program we began in July of '99, we continue to move forward. As you will recall, in July of '99 we were out of landfill capacity, it was getting very expensive to take the yard waste and buy it into a landfill, so we were forced to make some changes. In November of 1999, November of last year we presented what we called a 12-point program to you moving us and changing our role in solid waste management. If you recall, the Board unanimously gave us consensus to move forward on it, which is what we're doing here today. Ms. Lamb is going to step forward and give you a lot of facts, give you some pie charts and things you need to look at to help kind of support what we're presenting to you, and when she's doing that I want you to pay particular attention, if I can do this, to four points, I'm going to go ahead and put them up on the screen now, four points, four goals, four objectives, however you want to look at it, that I really want you to think about as she's presenting her program. The first of these is we're aiming to move the County more –, away from more of the default program that we've had for the last 20-plus years of collecting materials just to put them in the landfill. We're moving to a more planned approach to collect the materials, being yard waste and bulky items, you know, remember we don't collect household garbage, but bulky materials and yard waste, and not burying them but actually diverting and recycling those materials. The second of that, as you can see, is we're trying to establish a new, more defined role of a niche, if you will. You know, to be sustainable in the market, you need to have a niche. Well, we're going to declare the niche and that's going to be part of what Ms. Lamb is going to present to you too. The third item, the third goal is we want to provide a more equitable distribution of those solid waste management costs, and then that kind of leads me right into the fourth point, it moves the County more toward a self-sustaining Enterprise Fund, as we should be and kind of gets us away of dependency on the property tax base, and she's going to show you a slide that'll show the revenue being from M&O and SSD as a subsidy to the Enterprise Fund. We're going to move away from that dependency as much as possible. So please keep these four items in the back of your mind as she's presenting the facts and figures and after she's through, we'll be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

Ms. Virginia Lamb said, good morning, members of the Commission. Hopefully, this will more enlighten folks as to what the real cost of solid waste management is for Chatham County. As Robert [Drewry] stated, we have had a default system. Basically, we ended up picking up whatever anyone else didn't want to bother with. It's a very expensive and a very inefficient way of doing business, and not where the County needs to be. We have not had any substantial movement in the area of recycling and waste diversion. We have lagged far behind the rest of the State in this corner of the State, and

this program will help to move us toward a much more conservation based environmentally sound way of handling solid waste. Some of the things that will be addressed in the new ordinance that either will not be taken care of or taken care of not in the most effective manner are going to be –, we're going to combine three existing ordinances: the Solid Waste Ordinance, as it sits today, the Sanitation Ordinance, which for the most part is an ordinance that falls under the Inspections Department. With their blessing we have taken it, taken the parts out that are still operation and functional, and move them into the Solid Waste Ordinance, and also the Solid Waste Fee Ordinance, which is the dollar a ton that has been for all private landfills. By the time this will actually help all the solid waste issues in one ordinance, which makes it much easier to administer, much easier to amend, much easier to change in the long run rather than having to go hunt through three different ordinances to see that you've gotten everything covered.

Ms. Lamb said, secondly, we're going to set out specific language within the Solid Waste Ordinance that addresses the issues that we've had to contend with with the changes in our program, that being when people may put materials out at the curb and for how long they may be maintained out there before collection actually takes place. We've had a few deficiencies, would be band permit procedure, and we're going to redefine some of those issues, and we're going to also establish, reestablish the guidelines for providing County collection services on privately owned streets. With the last revision that was left out because it had been an amendment before, we are simply reinstalling that into the existing ordinance. One of the things that we have had a lot of success, just as Robert [Drewry] mentioned, to the tune of a hundred and –, over \$140,000 this year in cost savings as far as tipping fees go, which were real dollars, not internal dollars for the –, from the [inaudible] capacity, but actual real dollars saved. All of our yard waste granting, one of the things that we have been concerned about, of course, is what some of the land clearing companies, some of the landscaping companies, have used the drop-off centers anyway, simply removing their portable sites and the sites of their trucks and using the drop-off centers. We would rather have them come in legitimately, pay a tipping fee and also be able to sell the material back to them. We want to expand our role, the County's role in operating a vegetative diversion and recycling program for all of Chatham County for businesses and residential alike. In order to do that we're going to have to have some additional costs that will have to be absorbed for the expansion of the program. This is minimally what we're going to need to get started, but as you'll see in the next slide the annual cost is \$205,000, but when you think about the savings to the material and the landfills that we currently have, all of the landfill space is very precious as far as cost goes, private or public, and this is how we are going to pay for it. We will need about 18,000 tons and the rate in order to pay back to ourselves for processing and the annualized cost and also the start-up cost, we will have to charge a tipping fee of about \$15 a ton and also from the sale of the mulched material back to people. A similar operation to that which is going on right now in Camden County and [inaudible]. One of the things that we've been concerned about is because of the fact when recycling is mentioned for Chatham County, one of the hardest things we've had to deal with is that there is no centralized focused point of being able to take all household recycling materials to one place with the exception of Hunter Army Airfield, which we'll mention again later. Our desire is to establish drop-off centers throughout Chatham County. I urge you facilitate one one-point drop-off for all household recyclables. This happens to be a slide of the map area that we now have. Our drop-off centers, there is Wilmington Island, which already exists, we have Thomas Avenue Landfill, which has not been open to the public, we have Dean Forest Landfill. We would like to do a joint City/County drop-off facility –.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach has a question. Do you want to take questions as you go along? Ms. Lamb said, that's fine.

Commissioner DeLoach said, I need to go back to that \$15 charge. Commissioner Price asked, can you back up a slide or two? Commissioner DeLoach said, let's go back to the \$15 charge and let's talk about what we're talking about. I mean, we kind of just eased over that like, you know, no big deal. We're adding that \$15 on top of the regular price of things now, so basically it was –, what are we doing? All right, there we go. Now, let's talk about this "new" \$15 a ton. What was that? Ms. Lamb said, that is for, for example, land clearing businesses who are currently taking material into, for example, an [inaudible] kind of inert facility or a construction demolition –. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, for using up municipal landfill space or –. Commissioner DeLoach asked, that's in addition to the fee that is already going to be charged? In other words, you go over there now and you dump for, I don't know, \$27, \$28 a ton –. Ms. Lamb said, no. This would be an alternative to people rather than paying that \$27 a ton. They would bring the material to us and we would grind it. Commissioner Murray said, you'd get a discount. Commissioner Rivers asked, you'd like that, huh? Commissioner DeLoach said, I like that. This is better.

Ms. Lamb said, in response to your comment to an earlier, when we initially presented the yard waste program about how about us keeping businesses into this, this would allow us to do that. It would also allow us to recapture all costs and make sure that we have full costs recovery, which is important as far as I'm concerned.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I've got one question. On this sale of mulch materials for \$5 a ton, that's for citizens that [inaudible]. Ms. Lamb said, either citizens or businesses. Commissioner Murray said, which right now is free. Is that correct? Ms. Lamb said, yes. He would be more interested in the commercial end of that. Commissioner Murray said, well, my question is, if you go out there right now and get it, you have to load it yourself. Will they have a front-end loader or something there to load if they're going to be charging? Ms. Lamb said, that's part of the operational cost and that would be factored in. It depends upon the –. Commissioner Murray said, so you will be doing that, you will be loading for these

people? Ms. Lamb said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, that's great. Chairman Hair said, that's pretty good. Pretty good, Frank [Murray]. Commissioner Murray said, it sure is. That's still cheap. Thank you.

Ms. Lamb said, again we're back to the discussion of drop-off centers. We're going to look at reopening Dillon to service the westside area for drop-off centers. Now I'm just saying, the whole point of this activity is to get us away from collecting things that require disposal because disposal is a very expensive outlay for you every year as far as handling solid waste. If we can only take in those things that can be recycled, we have no disposal costs. Your disposal costs run you about \$1.3 million a year. Understand the kind of dollars we're talking about.

Commissioner Saussy asked what are the kind of things we're talking about you put into these? Ms. Lamb said, normally your normal household recyclable items include [inaudible] consumer beverage and food containers, three colors of domestic glass, the clear, brown and green, or corrugated fiberboard, office paper, newspaper, magazines and catalogs. Let's see, what else is in there. Aerosol cans. Eventually we would like to handle waste oil, oil filters and antifreeze and textile. So a good portion, probably about close to about 70 or 75% of what you generate in a common household would be able to be handled through these centers. Commissioner Saussy said, that's excellent.

Youth Commissioner Subramaniam said, there are other places you can drop off, like at my school there's a [inaudible]. Ms. Lamb said, that's correct. The problem that we have had, the complaints that we have had about the recycling program in general in Chatham County, whether it's been through private initiative, whether it's been through another municipal initiative, or whether it's been at the County level has been that there has been no comprehensive plan. In other words, people have to go from one place to another if they have plastic or they have glass or they have aluminum or they have steel. There really isn't one place they can go and just do it all. They have to run all over town and use fossil fuel, if you will, to be able to do their recycling, so what we would like to do is offer a comprehensive one-stop drop-off activity in order for people to be able to do it all at one place. The only place right now that they can do that literally and not all the things that I mentioned would be Hunter Army Airfield, and we'll talk about them in just a second because they factor into this equation.

Commissioner Saussy said, Ms. Lamb, these places are pretty sparsely out in the County. Is there going to be --, have any drop-off places in the City area? Ms. Lamb said, we have talked with several of the municipalities including the City of Savannah about running a joint drop-off facility. We would like to have this looked at as a comprehensive program for Chatham County and also for the four counties in the region, which are Effingham, Bryan and Liberty Counties. At the request of Chairman Hair, by the way, we have looked at this on a regional basis and we have gone and gone out and finalized and the Board approved some months ago the intergovernmental agreements with eight of the municipalities in Chatham County and also with the four surrounding counties. This is a comprehensive look at how to handle solid waste not only in our own municipalities and in Chatham County, but also in the region. Commissioner Saussy asked, is the City of Savannah part of the region? Ms. Lamb said, yes sir, I've had discussions with them within the last two weeks. Commissioner Saussy said, good.

Ms. Lamb said, one of the areas that we're interested in doing has been franchising. We think there's a poor ordering of resources. For example, I live in the unincorporated area of Chatham County out off of 17. There are five garbage companies that come through my development of 300 homes every week and the County. We think this is a poor order on the resources. If one has every fifth house, we have a lot of extra traffic, a lot of truck traffic going into private neighborhoods, we have a lot of extra things going on that we are not providing a very high level nor a very [inaudible] level of solid waste collection, and certainly at a premium cost for the residents of Chatham County. But rather than taking on the whole issue of franchising, which is the ultimate goal, we would like to see franchising, and the reason being is if you'll look at the municipalities or if you'll look at most other places in this world, there is one service provider. Some things happen when we move into the unincorporated area and suddenly we decide that we need 14,000 choices. If you live in the City of Savannah, you have one municipal provider of service. If you live in the other municipalities within Chatham County, you have a contracted service provider or you have those municipalities providing service. You don't have 15 different choices.

Commissioner DeLoach said, but you have got to be careful there. Ms. Lamb said, absolutely. Commissioner DeLoach said, the reason we have 15 is because somebody's doing it cheaper than somebody else. Okay, so, I mean, you've got an opportunity to choose. I think most people in the City of Savannah might look at the possibility of choosing somebody else to do their water. Our water for Garden City pays one-half of the water bill that I pay, but the fact of it is you're kind of stuck in some of these places, but if you've got an opportunity to choose --. Ms. Lamb said, absolutely, and that's why we have not chosen to go with the franchising. The term franchising into the original [inaudible] points that we've presented, we have abandoned that issue and realize that while that may be the ultimate desire for organization of resources, that indeed it has not been done in Georgia yet. While it's being looked at currently, we're going with the more tried and true method of licensing, which has been tried in Hall County, Athens-Clarke County and Gwinnett County.

Commissioner Murray said, I think another problem you have, and I'm not necessarily opposed to the franchising, but we can't just go out and do franchising in the unincorporated area without the State approving that, our delegation approving us to have franchising rights, a franchising fee. They can do it in the City of Savannah, but in the unincorporated area you can't do it, and that's one thing that we have fought --, I say fought, but we have brought up to our delegation over the years and tried to get them to allow us to be able to franchise not only this, but water services and a lot of other things we have

out there so we'll have more control of what takes place with it. But I also agree with Commissioner DeLoach at the same time that you have to be careful with that because when we get into our fee structure with the citizens right now have the right to bill the fees they want, and I know it creates more traffic because I am now involved in doing some of that myself and I've checked with different companies and it's amazing the difference you get in prices from the different waste companies that pick up the trash on curbside. Ms. Lamb said, right, and that's why our proposal is not to go with franchising because of those issues and also because of the fact that the tried and true method of licensing has already stood the test of time in the other counties that I mentioned, but it allows the County to become involved in the process of managing solid waste, and since all the waste, by the way, coming —, that is generated in Liberty, Bryan and Effingham Counties and all of Chatham County, both MSU and the things that we actually handle, all the waste somehow manages to come into Chatham County. Whether it stays here or not is immaterial, but it all comes through here to a final disposal destination of one type or another. So we are the destination for the area of solid waste whether we want to be or not. I remember earlier on someone made the comment, one of the Commissioners made the comment, well, let's just pack it in a truck and get it out of here. This is a nice idea, but what we're actually doing from the surrounding counties is packing the trucks and bringing them in here. So that makes it a whole —, a different ball game.

Chairman Hair said, if I could comment to Commissioner Murray. I've had some discussions with some of the delegation and I think if we tie franchising to regionalization, they're much more amenable to the idea. You know, we —, what's going to happen I think in the next year or two at the State level is you're going to see the concept in House Bill 49 put some teeth in it, you know, and forcing the municipalities and counties to look more and more at regionalization. I think they're —, I agree with you, I think they have been reluctant in the past to consider franchising, but I think if we bite this elephant one —, eat this elephant one bite at a time, they're willing to work with us on that. So I think if we, if we just took it strictly franchising without looking at the other components, maybe they're still going to be resistant, but they seem to be willing to talk to us about that. Commissioner Murray said, that sounds good and when they do hopefully it won't just be in the waste, it will be in all services.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Saussy.

Commissioner Saussy said, it would seem to me that for this thing to really work real well you almost have to have a mandatory recycling. Otherwise, you've got people that are doing a good job [inaudible] and then other people that are not, and all of us are paying for it. Ms. Lamb said, I like the discussion of the mandatory. I will tell you how I view mandatory. I've had in my last [inaudible] boss, who was military, about 32 years in the military. His thought was if I just put the word mandatory in an ordinance, that makes it so. You don't have control over the waste stream if you're not willing to do the [inaudible] necessary, if you're not willing to be the super cop that goes out and peers in people's garbage bags. The best way to affect the same kind of things is to touch people's pocketbooks. We would eventually like to go to a pay as you throw system that says that each generator decides for him or herself how much they want to throw away and we look at solid waste as a utility, that we are using up either air —, clean air or we're using up land space in order to bury your stuff, so this is how much it costs if you want to do recycling, this is how much it will cost if you want to do some recycling, and this how much it would cost if you just want to stick it in a bag or a cart and we come get it and take it away. That is the ultimate goal, okay. That is the fairest and most equitable way of attributing solid waste costs anywhere on the planet. It doesn't rely on the value of your home, it doesn't rely on a flat fee, it allows you to make the determination for yourself as to how much work you're willing to do to cut your own expenses, which is exactly what you've asked us to do for you through this program. How much work are we willing to do to cut the County's solid waste expenses and fairly attribute them to all generators who may at some time be using our system? Commissioner Saussy said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, let's continue.

Ms. Lamb said, two things this will do for us. By licensing, now understand I am not speaking of franchising. I'm speaking of licensing. One of them is that we will now become involved with the management of all the solid waste stream. We've kind of been on the peripheral of this issue by taking this really small, less than 8% portion of the waste stream, bulky items by default, and yard waste by design, and saying that that was our niche. When we had our own capacity it made sense. It doesn't make sense any more. The other thing it will do, it will put some standardization as far as what we expect as far as the level of service for people in Chatham County to be provided by private vendors and also what kind of things that we will expect them to have. It has to do with safety issues on the road. These are things, by the way, that are tried and true in other counties. I'm not proposing that we adopt anything that has not already seen the test of time. Also it's going to provide —, we'd have to be provided with some information about long standing disposal capabilities of one bad storm. Hugo, for example, when it went through Charleston, the Beesberry [phonetic] Landfill had about 30 years of landfill life. Because of what they had to put in that landfill, they used up 17 years of active landfill life. We have no County disposal facilities. None. Zero. We have no staging areas. None. Zero. We are in critical mass as far as handling the type of disaster debris that we would be talking about with a Cat-3 or Cat-4 hurricane. There is not enough private landfill space to take all the material that is anticipated from that kind of a storm because we haven't had one in a long, long time. The City of Savannah has also said that they will not burn that material, at least not in their incinerator, and they don't have enough capacity room for us. They were looking to us. We are in a very serious situation as far as handling that kind of debris, and so this asks us to address through the private haulers where do you intend to put this stuff you're collecting in Chatham County, where do you intend to put this stuff if you're doing it in the region, where is our long term disposal capacity because one of the points of planning is that we must be able if we're going to collect it, it has to go somewhere. And the final thing that —, probably the next two slides are the most important. One of my biggest concerns is the fact that

living in the unincorporated area of Chatham County, as a taxpaying resident, I'm paying twice for collection and disposal. I am paying my own private one –, actually I'm paying three times. I'm paying an SSD fee to operate curbside collection, which I don't use because I mulch myself, and then finally I'm paying it again for drop-off centers. You're having me pay three times. You're having everyone that's in the unincorporated Chatham County pay three times for a service level that should be incorporated into one service not multiple services. And SSD and M&O are already heavily taxed with all the things that we need to do in order to provide other services for County residents. One thing I was charged to do was looking at different fees and new ways of moving it out of SSD and M&O, and I think we've done that. Here are our existing revenue sources, where we get our money today to handle solid waste. Now remember, we're only talking about 8% of the entire waste stream. Actually less than 8%. We're talking only about bulky items which are not containerized, which we have gotten by default because the original program was only for yard waste. We get about 31% of our budget from the \$1.00 a ton fee, the restricted revenue that comes for the recycling and education and waste diversion. We get 38% from SSD, and we get 31% directly from M&O, and this is how we expend those dollars: 39% of it by disposal. We are paying 39% of solid waste budget, okay, to the tune of about \$1.2, \$1.3 million for disposal because we have no internal disposal capacity. We're having to pay another company to run our trucks over that landfill to dump that stuff in. We're paying 42% for collection activities. That includes collection at drop-off points and also at curbside. We're 9% of our revenue to handle closure, post-closure, and maintenance of landfills, which are going to be with us for a good long while now because we'll have 30 years of post-closure monitoring. We're spending about 9% on waste diversion recycling activities, and about 1% of the budget on air waste processing currently. This is actually the two pieces of the pie that we handle: 57% of what we collect is yard waste and 43% is bulky items. Understand all of the yard waste is being processed and not landfilled and at an insignificant cost of less than \$30,000 to process and given away currently to residents of Chatham County. It's that 43% that is causing you the \$1.2, \$1.3 million worth of disposal, and for less than 4% of the waste stream, that's a huge number. This is a percentage of existing expenditures and type of waste that we actually collect and have to handle. Remember there are only two commodities we handle: bulky items, which are disposed of through a landfill or burying, and if you add those two percentages together, you'll figure out that it's 51% of what you're spending out of your budget. The other part of it has to do with the collection and management of the yard waste, which is a very successful program, which has actually saved you disposal dollars to the tune this year already of hundred –, a little over \$140,000. These are our proposed sources of revenue. Remember, we're moving out of a base of M&O and SSD helping to relieve some of that pressure out there. We already had the existing \$1.00 a ton restricted revenue. That's going into things that are buried in Chatham County in private landfills only. We are now proposing that we include all landfills of all types, and we're allowed to do this by State law. All landfills of all types in Chatham County. That will generate at least \$130,000 of new revenue. We're also saying since everything from the surrounding three counties is coming into Chatham County, that there is an impact to our infrastructure and to our ability to manage our own waste stream by having this material transferred in and transferred out of Chatham County. But there is a real impact to the citizens and there is a real impact in the infrastructure, which has to be maintained by the County, and so we're proposing a transfer fee of \$1.00 a ton for every ton of material that's brought into the County but that will not be buried here, that's going somewhere else for ultimate disposal. Now understand, we're also getting material from South Carolina. Is it fair to ask the taxpayers of Chatham County to maintain infrastructure for garbage being brought in from South Carolina and transferred to another facility? I don't think so. The other thing that we're going to do is add the residential recycling fee of a dollar per month per household. I don't know anywhere on the planet right now that you could get a recycling program for \$12 a year. That generates revenue of \$250,000 coming through the licensing requirement of the vendor. We're also proposing that we eliminate, with the exception of white goods, the appliances, those things that can be recycled, remember our niche is waste reduction, waste diversion, and recycling. That is the County's new niche. We want out of collection for disposal. We do not want to select anything that has to be landfilled. We don't want those dollars running out of our pocket. We want revenue coming in, and so we're going to offer to the vendors as part of the licensing requirement that they can either provide the bulky item pickup or they can pay us to do that, and that will be their choice. But if we do it for them, there will be a price tag attached to it. We'll be glad to help them out, but we think probably they will want to do it themselves, and if we have to do it, we'll cover the bulky items collection cost of \$880,000 a year.

Commissioner Murray said, let me ask you a question. If these licensing companies agree to this and they pick it up themselves, then where do they take the materials? Ms. Lamb said, they will take it to a landfill. Commissioner Murray asked, but isn't that what we're trying to get away from though? Ms. Lamb said, no, we're trying to get away from us paying for it. Commissioner Murray said, for us picking it up and disposing –. Ms. Lamb said, and paying for it. For us having any cost attributable to collection for disposal. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, I will be very glad to take all the white goods they can give me, any metal objects they will give me. That can be recycled. My niche in life is recycling, my niche in life is waste diversion. I don't want anything that I collect to go into a landfill.

Chairman Hair said, and also the landfill's they use would be out of County. Ms. Lamb said, some of them will be out of town, some of them will be in town. Chairman Hair said, but I'm talking about where it would actually be finally disposed of. Ms. Lamb said, right. Again, that's part of the licensing requirement that they report to us where they're taking it to so we can watch the flow of the material and protect our resources.

Ms. Lamb said, this is our proposed breakdown of the solid waste expenditures, the difference being that the total expenditure is so much less because of the changes to the program. The landfill part has actually grown a little bit. We do imagine there will be some additional expenses accruing because of monitoring requirements, but 39% of it will be for collection of yard waste. Again, about 1% for the processing of it. Recycling will take up now 46% of your budget –, of our budget, and then landfilling, which is only post-closure market with nothing to do with disposal, okay, the five landfills that

we currently have that are closed, we have to continue to monitor them for 30 years, so we are on the hook for 30 years for our landfills, but this is not disposal. So when you see the word landfill, do not get disturbed about the word disposal. When I say disposal, I mean throwing away. When I say landfill, I mean monitoring. And this is how our new breakdown of fees will pan out. Notice there is no mention of SSD and M&O. I have moved this away from those two.

Commissioner Murray asked, when will this go into effect. Ms. Lamb said, as soon as you approve the ordinance changes. Commissioner Saussy asked, and when will we approve the –? Commissioner Murray asked, and then when that goes into effect, when will we see the reduction on our millage in SSD? Ms. Lamb said, that is up to you. Commissioner Murray said, right away I hope. Chairman Hair said, it should be part of the same motion. Commissioner Murray said, I mean, I don't want to see us say we're going to save all this money and not be billing it to SSD if we're not going to be able to take advantage of that in SSD. Ms. Lamb said, I agree with you, Commissioner Murray, and I hope that that is –. Commissioner Murray said, since you live in the SSD I would hope you would agree. Ms. Lamb said, it affects my bottom line. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, in more than one respect. If you'll notice –.

Commissioner Rivers said, I would also hope that y'all would look at what our needs are in SSD relative to all the things that you have on that wish list and divert some of that money rather than giving it back and then have to raise taxes again in order to satisfy them.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach.

Commissioner DeLoach said, yes, I wanted to ask, this money –, I mean, this cost doesn't go away. We're just sifting it to somebody else. So what are we talking about, what are we really doing? Commissioner Murray said, it won't be on the tax bill is what she's saying. Commissioner DeLoach said, it won't be on our tax bill, but it'll be on somebody else's bill so –. I'm in Southbridge and I pay \$12 a month for garbage pickup. Mr. Ken Earls said, thank you. Commissioner DeLoach asked, what does it cost for me to pickup garbage next week after I pass this ordinance? Ms. Lamb said, the cost will be [inaudible] as it usually does on the company and –. Commissioner DeLoach said, wait a minute, no. Ms. Lamb said, no, wait. Commissioner DeLoach said, give me a –. Tell me the cost. Don't fool around the bush, just tell me the cost. I mean, I know there's five different ways you can figure it, but in reality what is the cost that you're going to add to the private hauler –? Ms. Lamb said, I will tell you what I'm saving you on the tax bill. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, don't tell me what you're saving me. Tell me what it's going to –, I don't care about the taxes right now. I'm talking about what is the homeowner going to have to spend per month? What is the increase in his cost? That's what I want to know. That's all I want to know. Commissioner Saussy said, let's take both of them at one time then. Commissioner DeLoach said, no, just give me one –. Chairman Hair said, just answer his question first. Ms. Lamb said, I will tell you that I do not know the precise dollar amount. My –, based on previous experiences in other places, it will probably add about \$15 onto the monthly bill because they have to absorb –, they have to do their budgeting based on the same things that we do, 100% usage whether or not five people use it or 105 people. So –. Commissioner DeLoach said, so I'm going to go \$12 to –. Chairman Hair said, 27. Commissioner DeLoach said, to \$27 a quack. Ms. Lamb said, but let me answer your question. At the same time that we're talking about those costs, those are directly attributable to the generator, people who want to make decisions about what they want to do with their waste. You're asking the person who lives in a \$500,000 home to pay a greater percent for collection and disposal than you are for a person who lives in a \$40,000 regardless of how many people actually are generators within that home. I'm telling you this is a very clear and equitable way starting with pay as you throw. Commissioner DeLoach said, I mean, I don't –, I'm not interested –, you know, I understand your point. That's not –, I just want to know what the numbers are so if somebody asks me, because you're not saving anybody any money, you're just shifting the burden for people. Ms. Lamb said, no, what we're intending to do is take solid waste and treat more like a utility. Commissioner DeLoach said, right, and I understand that. That's fine. Ms. Lamb said, and we are not structured at government level to be able to make that switch easily within our own structure. Commissioner DeLoach said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, let me –. This is to –, directed to Mr. Abolt. You know, if we're going to –, if we're talking about 110 or 115% increase in someone's monthly bill, I've got a real problem with that unless we offset that dollar for dollar with a reduction in taxes from the SSD and M&O that, as Ms. Lamb said, we're going to save. Now I understand what Commissioner Rivers is saying, but I can't sit here –, there's no way I can vote for something that's going to more than double someone's monthly fee and not reduce someone's taxes to offset that. So I can tell you right now I've got a problem with that. I mean, I've got some serious problems with that.

County Manager Abolt said, to put it in perspective, of course, you only cut the millage rate once a year, and if we're not going to spend the money that we're not authorized to spend. If you implement the fee, we will tell you quarter to quarter as quickly as you want how much money is being saved. We will not divert that money in the other functions unless you were to choose. We submit a budget to you, you know, next Spring. We'll identify full well what we understand as a reliable revenue stream and give you the option –.

Chairman Hair said, well, I can tell you right now, unless there is a dollar for dollar rollback in the SSD and M&O, I can't support this. I'm going to tell you. Commissioner DeLoach said, I would say it's probably –, it'll probably be close. Chairman Hair said, well, but we've got to make sure we do that though, Commissioner DeLoach. Otherwise, the money just hangs out there and we use it for something else and we double someone's bill every month and we're having more new taxes. That I can't live with. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with that also and I feel the same way about it. There's another thing too that while y'all look at all this, is there any way to contract, for the County to contract to those providers and let it still be on the tax bill. That way you can deduct because you aren't going to be able to deduct this money any more if it's not on your tax bill. If it goes to the provider then you will lose that deduction then when you file your taxes. So what we're doing is shifting more than just this to help the County out with our costs, but you aren't helping the residential person out at all with their costs, if I understand what you're saying. I think you're doing a great job with it, and I think it's a great program the way it looks right now and your presentation has been real good, but I think there's some questions there that I think we're going to have to have answered before we support this.

Ms. Lamb said, and I would be happy to get the answers for you. We have met with the solid waste service providers that service this area. By and large, there are two larger ones and three smaller ones. Understand, we're only looking to the residential end of solid waste. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. Ms. Lamb said, not the commercial end. We have asked them on several different occasions to give us cost projections for them being able to provide services, and in lieu of them being able to do that, which is why I could not directly answer your question, my answer [inaudible]. My best bet was to find out how much it was costing us to provide the service and then backing into that way.

Chairman Hair said, based on what Mr. Abolt said that we only set the millage once a year, it seems to me maybe that's the time we implement it at the time we set the –. We lower the millage at the same time that we implement the new fees. I've got a real problem with passing an ordinance in the next month or so and not lowering the millage for the next seven or eight months. I think it probably needs from a timing standpoint because I believe that if we don't tie them together, it will never happen. If we don't do it at the same it will never happen. The other question is just a procedural question, Ms. Lamb. How much more time do you think you're going to need? Ms. Lamb said, not very much. Chairman Hair said, okay. Ms. Lamb said, I'm almost finished.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Jackel said, you keep talking about this as a utility and comparing it to the utilities, but I have a gas meter, I have a water meter and I have an electricity meter, but the garbage services are flat fees when they're residential. They're not based on how much you have, so a two-person house and an eight-person house are basically paying the same fee, as I understand it, and –. Ms. Lamb said, which is unfair also. Commissioner Saussy said, right. Ms. Lamb said, and we are –, the reason why we're starting out here is because in this particular method of now licensing vendors, because eventually we want to go to the pay as you throw system. There are systems out there that either do a subscription service by container size or it allows you to choose how much you're going to throw away, or by actually being on the back of a vehicle. They can actually weigh your garbage every time you do –, introduce a bill based on weight, that means containers both from collection and the disposal process. That's the direction that we're moving. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's the way we'll get [inaudible]. Ms. Lamb said, that's what we want. Commissioner Jackel said, but once we start that, that will impact on –. Ms. Lamb said, absolutely. Commissioner Jackel said, make people make choices. Ms. Lamb said, absolutely and, as Commissioner Saussy, said, you know, why not make it mandatory, all right. The reason I don't want to go that route is because I think everyone on the basis of their own pocketbook makes their own best decision. I prefer to leave that to someone else.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, we only set the millage once a year. Are there any missed opportunities that you can foresee by our delaying making the policy recommendations that you've outlined to us by waiting until it's time to set the millage? And I say it with the proviso that according to Mr. Abolt all monies that have been previously allocated would be set aside and not redirected? Ms. Lamb said, I think –, yes, in answer to your question, and the reason being twofold. One thing is that you all have been involved with the decision making process of watching the County transition from one kind of a program to another. I think it's important for that kind of consistency to be applied. The other thing is –, and we would lose some of that if you wait for a period of time, or could potentially lose some of that. The other thing that happens is that I think that by making the policy decision and actually looking at the ordinance, that the vendors who may be taxed with trying to decide whether to pay the fee or to provide the service are going to have to have time to gear up. I would suspect that you would have some sort of an implementation period that would allow us to transition from what we currently have to where we're currently –, where we're proposing to go. Commissioner Odell asked, is that three to six months? Ms. Lamb said, I would think so. Commissioner Odell said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner DeLoach and then Mr. Geffen.

Commissioner DeLoach said, all right, I think we need to go ahead and move forward with the thing. Now how are we going to do that? What can we do to satisfy the concern of not using any of the tax dollars and the idea of let's go ahead and make this thing happen? What can we do as far as management of the County? Tell me what I can do so Billy [Hair] will be happy and –, well, all of us will be happy about the shift in money. How are we going to do that?

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, we're doing as much listening today as we are taking. This is only a workshop or it's an information study. The first reading is scheduled next meeting. We will give you options between now and then. Your obvious option is to defer, if you choose that. The other, in effect, would be to implement and then sequester the money,

which we'd guarantee many savings, and you could deal with that as you put together the budget for next year, but the choice will be yours. We'll not force you in any choice. Obviously, you wouldn't accept that, but we will give you options. Under the current schedule, you will have on first reading the ordinance that's just been described for you, but I will have a staff report on first reading that will give you that choice for implementation. You can adopt now and implementation the first of July if you want.

Commissioner DeLoach said, let me ask you this. I understand the millage has to be set once a year and –, why can't you reduce the tax bill? County Manager Abolt said, because the tax bills have gone out already. Commissioner DeLoach asked, for the whole year? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, we had a short year. Commissioner Jackel said, that's right. Commissioner DeLoach said, we had a short year. Chairman Hair said, and you couldn't change the millage just for half of a year.

Youth Commissioner Geffen said, from what I've gathered, saving the environment is really what the recycling program is all about. I figure if you promote just saving the environment in general and the people themselves, you know, sort their recycling materials and take it to the drop-off points, then that would lessen the amount of waste that you have to take to landfills and then thereby lessen the cost that they would have to pay to get collected, like their trash collected. If, in turn, like the amount that they're paying is based on like the amount that they're throwing away.

Chairman Hair said, I think that what's she's really saying. I think that's what Ms. Lamb is saying. Not only quantity, Mr. Geffen, but also the type and it would be a different fee structure and you would decide what you want to do and how much –. Youth Commissioner Geffen said, but I mean like if you're giving them –, if you're recycling the trash that you have and then that is lowering the amount of trash and thereby lowering the cost. So isn't that your main objective? I mean, so if you promote just people recycling themselves. I mean, a little more –.

Commissioner DeLoach said, they won't do it. No, they won't do it. It's all about dollars. I mean, I hope one day whenever you get older it'll be that way, but right now if we don't hit them in the wallet, they don't hear. But if they get dollars tied to it, people understand that if I can do this, I don't have to pay this. Youth Commissioner Geffen said, but like if you tell them, just like that they would be like saving money by throwing away less trash, then, you know, that would be the –. Commissioner DeLoach said, that's the idea.

Chairman Hair said, I think we're agreeing with you, Mr. Geffen. I think that's what this program does. You know, again, if your bill goes from \$12 a month to \$27 a month, you know, you're getting hit in the wallet, and I also think though that everyone's not going to respond to that. I mean, you know, we have a law against speeding, and if you speed you're going to get a ticket, but people still speed. So you can raise the costs, but the people are still not necessarily going to do what, you know, we'd like them to do. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.]

Ms. Lamb said, understand, we do not collect household garbage. That's currently being done by the private subscriptions. The County ran out of landfill space. There's only two things that we pick up: yard waste and [inaudible] and you don't have to pay for it, but before [inaudible], and now we're having to write a check for all this stuff and it's to the tune of, you know, seven, eight, nine thousand dollars a month, and what we're looking to do is [inaudible] what we have to pay for to have the County service [inaudible], rather than just saying whatever you put out, we'll pick up [inaudible]. [Inaudible] is the old adage that we use is it's 20/20/60: 20% of the people will do whatever you ask them to do any time you ask them to do it and any way you ask them to do it. Right? They will cooperate. 20% of the people no matter how hard you punish them, no matter what you do to them, [inaudible]. It's the 60% that we have to work on and the 60% are [inaudible] and they're out there working every day and when we have to make a decision about time or money, most of us choose money.

Chairman Hair said, Ms. Lamb, I think we can wrap this up. This has been very informative and you've done an outstanding job. I mean, I'm really impressed with what you've done and your work. It is really outstanding, but could you just wrap it up.

Ms. Lamb said, the final slide that I have as far as expenditures is your existing cost is \$3.1 million to provide 8%, less than 8% of the entire waste stream of just unincorporated Chatham County. You're spending \$3.1 million of tax revenue. My proposal will save you about a million dollars.

Commissioner Murray asked, is that waste stream that you're talking about, that 1%, including what people deliver to the landfills because you've got a lot of people delivering to those landfills that don't live in the Special Service District? Ms. Lamb said, right, but you still have a handling cost. You still have –. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but I don't want people to think it's just the people in the unincorporated that contributed to that. Ms. Lamb said, no, absolutely not. But the contribution to the overall process is far less than the impact to SSD.

Ms. Lamb said, the proposed program most of the burden off of M&O and SSD and moves it directly to fees, which are generator based rather than based on the value of your house or some other flat fee. And finally, one of the things that we talked about was the regionalization. We have been working with Hunter and Fort Stewart, and we have devised an MOU [inaudible] recycling and cannot be able to process the material. The MOU that we have currently pending in the JAG office will allow us to process and recycle for Chatham, Effingham, Bryan and Liberty Counties through Fort Stewart or through

Hunter, which will prevent us from having to sink infrastructure and turn around [inaudible] processing fee and allow to be in keeping with House Bill 484.

Chairman Hair said, Ms. Lamb, thank you very much. Mr. Abolt, are you going to present back to us some options at the next meeting. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Murray said, when y'all do that do you think you would have an average cost of the increase to the residential property owner that has their commercial -. County Manager Abolt said, we'll do the best of our limitations [unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.]

Chairman Hair said, also in addition to that is the same reduction in millage, or the dollar reduction that -, of a millage decrease which would equate to -. I just want to make sure we're talking dollar for dollar. If we're going to go up \$15 but the tax is only going to be \$3, again I've got a problem with that. Commissioner Price said, make it contingent. Chairman Hair said, so make it, make it -, I want to know what the reduction, the average reduction would be in the dollar cost to the taxpayer by lowering the millage to offset the increase in fee. [Inaudible.] You've got to make it for the current digest.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll qualify it because this could change all -. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], also I'd like to see whether it's feasible or not for the County to contract for these different waste providers so it would still be billed on our tax bill.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. County staff will bring back options for the Board's consideration.

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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 asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval of all items. Chairman Hair said, well, let's get -. Commissioner Jackel said, 5 -. Chairman Hair said, let's get the Commissioners first and then we'll get the County Manager. All right, we've got 5. Commissioner Jackel, did you want six. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, 7, 8, we'll be quick now, A and -. Commissioner Saussy said, you don't get but five. Chairman Hair asked, did we leave something on the Action Calendar? Commissioner Murray asked, have you got another one? Commissioner Jackel said, yes, there's another here. 12-1. Chairman Hair asked, 12-1? There is no 12. Commissioner Jackel said, this is the MPC thing. Chairman Hair said, why don't you look at the Action Calendar. Look at the Action Calendar. You're in the wrong -, look at the agenda. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Those are the ones I need. Commissioner Murray said, I've got 3, 3 and 5. Chairman Hair asked, 3 and what? Commissioner Murray said, 5. Chairman Hair said, and 5. We've already pulled 5.

Chairman Hair said, all right, I'll entertain a motion to approve what little bit that's left on the Action Calendar. Commissioner DeLoach said, I move for approval of the last two items that are left on the Action Calendar. The balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 1 through 10-F of the Action Calendar except Items 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 10-A. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [Commissioner Thomas 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 SEPTEMBER 29, 2000, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 29, 2000, as mailed. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH 27, 2000.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to authorize the Finance Director to pay the claims against the County for the period September 21, 2000, through September 27, 2000, in the amount of \$704,559. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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3. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, WHITEMARSH ISLAND PROPERTIES, GP, FOR THE COUNTY TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION AT WHITEMARSH CENTER, PHASE 2, REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND INITIATE A TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD. [DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I was just wanting to know are we going from a letter of credit of \$96,000 down to \$48,000?

County Attorney Hart said, Al Bungard could probably answer it. My understanding is that portions of improvements that have been put in place –. Commissioner Murray asked, oh, they've already put some of that in place? County Attorney Hart said, and acceptance –.

Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second. Chairman Hair said, we've got a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Price moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Whitemarsh Island Properties, GP, for the County to approve the construction at Whitemarsh Center, Phase 2, reduce the amount of the financial guarantee, and initiate a 12-month warranty period. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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4. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSES IN CONNECTION WITH AN EXISTING RESTAURANT. PETITIONER: CHRISTOPHER M. EMERICK, D/B/A FATHER & SON PIZZA, LOCATED AT 10-B QUACCO ROAD. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the petition of Christopher M. Emerick, d/b/a Father & Son Pizza, located at 10-B Quacco Road, for a new beer pouring and Sunday sales license in connection with an existing restaurant. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH STATE OF GEORGIA TO ACQUIRE AIR NATIONAL GUARD PROPERTY. *Note: This item pulled until the meeting of October 6, 2000.*

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just wanted to point out the great—. Chairman Hair said, it's being pulled anyway. Commissioner Murray said, it says pulled for the meeting of October 6. County Manager Abolt said, that was your previous action. We're hoping to get action today. As you're all well aware, we're not ready to do that.

Chairman Hair said, we need to officially take it off the action calendar, right? Commissioner Rivers 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 Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to pull this item from the agenda upon the request of the County Manager. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CHATHAM COUNTY, THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH AND DANNY POWERS, TAX COMMISSIONER, AND AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH AND DANNY POWERS, TAX COMMISSIONER. THE CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH HAS REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY TAX COMMISSIONER FOR PURPOSES OF OVERSEEING THE COLLECTION OF TAX MONIES.

Chairman Hair asked, do I have a motion? Commissioner DeLoach said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to approve this, but I just wanted to commend our Tax Commissioner, and this is another example of how we're working well with our municipalities. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.]

The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve an agreement between Chatham County, the City of Port Wentworth and Danny Powers, Tax Commissioner, and an agreement between the City of Port Wentworth and Danny Powers, Tax Commissioner, for purposes of overseeing the collection of tax monies. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A \$500,000 BLOCK GRANT TO SAVANNAH AREA FAMILY EMERGENCY SHELTER, INC. (SAFE SHELTER) AND FOR THE COUNTY TO OBTAIN A SECURITY INTEREST TO THE SAFE SHELTER IN THE EVENT OF DEFAULT.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Price said, second.

Commissioner Jackel said, if I could I would appreciate if I could be the one to move to approve this. These people worked really hard for this. Chairman Hair said, we already have a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, to be recognized for their efforts, and I move approval.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request for approval of a \$500,000 block grant to Savannah Area Family Emergency Shelter, Inc. (SAFE Shelter) and for the County to obtain a security interest in the SAFE Shelter in the event of default. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR THE SHORT FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1,2000, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2000, AND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2000, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2001.

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

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is a motion to clarify the millage levy, but I don't --. We need to make --, let's make this clear. It's not that clear in the report.

County Manager Abolt said, the only issue is one of the very scrupulous auditors. They want to make sure because of our short fiscal year and the action taken that from the standpoint of the record that we have adopted the millage which you've already adopted and that in effect is the millage that has served you for not only the previous fiscal year, but also for the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Jackel said, so this is on a recommendation of --. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. It's a function of the shortened fiscal year and the auditors' very legitimate desire to ensure that there's no doubt as to what the property tax levy was for the previous fiscal year and this fiscal year.

Commissioner DeLoach said, move for approval. Commissioner Price said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, I move to approve that.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a resolution clarifying the millage levy for the short fiscal year January 1, 2000, through June 30, 2000, and for the fiscal year July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001. Commissioner Price seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE GRANT-IN-AID CONTRACTS FOR THE FY2001 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CULTURAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SERVICES AGENCIES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve the grant-in-aid contracts for the FY2001 appropriations for Cultural Arts and Social Services agencies. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas 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.)

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Annual contract with options to renew for two additional one-year terms to provide short-term crisis counseling for children and families as referred by Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Family Reconstructions/SOAP	Not to exceed \$17,000	Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant
B. Confirmation of emergency purchase of 150gl of adulticide	Mosquito Control	Adapco, Inc. (sole source)	\$13,912.50	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
C. Confirmation of emergency contract for aerial application of adulticide	Mosquito Control	Steed Flying Service, Charleston, SC	\$19,200	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
D. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for paving parking lots at Armstrong Atlantic State University for asphalt overruns	Engineering	R. B. Baker Construction	\$40,663.95	Armstrong Atlantic State University will reimburse Chatham County
E. Change Order No. 3 to the professional services contract for Pooler Parkway/U.S. 80 interchange for additional design and document changes	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$58,665	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Pooler Parkway/U.S. 80 Interchange
F. Confirmation of the contract to provide prep work, cleaning, labor and equipment to install 3M vehicular traffic topping to the exposed concrete surfaces of Bryan Square	SPLOST	Metro Waterproofing	\$39,632	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center

As to Item 10-A:

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, this talks about this group SOAP being well qualified. Please tell me what their qualifications are that they can perform working with some of our troubled youth for \$50 an hour. Mr. George Lynch said, the background that I have on that, sir, was provided by the Juvenile Court. I was not nor am I qualified to make such a judgment myself. These folks have demonstrated in other venues the capability to deal with immediate crisis counseling. They have been successful in it. I did not question further the assessment of their technical competence. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so –, so this contract is based upon the Juvenile Court's recommendation. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir, it is based upon Juvenile Court recommendation. Juvenile Court –. Commissioner Jackel asked, is this from Mr. Moore or is this from Judge Beam? Mr. Lynch said, this is from the Judge and –. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. If Judge Beam recommends it, I know we can approve that and it's fine.

Commissioner Price said, I call the question.

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

As to Items 10-B through 10-F:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 10-B through 10-F. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve Item 10-A. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve Items 10-B through 10-F. Commissioner Price seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **PETITIONER, TRIBBLE, REAGAN, HOSTETTER GENERAL PARTNERSHIP, OWNER, IS REQUESTING THAT 3.7 ACRES LOCATED ON GATEWAY BOULEVARD ADJACENT TO THE LAQUINTA HOTEL BE REZONED FROM A R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW A MOTEL. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE APPROVED BASED ON ITS CONSISTENCY WITH THE LAND USE ELEMENT FOR THIS AREA AND THE ADJOINING BUSINESS USES.
MPC FILE NO. Z-000901-42027-1
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. **AMENDMENTS TO REVENUE ORDINANCE REGARDING DEVELOPMENT FEES.**

Commissioner Price said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner DeLoach said, second. Commissioner Murray said, just let us learn a little bit more about it.

County Manager Abolt said, this is consistent with the issue brought initially by the Chairman and others as to a complaint received on the cause for a recombination and the feeling that the -. Commissioner Murray said, oh, yes. Okay. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.] County Manager Abolt said, please understand -. If I may, just for the purpose of the record, Mr. Chairman, if you'll notice in the front of the analysis, the MPC staff does acknowledge that with this change, and certainly they don't object to it, but they would forecast a funding shortfall in the MPC budget to the tune of \$10,000 to \$15,000 for this fiscal year.

Chairman Hair said, well, you know, Mr. -, Milton [Newton] over there is such a good manager, I am sure he's going to come up with savings to offset that. I just know he can do that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, I have a concern. This is a \$475 fee and certainly if you're doing a recombination of a subdivision, I don't think that's an unreasonable fee, but there can be some other minor revisions where someone finds out their yard line is not quite where it is and they had to readjust it because the survey was wrong or something along that line, and then to then be hit with a \$475 fee, I think is unreasonable and I think we need a lower fee for these minor adjustments that occasionally come up where someone finds out that there's encroachment on somebody's property.

Chairman Hair said, then you could just -, to me that would be if somebody made an error, I mean, I think you would have recourse in the courts, not to -. Commissioner Jackel said, well, not always. You might be using the survey that was done by a previous owner and you wouldn't -, you know, you hate -, you didn't have any privity of contract with the surveyor. I mean, there's all kinds of situations. I mean -. Chairman Hair said, well, you can't, you can't allow for everything in an ordinance, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, but that's too high a fee when we're talking about minor revisions of \$475. I just think that's too high a fee, and we've had -, we've already got trouble now with the ordinance, some of the ordinance that we had in place because the people on our Zoning and Appeals Board have told me they used to have three to four applications a month for people coming in to make adjustments to their house, and that has fell to zero because they've walked up and found the fee and they said, well, I was just going to do a little something to get a license. Now they're not even coming to us. I think they're still doing these things. I would hate that sort of fee prohibit people from making the corrections that may need to be made. You know, we're here to provide services for our people, and for something that's of a minor nature, I don't see how a \$475 fee is justified. For a recombination of a whole subdivision I could understand that.

County Manager Abolt said, philosophically and policy wise, you've essentially assumed the position of fee based. Not different from the presentation you just heard on recycling. The Chairman did an excellent job yesterday meeting with MPC people on that, but this is a major departure and a departure I certainly applaud when you deal with property taxes. You're saying services received should be paid for by the beneficiaries. Where we get down in the nubbings of the problem has to do with the very issues you've mentioned, but we're still fee based. It will only come through our actual experience, but you can make a policy decision in the months ahead if you want to subsidize because right now Mr. Newton and his staff, just as they've done today, said it costs so much an hour per hour to do it. If you look at Facts and Findings #8 in the staff report, they do address the Zoning Board of Appeals. They're in effect saying regardless of what is at stake, there is work that must be done fee based that can justify the charge. You may very well, if you wish, have us come back and alter it. The only thing we'd come to you and say is, okay, given our smartest people and the people closest to this, we have to do the work, work costs this much, if it's not paid for by the applicant then our only choice would be obviously other source of revenue.

Commissioner DeLoach asked, let me --, can I just ask a question there, Martin [Jackel]? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner DeLoach. Commissioner DeLoach asked, \$475 is the actual cost of running one of those? In other words, you've got the time to go out there and the time to process and to do all these other items, that total cost based on X-dollars per hour is \$475? Mr. Milton Newton said, that is the cost of staff's salary, fringe benefits and the overhead. Commissioner DeLoach asked, based on how many hours? Mr. Newton said, average salary about --. It would probably be --. Commissioner DeLoach said, I don't care about that. I'm more interested in how long does it take you to do that? Mr. Newton said, it depends. Sometimes it will take a couple of conferences with the petitioner, sometimes it requires going out to the site, sometimes spending [inaudible] in Superior Court to re-record the plat, 10 hours is the average. Commissioner DeLoach asked, did you say 10 hours? Mr. Newton said, right, 10 hours is the average.

Chairman Hair said, okay --.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, 10 hours is the --, I mean, are you saying it would cost the same for a subdivision recombination as it would some minor revisions for a landowner? Mr. Newton said, it's basically the same thing. It's the same process.

Chairman Hair said, and all that too is the quality of the work and a lot of other things. I mean, there's a number of factors that go into that. I mean, I think, you know, I think this is a good response. If you remember, I think this was triggered by one of our citizens that pointed this out to us and we all agreed, all nine of us agreed that what our former charge was was wrong and --. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, that's what this does. I mean, this adjusts it from \$1,500 down to \$475 or \$450, and I think that's very reasonable, very fair, and I think the staff's done a good job of doing that and I think Milton's [Newton] staff has done a good job. So I just think it's --, we need to approve it.

Commissioner Price said, call the question. Chairman Hair said, I have a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I would like to add an amendment to this. Chairman Hair said, the question has been called. All those in favor of the motion, and you can amend it if you like. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion from you, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, I would like to amend this thing that we have a minimum fee of \$150 for minor revisions to property. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to --, that the minimum fee will be \$150 for minor revisions. County Attorney Hart asked, is that a new motion? Commissioner Jackel said, a new motion. Chairman Hair said, yes. Does it have a second? Commissioner Murray said, minimum. Explain that. Commissioner Jackel said, it could be from \$150 to \$475 depending upon what efforts need to be expended by the MPC. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion. Does it have a second? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second that. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner Saussy asked, how is that going to be determined? Commissioner Jackel said, they'll [inaudible when several other Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Price said, I don't think he's qualified to make that --. Chairman Hair said, I don't think he is either. Commissioner DeLoach said, I was just trying to get an idea of what --. Commissioner Price asked, where are you coming up with these numbers? Chairman Hair said, yes, where's your --. Commissioner Jackel said, they're going to make a decision on their effort expended on a particular thing.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, I recognize that Commissioner Jackel is trying to be fair and equitable to the taxpayer, but if the motion gets adopted that sort of leaves the MPC in limbo in regard to what is the appropriateness of the fee. Chairman Hair said, not only that, you'd have to go back to the first reading, would you not. County Attorney Hart said, and insofar as how you calculate that amount, it has some problems. We'd really have to sit down and think about if that's --.

Chairman Hair asked, and also wouldn't we have to go to first reading again if we amend the ordinance? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Chairman Hair said, yes, we'd have to go back and start the process all over again if this motion passes because we'd have to go back to first reading because we're amending ordinance that we've already had first reading on. Commissioner Murray said, in the past now we have had a second reading of an ordinance and had some amendments to that and it has not had to had to go back.

County Attorney Hart said, the primary problem is how to –, you've got no fee set. You know, you're leaving the discretion of fees up to the administration function. Chairman Hair said, if this motion passes, the high fee would stand.

Commissioner Jackel said, I will change my motion to say that we charge \$150 for minor revisions. Chairman Hair asked, what is minor revisions? Commissioner Jackel said, they haven't defined it in here so I can't define it any better than that. They know what –, obviously know what minor revisions are. Mr. Newton said, the minor revisions are defined in the County Code. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Newton said, and Subdivision Regulations. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so there is a definition of that, and I think they would be reasonable –.

Commissioner Odell said, I have a question, Milton [Newton]. We had some concern that setting the initial rate was arbitrary and capricious, my concern is if we go with Martin [Jackel], my dear friend, of the \$150, isn't that just kind of plucking something out of the air. Commissioner Price said, it sure is. Commissioner Odell said, it's not based upon any cost data, it's not based upon anything other than I believe that this is fair. It might be a great belief, but it's not tied to any cost element. Mr. Newton said, it would be a judgment call on the part of the Board.

Chairman Hair said, I think Commissioner Price is correct. I have great respect for Commissioner Jackel, but he's not an expert on setting a fee and I think we have a fee that was established by the experts that do the work every day, and I have a problem with taking a Commissioner's number just pulled out of the air because it seems right and attaching that to something. So –.

Commissioner Murray said, we have two distinguished attorneys up here with two different, totally different opposite opinions on this.

Commissioner Price said, call for the question.

Chairman Hair said, we have a call for the question. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray and DeLoach voted in favor of the amendment. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Odell and Price voted in opposition. The amendment failed by a tie vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion –. Commissioner Price said, fails. Chairman Hair said, a tie fails. Okay, the motion fails.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Price moved to approve the amendment to the Revenue Ordinance establishing a fee of \$475 for subdivision recombinations and minor revisions to recorded plats, and fund MPC's budget shortfall from other sources. Commissioner DeLoach seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Price and DeLoach voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to amend the Revenue Ordinance establishing a fee \$150 for minor visions to recorded plats. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray and DeLoach voted in favor of the amendment. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Saussy, Odell and Price voted in opposition. The amendment failed by a tie vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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3. ROAD AND DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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4. STATUS REPORT ON CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND COUNTY INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Price, seconded by Murray and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:18 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:57 a.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE SETTLEMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY V. 1.513 ACRES OF LAND; ARMSTRONG APARTMENTS, LTD., ET AL (JONATHAN HART).

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner DeLoach moved to approve a request to settle Chatham County v. 1.513 Acres of Land; Armstrong Apartments, et al, in the amount of \$75,000. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 2. **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 Saussy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. **SOUTHEAST COASTAL REGIONAL BOARD**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to reappoint Ms. Loretta Miller to the Southeast Coastal Regional Board to a term which will expire July 31, 2003. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas 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 11:59 a.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