

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2001, 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, July 27, 2001.

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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
 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
 Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
 Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
 Martin S. Jackel, District Three
 Harris Odell, Jr., District Five (Arrived approximately 9:25 a.m.)
 David M. Gellatly, District Six
 B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

ABSENT: Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four

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

[NOTE: Commissioner Murray is on an excused absence while serving a tour of duty in Kuwait.]

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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair said, first, I'd like to introduce our Youth Commissioners. We have a veteran with us today, been with us a long time, Brianne Draffin, who's past co-Chairperson. She is the 2001 graduate of St. Andrews and she is soon to be or –. Are you already a Freshman at Georgetown University? Youth Commissioner Draffin said, will be soon. Chairman Hair said, will be soon, very good. And we have ZaDonna Slay with us, who is Chairperson-Elect, and she is a Senior at Jenkins High School. We're glad to have y'all with us today.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR PAUL GINN ON HIS RETIREMENT - HE WILL BE PRESENT.

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda is a proclamation for Paul Ginn on his retirement. If he will join me down front. Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, it is befitting that we recognize employees who have provided dedicated service to Chatham County and its citizens, and in that regard, we salute with pride, Paul W. Ginn; and

WHEREAS, Paul began his employment with Chatham County on November 19, 1984, as a Building Inspector and has always received outstanding evaluations; and

WHEREAS, Paul is a dedicated supporter of the March Dimes and an excellent fund raiser for such a worthy cause; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County has greatly benefitted by having dedicated employees such as Paul.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby extend grateful appreciation to:

PAUL W. GINN

for over sixteen years of dedicated service to Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 27th day of July 2001.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

Mr. Paul Ginn said, all I want to say is thank you very much. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve Chatham County, and I appreciate it.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, I've known Paul [Ginn] for all of the years I've been here and I really have valued our association, both professionally and personally. In addition to the comments made by the Chairman as to his civic involvement, he has always been active in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, but let me tell you about --, one thing about the man that I learned a few years ago that still amazes me. I was told by Greg [Anderson] a while back, a couple of years ago, that Paul [Ginn] had some difficulty with his knees, as all of us do at a certain age, and it is about having a knee replacement. Now normally anything short of Superman, if you had to have two knees replaced, you'd wait and do one and then the other. Paul, being our Superman, had both knees replaced at one time, and I don't know of any other human being in all my years of living on this planet that ever had two knees replaced at one time. He's quite a man.

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, I'd just like to reiterate what the Manager said. Paul has been a very diligent and very dedicated employee for the 11 years that I have served with him, and he brings certainly a level of professionalism to our department and we're sorry to see him go. We wish God's blessings upon his retirement and prosperity of his family.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman. Paul, I want to just say one further thing. It's been my pleasure to know Paul and his family for many years, and he certainly has been a dedicated County employee, and he also has been involved in this community. He has really made some efforts in this community. Wherever there was a worthy project, you'd usually see Paul there. And, Paul, thank you for all you've done for Chatham County.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, sir.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE A PORTION OF ADAMS AVENUE IN LAMARVILLE ON AUGUST 7, 2001 (COMMISSIONER ODELL).**

Chairman Hair said, under Commissioners items we have one for Commissioner Odell. Since he's not here yet, we will skip that item and come back to that.

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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 (*).

1. **MIKE WEDINCAMP REQUESTING A CURB CUT OFF OF JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER). Tabled at meeting of May 25, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled and placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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2. **APPEAL FROM HATHAWAY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY TO PAY FULL COST OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD AND WHITEMARSH ISLAND ROAD. Tabled to meeting of August 10, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled and placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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- * 3. **REQUEST BOARD DENY REQUEST FOR TAX REFUND OF HUBERT L. JOSEY FOR TAX YEARS 1997, 1996, 1995 AND 1994. At meeting of June 29, 2001, item was delayed to the July 27, 2001, meeting.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to take that off the table. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval to untable. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, now, Mr. Hart, who's going to lead the discussion on this? You or -?

County Manager Abolt said, this is an item, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, that you had on your agenda a while back that was pulled off at the request of the attorney for the applicant. It is staff's recommendation contained in the report that the appeal be denied, but in effect they do have the opportunity, if you wish to afford it to them, to testify before you, and that I assume will come from their attorney.

Chairman Hair asked, is anyone here representing Mr. Josey or Mr. Josey himself? Mr. Josey said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, would you like to come forward please and state your name for the record, sir.

Mr. Hubert Josey said, good morning. I built a home -. The Clerk said, state your name for the record. Mr. Josey said, Hubert L. Josey. The Clerk said, thank you. Mr. Josey said, I built a home on Schley Avenue in 1977. I also had a business, Executone Systems. It had a box number, P. O. Box 13756. I sold that business and retired in 1986. On or about August of 1993, and by the way I received all my tax notices, City, County, State and Federal, at my home address, 138 Schley Avenue. The box number for Executone was for business use only. It was not my box. On or about August of '93, the Tax Assessor's office sent a bill, a tax bill to P. O. Box 13756, from which I had been gone for seven years. That tax notice was apparently sent many times. Where it went back to I do not know. I never knew about that. At this time a quitclaim was placed against my home at 138 Schley Avenue, and I resolved that quitclaim within a month. At this time I lost my homestead exemption and not only did I not lose it, it was not restored. Whoever removed me did not see fit to restore me, my homestead exemption. In June of this year I made a casual call to the Tax Assessor's office to ask about my soaring property value and the girl that I spoke to casually said, I see that you do not have homestead exemption. That was news to me. I respectfully request that you gentlemen consider the facts that were in front of you, and I'm a little surprised that you have denied me to start with and based on what you have read if you have in fact read it. But I respectfully request that you provide this money that I lost for the years '93 through '97.

Chairman Hair said, let me ask Mr. Hart a question. Refresh me on the law. Isn't it that we can only go back three years? County Attorney Hart said, that is absolutely correct. Chairman Hair said, we cannot go back past three years under the law, Mr. Josey. You need to understand that first. The law restricts us from go back -. Mr. Josey said, I understand it can go beyond that to seven years under certain conditions, sir. Is that right? County Attorney Hart said, I do not take that position unless he can show there's some fraud or error, and this grows out of a street paving lien to the City of Savannah, and at the time the lien was filed there was a subsequent sale for the nonpayment of the street paving lien, and that's what -, as a result of that tax deed apparently it triggered a removal -, the computer or whoever in looking at the property, triggered a removal of the property out of that person's name and resulted in the loss of homestead. The Assessor's office has gone back for the three years that they're allowed to under the law and reinstated the homestead exemptions for those three years so -. Chairman Hair asked, so it's your position that we can only go back three years? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir.

Mr. Josey asked, what about the -. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Mr. Josey. Mr. Josey asked, isn't it pretty evident that the Tax Assessor's office made a terrible mistake here by sending it to a business address and not my home. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Josey, that's not the issue. The issue is State law. Mr. Josey said, I thought it was the issue. Chairman Hair asked, pardon? Mr. Josey said, I thought it was the issue. Chairman Hair said, we can't override a State law. We can't go past -. Mr. Josey asked, you don't ever -, you do not make a mistake? Y'all never make a mistake? Chairman Hair said, yes sir, we make mistakes all the time. Mr. Josey said, this is a mistake. County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, that's not the issue though. The issue is how many years we can go back, sir. Go ahead, Mr. Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, all I was going to say is nobody has disputed this very unfortunate situation. It's a very -. Mr. Josey said, I almost lost my home, sir. County Attorney Hart said, very unfortunate situation and that what has been permitted under the law has been corrected as best as we can. Y'all are clearly bound not to go beyond a three-year period. Mr. Josey said, yes sir, thank you, but the quitclaim -, if the quitclaim had been mailed to P. O. Box 13756, I would have lost my home, sir.

Chairman Hair said, well, we understand that, Mr. Josey. I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved that we -. Chairman Hair said, that we -. Commissioner Rivers said, up to three years. Chairman Hair said, reimburse up to three years. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, after that -.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to -, I want to give him back the refund. It wasn't his fault.

Commissioner Rayno said, we should be able to have some kind of discretion because there seems to be extenuating circumstances here and there may be in the Georgia Code some kind of a loophole that we can go back to and file for some kind of relief. This is clearly a huge error on the government's part, particularly the Tax Assessor's office. I would like to table it until we have time to investigate further.

Chairman Hair said, may I suggest before we table, Commissioner Rayno, that I think there's unanimous support for the three years, that we go ahead and approve the three years today and then have the attorney review whether we can go back beyond that and come back at the next meeting -.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like an amendment to the motion then. Commissioner Jackel said, well, three years is already approved. Mr. Josey said, it has been. I have received a check for the three years.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, Mr. Chairman, if that's not an issue, then we need to instruct the attorney to go back and bring us additional information in regard to how we can make him whole. Chairman Hair said, I think that's what Commissioner Rayno –.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm prepared to just do it and then let's find out later.

Chairman Hair said, all right, I'll entertain a motion. Make a motion. Go ahead, Commissioner Gellatly. The Clerk asked, did Commissioner Rivers withdraw his motion? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Thomas said, and I withdraw my second. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll withdraw it, Mr. Chairman, but I would like to still state that we go –, have Mr. Hart to go back even –. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, well, we don't mind looking at it again. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I talked to Mr. Josey and I have his letter of request. I've checked into it to quite an extent and there isn't any question in my mind that we made a huge mistake, and I don't care what the law –. Commissioner Rivers said, no doubt. Commissioner Gellatly said, is. There has to be a way to correct it because I think in this case the gentleman is exactly correct.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if not, Mr. Chairman, can we possibly –, we can help him immediately, but we could request from our State Legislators a change of the State law where we could eventually reimburse him.

Chairman Hair said, that may be true, but that's not going to deal with the issue today. I think we have to deal with whatever's before us.

Commissioner Rayno said, we would never do it retroactive because there would be a slew of –.

Commissioner Rivers said, just speaking on experience, similar cases have come before us and we have sat down and looked at it and where there's a will, there's a way. We have made someone whole in a case of being taxing errors within the Tax Assessor's office. That's why I want him to go back and bring it back to us. In the meantime, we can look at it to see where we can find a way.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Rayno, do you want to make a motion to table and allow that to happen? Commissioner Rayno said, motion to table please. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, we've tabled the motion, sir. We'll have the attorney review it and we'll take it up at our next meeting. Mr. Josey said, thank you, sir.

County Attorney Hart said, if Mr. Josey has an attorney that's got an opinion of the seven-year rule or any other information he wants to provide the County Attorney's office, we'll certainly look at it because we would love to find the seven-year rule.

Chairman Hair said, yes, if you have any information on what you stated to us about the seven years, please provide that to the County Attorney's office. Mr. Josey said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, gentlemen.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Thomas moved to untable this item place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to table to the next meeting the request of Hubert L. Josey for a tax refund for tax years 1997, 1996, 1995 and 1994. Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A TRANSFER OF \$300,000 FROM 1985-1993 SPLOST, WHEATON STREET, TO ISLANDS EXPRESSWAY/US 80**

INTERCHANGE, AND A TRANSFER OF \$23,000 FROM 1993-1998 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY, PHASE 2, TO THE JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY/HIGHWAY 21 INTERCHANGE.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rayno failed to cast a vote; Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following: a transfer of \$300,000 from 1985-1993 SPLOST, Wheaton Street, to Islands Expressway/US 80 Interchange, and a transfer of \$23,000 from 1993-1998 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2, to the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/Highway 21 Interchange. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rayno did not cast a vote; Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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2. ADOPTION OF BUDGET IN CERTAIN SEQUENCE:

- A. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2002 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY. (NOTE: IF THERE ARE MODIFICATIONS TO THE EMPLOYEE HEALTH PLAN, INCLUDED IS A STAFF REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO CHANGE BENEFITS.)**
- B. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2001, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2002.**
- C. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT YEAR 2001 CHATHAM COUNTY GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS, SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT, CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM MILLAGE LEVY RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO ADVERTISEMENT HAVING BEEN PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1.**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Rayno. It's my understanding that he has a budget proposal and that he also has sufficient votes to pass the budget proposal, so I'll call on him first.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, if I may, Commissioner Odell is not present. Do we expect him shortly? Chairman Hair said, I have no idea. We've still got to go on with the meeting, sir. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Jackel said, well, this is an important item and I would request that we have him present if he's coming. Chairman Hair said, we have no knowledge of whether he's going to even come or not, Commissioner Jackel. It's not appropriate for us to delay action because a Commissioner -. He's not called anybody to my knowledge. Did he call anybody? We don't know that, so I'll recognize Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rivers said, it is appropriate, Mr. Chairman -, point of order. It is appropriate if the Commissioner to my left wants to put it down in order to wait, I think we have done that. We can yield -, I don't see no reason why we can't. Chairman Hair said, he has not -, I mean, this kind of thing -, everyone knew, Commissioner Odell knew this budget was coming up and he has not called anyone to say there was an emergency or something of that nature. I -, we can do whatever you want to do. I just think we ought to move on, but if y'all want to delay it, we'll delay it.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to delay it. Chairman Hair said, I want to have a motion to delay. Commissioner Jackel said, I move that we have someone try and contact Mr. Odell, make a call to his office and make a call to the Sheriff in the Courthouse, who can locate him if he's there -. Chairman Hair asked, do you want a motion to delay? Commissioner Jackel said, and to delay. Chairman Hair said, okay. Do I have a second? Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion to delay fails. Okay, Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I just want to start by thanking all Commissioners for the hard work they have done putting the time and effort into trying to figure out the budget problem that we've had. Dr. Thomas has spent countless hours on the budget and looked over it and talked to Russ [Abolt] and fielded calls from constituents and we had a chance to meet and discuss things about the budget, and she found \$1.3 million that I didn't know was there and it's included within my proposal that I want to talk about later, and if it wasn't for her it wouldn't have been able to be found. And Dean [Kicklighter], of

course, fought passionately for the restored drainage back to the Westside and that's back in the budget. The Chief [Gellatly], of course, with his years of experience on law enforcement had some great insight into that portion of the budget. If you look at the proposals, largely Dr. Hair's original proposal, so he was the one that really forged the way to really look at the budget and consider how to make it come together and, of course, Martin Jackel here provides great insight into the budget and tell you things that he might feel are wrong, and Joe Murray Rivers here relayed to me many of the community concerns that he had, and that also provided a great deal of insight and many of his suggestions are reflected in my proposal. It takes, most importantly, all the controversial things out of the budget that might cause us to delay today. It takes out the talk about the consolidation of the Police and Sheriff, it takes out the talk about privatizing EMS, and it brings back CNT into the folds of the budget. Now what's really important about that is the fact that these are issues that need to be discussed at great length so the pros and cons can be explored and actual numbers can be seen on paper and reviewed so that the people know and the staff knows and fellow politicians know exactly what is on the table before we vote on it. Trying to ram things like that through in a budget battle are just not a good idea because they're issues that affect the lives of everybody in Chatham County. That's why I think it's important that we pass a balanced budget today so we can have the breathing room to sit down and start taking a long term look at how we do business in Chatham County. We can look at some of the surplus property, taking those funds and starting a vehicle replacement plan where we can have new vehicles on the road, and as soon as you do that we start to reduce the amount of maintenance costs and that comes out of the budget, your M&O starts to shrink. You start talking about the merging of the Recreation and Inspections services, reducing costs, getting rid of duplication, we look at productivity in departments. If it takes 25 steps to get a job done, break it down to 10, and suddenly the vacancies that were created by passing this budget don't seem so critical or crucial or harmful to the department. The department becomes leaner, it becomes meaner and it gets the job done and does it very efficiently. So with these things in mind, looking at the future and having all these options ahead with the breathing room, we could really construct a great plan for Chatham County without the emotional arguing, basing our arguments on facts rather than when you're pro or con. I think the community deserves that. So let's start with a budget with a -, this is M&O, with a \$12.9 million deficit. We add back two-thirds of the grants-in-aid money, which is \$462,000, which brings us up to \$13,362,000. We add back in the drainage, \$400,000, which brings us up to \$13,762,000; we eliminate vacancies, many of which are already vacant, for \$3.4 million in savings, bringing us down to \$10,362,000; we start to reduce department reductions. This is where Dr. Thomas found the \$1.3 million in deductions, for \$4,690,948, bringing us down to a deficit of \$5,671,052. The golf course [inaudible], \$200,000, bringing us down to \$5,471,052; Mosquito Control being taken care of by the Airport, \$300,000, bringing us down to \$5,171,052; Gateway, \$300,000 reduction, bringing us down to \$4,871,052; Object Code reductions -, these are line item things, don't buy stamps, office supplies, things like that, \$1,830,239, bringing us down to \$3,040,813; health insurance change, \$2,213,310, bringing us down to a deficit of \$827,503; increasing our overhead costs 50% to 100% charged to Special Service District, which is really the unincorporated area, that amount \$607,325, reduces our deficit to \$220,178; the State Court charges, \$73,325. Again, this is something that Billy [Hair] found. This is something he had in his original budget plan, which brings us down to \$146,853; general government reductions \$221,620, bringing us into the black, -\$74,767, and then funding BOE positions for \$74,767, bringing our budget to zero, balancing it out. This plan is -, obviously it's not perfect. It's a plan of where you want to go with your money and you could poke holes, I guess, if you want to pick apart any budget, but we need to balance the budget. It does it. It restores a lot of the things the people wanted. It takes all the controversy out of the budget, and I think for a -, just a little bit of insurance we might consider what you might call an embargo on the first two items, the additives of about \$2,000,000, which will give us a safety valve, and then when the audit comes out later on down the road, we will have a very accurate picture of where we are financially. The audit is the true picture of how your money is spent. It's a true picture of how your money is coming in. The budget is merely a plan. A lot of things can happen to effect a budget. You could have a hurricane and this whole budget, no matter whose budget it is, goes out the window. You could have a flood. Lots of things happen. That's what life's all about. This budget does it. It does it without raising taxes. It removes the controversy. It's a collective composite of the years of wisdom of many of these people on this Board, and I'm proud to have taken the time to talk to them and hear their input, and I can't take credit for this budget. So much of this is Billy Hair's, so much of this is Dr. Thomas' hard work, so much of this is the input from Chief Gellatly and Dean Kicklighter's passion for drainage and Martin [Jackel] and Joe Murray Rivers that I think if you look at this plan it's a plan of the County Commission, and I hope that they support it.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chair. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to commend Commissioner Rayno for his effort of coming up to zero on the base budget here. I still have a stack of stuff here that came to me through the budget deliberations, I still have a lot of questions. This was given to me this morning although I've been in on some of it, we discussed some of it, but I still have an unreadiness with this budget and I still have a lot of questions. One of those is Gateway, \$300,000 reduction in the impact that I think it would have on my constituents. That's one. Russ [Abolt], on this health insurance have we cleared the way for that \$2.2? I understand -, I got another piece of information in here from someone coming in from the insurance company to give us an exact figure. County Manager Abolt said, these numbers are in line, as Commissioner Rayno said, with what the Chairman has indicated in the past work-ups. There is an aspect of this that you would ask -, we've asked before you adopt the budget to go through because there was a [inaudible] and certainly as far as employee contributions, that can be computed, but we would like for you to go through with the help of our contract administrator in a few minutes if you choose to go this way, to define in that plan what will or will not be covered and what he says. It's doable, it's reachable. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Also, you've got \$300,000 in here for Mosquito Control. That's not a given, it's a request that we're trying to cover, and I understand that at audit time we can look at monies that are there at audit time. Our financial reports every three months give us a -, some parameters to look at where we're at at any given time with this if the Commission so wishes to sit down and go over that at that time. The audit time merely is the time to see where you may have funds that haven't been spent or something of that nature, and those funds we can only reel back in. I understand very well what Commissioner Rayno is saying and we'll look at projections in commercial, reevaluation and all those other things, and I'm hoping that we can deal with this budget from what we've got in hand rather than any projected type situation, and I

realize that we can have any catastrophe interfere that we may have to come up with more money or spend more money, but we've got money set aside for that, and if it's over and beyond what we've got, then we're in a hole and we can kind of throw that out. The other thing here is CNT. Whether everybody has agreed to submit their portion, we're affecting other people's budget and whether that's agreeable. Now, you know, that's a big plus there. That's almost \$2.6, a little less than that with our portion of it, but yet still you've got the other municipalities that needs to say okay we'll agree to doing this. I like assurance before moving ahead indecisive on budget no matter how good they are, and I think you've come up with a good one, bringing it to zero, but I do have these reservations. Chairman Hair asked, what is your alternative, Commissioner Rivers? Commissioner Rivers said, well, I have an alternative. I just think that we need to go back and make sure that everybody is agreeable here to what is being done -. Chairman Hair asked, is your alternative -? Commissioner Rivers said, in case of CNT -. Chairman Hair asked, is your alternative, in your opinion, better than this one or -? Commissioner Rivers said, it's not a matter of better, Mr. Chairman, and I hope you hear me clearly. I've got a whole lot of -, a whole stack of information here. Some of it I have been through thoroughly, some of it I haven't even looked at. You gave me a piece of paper yesterday, you gave me a whole thing yesterday, which is not a part of this budget, but mind you I got it yesterday evening, okay. I haven't had a chance to look at it. There are other things in here that I haven't had a chance to look at, not that I've got anything better. Maybe if I peruse this and go over it and do like they did, yes, I may come up with something a little different, but I merely sit and observe and I pulled my -, what I had back when you came with yours and we perused that and we worked it over, Commissioner Thomas worked hers, Commissioner Rayno had his. I looked at all of them and, you know, it was my intention to stay in the background and not say anything about the budget. Have a little input here and there, but not say anything, but hopefully we would come out with a budget that would be zero base with no projections with all recurring revenue, and if some folks agree to this, then, yes, it may come out. If they don't, then you're still out of kilter. So, yes, and there's still some alternatives that may come back because I'm talking to the Mayor on some other things even -, I gave it to him yesterday. So we are working throwing things together in haste, and surely I'll guarantee you there'll be some waste somewhere. So -.

Chairman Hair said, well, I guess, Commissioner Rivers, I respectfully disagree with haste. It's been eight weeks, this budget's been out there eight weeks and nothing's been done in haste. I certainly don't think that's an accurate statement. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, this is the worst situation I've been in in 17 years, this is the worst situation in 17 years, and we have always been able to work our budget out amenably coming to an agreement. I'm not going to [inaudible] back and forth, but we have always done that. There is no rush to even pass a budget today. We don't have to pass a budget today. I don't know what the haste is.

Commissioner Rayno asked, could Danny Powers elaborate on what would happen if we didn't?: Commissioner Rivers said, well, see, I've already cleared that. See, anything that I state I clear first. That's the first thing. I clear it out first. So Danny [Powers], Danny's in line with what I'm talking about. He understands because he gave it to me. Commissioner Rayno asked, Danny [Powers], what would be the implication if we delay it today 30 days? Tax Commissioner Powers said, well, the first thing you'd do under the law the way I understand it is you'd have to get the Board of Assessors to -. Chairman Hair said, file a letter with Mr. Driggers. Tax Commissioner Powers said, send a letter and ask for the extension and then you would have to call you a special meeting, I guess. My drop-dead date to actually get bills out would probably be the end of this month -, August. Commissioner Rayno asked, we'd lose revenue though wouldn't we? Tax Commissioner Powers said, well the longer you delay it, yes, I mean naturally, but State law indicates December 20th for other Counties as the last day of collection. Chatham County bills in two installments, and ours is November 15th, so under the law you would have to, I guess, do a resolution to extend that date to December 20th. Chairman Hair said, and also we would -, we would certainly lose revenue on the interest earned on the money because we get the money later. Is that correct? Tax Commissioner Powers said, well -. Chairman Hair said, and also the School Board gets a lot more than we get, so -. Tax Commissioner Powers said, well, that's another issue you'd have to look into, their dates as well. I mean, you would have to do that. I didn't think of that, that's good. Chairman Hair said, yes, and they get a lot more of the money than we do percentage-wise. Tax Commissioner Powers said, oh, yes, about 64%. County Attorney Hart said, we'd have to amend the budget ordinance is what we'd have to do.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to -, Commissioner Rivers, if you -, I'm going to ask Dr. Thomas to present her proposal at this time. She has to leave early today and I'd like for her to have her chance to present her proposal. Okay, so I'm going to call on Dr. Thomas at this time.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank those who have made an effort to try to get this budget into some type of stabilization where we can work in an effective manner. I cannot remember a time when we've have anguished and labored over such policy choices affecting the budget as we are at this point. My constituents have expressed frustration, dissatisfaction with the County's inability to forthright -, to be forthright over the past few years as it applies to explaining the budget process. I have individually tried to explain this to my constituents as best I know how. Now, I have reviewed everything that has been brought forward before us. I have tried, I've tried, I've tried over and over and over to come up with items that would suggest that we would not have to have a millage or increase in the millage, but when I look at those items they are non-reoccurring items, and I feel that as a general principle the County's budget issue should be resolved in a way that we can sustain -, be sustained on a long-term basis and not on a short-term basis. We've got to get that straight. So, therefore, part of my budget is going to require a millage equivalent. So the first thing I'd like to point out on the General Fund/M&O proposal, the deficit beginning, you know, \$12.9 million, that's the beginning of it. Additional expenditures would be two-thirds grants-in-aid, which would come to my proposal of \$462,000 and that would restore certain grant-in-aids like L.I.F.E., Greenbriar, SAFE Shelter and et cetera; restore drainage \$400,000, which we would have an adjusted deficit of \$13,762.00. Now my reductions will come in the form of the golf course subsidy of \$200,000 and this reduction in subsidy for the debt service due to additional revenue. The department reductions would amount to \$4,651,948. Now these reductions will not require any lay-offs at all. No one would lose their

jobs. I was concerned about some of the reductions that we were talking about, the number of people that we were going to cut off, and every time we have an opportunity to cut people, it's always the low level, people that are on the low level, and I'm very much concerned about that because these are the people who really help sustain this County, and we're going to have to start looking elsewhere other than just those lower positions. If it means that we need to look at higher positions, then we need to do that. Mosquito Control, \$200,000, defer a portion of Mosquito Control land lease; health insurance changes, \$2,232,000, and this figure came from the revised estimate based on information from the plan administrator that was given to us recently, and --, just one second --. Okay, so this would bring a total reduction of \$7,383,948, which would give us a remaining deficit of \$6,378,052, which means that in order to get where we need to go, we would have to have a millage in the equivalent of 1.10, and that's where I am at this point. I would like to also emphasize that all of us have been privy to receive information from the City of Savannah. Am I correct --. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. Commissioner Thomas said, on some suggestions that the City was offering the County to help us out, and I think one of the strategies for consideration in the future would be that of a criminal justice district, and they have a lot of things listed in this proposal and I would suggest that after today or whenever that we take a look, a serious look at it and see if we can work with the City on some of these items here, and that's where I am.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have any questions of Dr. Thomas on her proposal? Okay, does anybody else have any other proposal they want to lay on the table before we are ready to entertain a motion? I think the proposals are out there. Whatever you want to do. Do you want to --?

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to make a motion to pass the budget that I presented. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to pass the budget proposal that Commissioner Rayno presented. Do I have a second to that motion? [No response.] Chairman Hair said, the motion dies for lack of a second. Anybody else want to make another motion.

Commissioner Jackel said, yes, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a proposal that we advertise for a two-mill increase in taxes. Not that I'm saying we should raise the millage two, but we could raise it anywhere up to two as long as we give that notice, and part of that would be conditioned on that we have an additional workshop to see if we can't come to a compromise on what we need to do. I am intrigued by a special criminal justice district which is a part of our budget that has risen most precipitously of any part of our budget. I think the people need to know what we spent on criminal justice, I think people are willing to spend the money to prevent the crime, to keep people in jail, but they need to see that as a separate item. I think it has a lot of merit. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion to advertise --. Do I have a second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails on a tie. Okay, I'll entertain any other motion.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I think you're going to have a standoff when you cut to the chase. I'll move that we ask the Board of Assessors to request a 30-day extension to give us time enough to come back and do some workshops and look over --. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have --. Commissioner Rivers said, and refine this and also get some things that are on the way which I hope will be positive through the City and then at that point we can make arrangements to do the other things that we need to do. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to request that we file --, the Tax Assessor file a request for a 30-day extension --. Chairman Hair said, that should be the Board of Assessors. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like discussion. Chairman Hair said, Board of Assessors. County Attorney Hart said, amendment, that should be the Board of Assessors. Chairman Hair said, Board of Assessors. Commissioner Kicklighter said, discussion please. Chairman Hair said, discussion, certainly. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I'm out of line. Chairman Hair said, okay, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked, I'm sorry, who made the second on that? Commissioner Odell said, I did. The Clerk said, thank you. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay, that continues --.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, may I ask that we start setting the appropriate motions in place in case --, and let me say this now. You see, when we say tax increase, if we deliberate and we still don't have five to move with that, there will be no tax increase, but at least the apparatus will be set in place that will allow us to have dialogue from the community and whether they're willing to allow us to have a tax increase. Chairman Hair said, I believe that motion failed, but if you'd like to make another one. Commissioner Rivers said, no, no, I'm setting things in motion now not predicated on that particular failure, but the fact that we have to have three public hearings in order --, now it doesn't have to be --, I don't know if you want to --, Jon [Hart], do we have to set it to have three public hearings or --? County Attorney Hart said, the law is very clear. You've got to tell the public what is the intended millage increase that you're going to discuss, you've got to have three public hearings, two of which can occur on the same day as long as one begins before 12:00, the other one has to be between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m., and the third one, the third hearing has to be at least five days apart from the other two. So we would have to be directed to start advertisement. Commissioner Rivers said, and in discussing that with Jon [Hart] and the Tax Commissioner we were kind of line for that, so I want everybody --. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to make a motion? Commissioner Rivers said, so I make a motion that we do that and that we put that at 1.5 mills tax increase. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to have public hearings for a 1.5 mill tax increase. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second it for discussion. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Odell said, Jon [Hart], for clarification, if we move for the three public hearings and at some point it's decided that it's a tenth of a mill, we would not have to readvertise. Is that true? County Attorney Hart said, that is correct. You have leeway up to whatever the ceiling's set at, at 1.5. Commissioner Odell said, all right, and then I guess the second

part of my question is on last meeting you indicated that it took a majority of the Commissioners to decide if there would be a public hearing. Is that still your position? County Attorney Hart said, well, the position I have on that is that you either need to direct staff to advertise, which if you can't get a consensus among yourself, then there needs to be some act through a motion, as Mr. Rivers has already made, for this body to set this into motion. So if you get a majority vote, you're not passing a resolution or ordinance or adopting the budget, so you'd only need a majority vote to direct us on this.

Commissioner Rayno said, I would just like to know before we vote on this, what did you find so offensive in my plan that none of you would second it? The fact that we don't have a tax increase, the fact that we take all the controversial things out of the budget, the fact that it balances? Why did nobody second it? I mean, let's figure out what it is that you don't like about it.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's appropriate, Commissioner Rayno, but let's get this motion off the floor and then --, we have --, if you're in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.] Chairman Hair said, all right, the motion fails. Okay, now, Commissioner Rayno, I'll recognize you.

Commissioner Rayno said, I want to know what you find disagreeable. Why toss this whole budget out? It seems to me, I'll bet you if I went out there and polled the audience that they'd probably like the plan, there's no tax increase, we take the controversial things out and talk about it. What's the big deal about --, whatever you don't like, let's evict it. Let's pass a budget today.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, let's get responses to --. Does anybody want to respond to him before I call --. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, would it be out of line if he could make --, can he make that motion again to approve his budget and I'll second it for discussion. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Well, we could discuss it without a motion. If you want to put the motion on the floor again.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'll put it on the floor again. Chairman Hair said, all right. Could we do that? Does that have --? County Attorney Hart said, he could make it in the form of a motion to reconsider. Chairman Hair said, reconsider. We've got to do that first before we can do the motion. County Attorney Hart said, motion to reconsider. Chairman Hair said, we've got to reconsider the motion --, well, we don't have anybody on the positive side. County Attorney Hart said, that's true. Chairman Hair said, the motion failed without a second.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm willing to have discussion about it. I this is --, would be appropriate for a workshop. I think part of my concern about it is although I have studied everything that's come in, one thing came in yesterday afternoon. Your final proposal came in this morning. That is not adequate time for me to make a decision on such a thing. My other concern is it makes very little sense to me to have a library that doesn't have books or doesn't have sufficient books. It makes very little sense to me for us to pay taxes for ballfields and other things that we can't keep up so people can use them. It makes very little sense to me to have our other services not up to the level they should be. This is a bare bones budget where we will not be able to provide adequate services in many areas. We will not be able to fully operate a lot of the facilities we have in place. That's part of the problem I have with this budget, and I also see it leading down the road to the same turmoil next year. Part of the hits we took this year, if I have my figures right, are almost \$800,000 in indigent health. Sheriff, if I'm wrong correct me, \$600,000 additional in jail medical things, something like \$600,000 additional money. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, it was projected at one time we'd be \$800,000 short in the jail budget, then it was 500 and now it's even. So there is no shortage. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm not talking about shortage, I'm just talking about the increase in the medical costs. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, it's \$800,000 a year and they were projecting \$400,000 for the first six months of the contract, which put us in the position to operate in a deficit, but we corrected that with vacancies and so forth, hiring --. Commissioner Jackel said, but my point is that we have --, with indigent health care an additional \$800,000 --. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, per year. Commissioner Jackel said, and we got hit the same way at the jail, we took monies from other areas to balance it. We've got other things that are going to raise costs in the future and when we cut to the bone with this thing, with no other increases coming in, we know we're going to have big problems in the future. Commissioner Rayno said, this is not true though. It's a --. Commissioner Jackel said, now, wait a minute. Wait just a minute. Vice Chairman Thomas said, gentlemen, please. Commissioner Jackel said, wait just a minute. Mr. Rayno, we may have a difference of opinion. Commissioner Rayno said, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, but don't you ever tell me what I'm saying is not the truth. Commissioner Rayno said, I've got the numbers here. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, all right, we may disagree on it. Are we clear on that? We got clear on that? Okay. This is some of my concerns with the budget. You had figures in here earlier that you changed because the numbers weren't correct and I didn't accuse you at that time of not having true figures or misleading people. These things take study and you got some wrong information and you passed that wrong information on to us. I didn't accuse you of any deception. These are some of my perceptions of these things. If I am wrong, I will admit I'm wrong and change my thing, but this is the problem and you asked what the problem is with your budget. I see it as a problem this year, I see it as creating problems next year, I see it not delivering what my constituents tell me they want in the way of services.

Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you a question, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, I'll ask you the same question I asked Commissioner Rivers. This has been out there for eight weeks now and where is your proposal? Commissioner Jackel said, others have submitted proposals and I have submitted ideas for them to incorporate in their proposals. I have said some things I opposed and some of the time I have opposed have been taken out. I have proposed things that have been placed in so --. Chairman Hair said, but none of the ones out there now you

support. Commissioner Jackel said, I have not submitted an entire proposal, but I have worked with others. Chairman Hair asked, do you think that would be appropriate for you to submit a proposal that you could live with? Commissioner Jackel said, I could do that if it would please the Chairman, but I think it's --, what I'm doing is important and appropriate to help bring the other proposals to fruition. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Gellatly --, let's go to our --.

Commissioner Rivers said, I want to respond because you implicated to me in Martin's [Jackel] response, but like I said before, I got this here this morning. Although we went over this maybe 24 hours ago, I still have an unreadiness with it. You don't put anything in front of me each hour and expect me to sanction it. I won't do that. For you or nobody else. Secondly, I told you my reason for not submitting a proposal is that I want to stay in the background, so I had input on most of these documents that came past here, including yours, which I thought was a good proposal with a lot of stuff in there that were kind of full of holes. We went back and someone along with staff cleared up some of that. I was willing to support a part of yours. I'm willing to support a part of this, and that's the only reason that I asked that we come back --. Chairman Hair asked, well, can I ask you a question? Commissioner Rivers said, and roll all of it together and look at it. Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you a question? Commissioner Rivers said, I like this. Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you a question? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, then why don't you pull out the parts you like of all the proposals and lay it out as your proposal? Commissioner Rivers said, no, no. I don't want to do that. All we've got to do is together as a team come together just like --, just like they did with Priscilla's [Thomas] and Rayno's. That's what they did. They came together and they added and they took away and Rayno stayed up --, he's very valiant for doing this, stayed up most of the night getting this thing together, but don't bring it to me at the last minute, night before or 24 hours. I've got a right to peruse it, I've got a right to dialogue with it, yes.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Gellatly first.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd just like to say that, you know, initially when Commissioner Hair [sic] presented his budget, I very vocally supported it and I still support it; however, after saying that, it's very obvious to me that the votes to pass that are not there, so --, and are not likely to be there. So in my opinion regrettably it's time to move on. I do believe I do like Commissioner Rayno's budget. As he stated very accurately, it's sure not perfect, but I don't know that any of us can come up with a budget that everyone's going to like at this point in time. I feel that I could --, I would like to see the budget passed today as much as anybody, but I do agree with the other Commissioners. I've received a lot of information the last 24 hours. I think regrettably the --, there was a position paper for consolidation, there was a position paper against consolidation of law enforcement services. The paper that was against consolidation was only passed out to certain people and not to others. The position paper for consolidation regrettably was another item that I didn't get until two o'clock yesterday afternoon. I think that we've put together a lot of information, it's been a very emotionally-packed budget and a lot of this information has come at the last minute. I do think that, and I commend Commissioner Rayno, commend all the Commissioners for their input on this matter, but I think that we're --, to pass a budget this size that's going to impact so many people and so many issues and to do it with information that we've received at the last hour would be a mistake. So that's my position.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, then Commissioner Rayno and then Ms. Draffin. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, initially I was concerned that we gave more consideration to those who lived in expensive houses than we did to those who needed governmental services. We really --, those wealthy people don't need government. Government is needed by people who are disabled, people like my mom who are elderly and the initial budget of the Chairman I thought, although [inaudible] did not have an increase in millage, gave less consideration to people who need our services. That concerned me. I worked with Jeff Rayno, and I compliment Jeff [Rayno] and Dr. Thomas for their efforts, and those are some excellent ideas, but what we are doing, we're putting off the ultimate decision, and the ultimate decision is that since 1994 we have been nickel and diming and reducing the millage, raiding our fund balance. In '94 we had \$12 million in fund balance. In 2000 we had \$108,000. It is illogical and not reasonable. What we need to do and what I would hope that at some point we would do is to make a decision what government services we need to provide. Here's what we do now. We take the amount of money that Danny Powers and his people tell us that we're going to get and we force everything into that rather than having a logical, systematic these are the services that we need to provide, this is what they're going to cost and this is what the millage should be based upon providing that service at that level. We did some interesting things and I participated in that. We decided that we did not want a millage increase. What we did not decide was what level of services that the citizens who had voted for us wanted. If you want minimum services, then we can reduce it and have three police officers and we can get to armed robberies and breaking into houses, we can do at least three or four of those a year, but a lot of things that we do are driven by factors which we do not control. We do not control many --, we do not control the court system. We do not control --, Al St. Lawrence doesn't put anyone in jail. Police departments place people in jail. Al [St. Lawrence] cannot say, okay, you committed a murder; we don't want to do this anymore; we have a limit of 1,200 or 1,250, that's all we're going to take, our hotel is closed. We can't do that. That's why it's called government. That's how it's different from business. In business you do those things only that are beneficial to a business; however, in government we do those things that are beneficial to people. I think that we live in a world of disbelief. It's almost like walking through that mystical valley when we believe that we will attract industries here and we treat our libraries like we're in Podunk, Mississippi, and if you're from Podunk, Mississippi, I apologize for that reference, but I drove quickly through there and --. Chairman Hair said, I think I know some people from Podunk, Mississippi. Commissioner Odell said, I knew you would, Billy [Hair]. Commissioner Odell said, but my point is that we have been in a boon town. If you look at the Chatham County, City of Savannah, Westside where Dean's [Kicklighter] area is, we are growing. At some point hopefully we're going to get to a point that we can live on new growth, but prior to doing

that we may need to make some decision as to what services and at what level we need to be providing those services. Things like libraries are things that attract people to the community. I mean, we've got a beautiful facility and to say that we don't have books, to cut social services and to believe that churches will take up the slack, that to me is inhumane. On a \$100,000 house my proposal would have cost an average of less than \$5.60 per month. Now some argue that that was excessive. My argument is that all government potentially is could be viewed as excessive, but there are things that are necessary. There are services that we are obligated because we live in a civilized community to provide. We have to care about those whether or not they vote or don't vote, like the mentally ill. We have to as a civilized community care about those people, and Marianne Heimes and I fought a losing battle, but it was not because we did not care, it was not because we did not spend the effort, it was simply because we were unable to control that big wheel. We don't need to participate Chatham County in reducing funding for those people even though they cannot vote. We should worry more about doing the right thing than doing the politically correct thing. It is not politically correct to raise the millage, but we would be back at 1994. Some will say Harris Odell, as a Democrat, only seeks to tax and spend. I own rental property. I own rental property and there's a very small margin, profit margin. I don't do it out of the goodness of my heart, I do it for the money, and I know that this will cut into the ultimate money, but there are things that we need to do. We need to fund a library. We talk about consolidating the Sheriff's Department, we're talking about unconsolidating CNT. Does that make a lot of sense that if you talk to anybody in law enforcement, the biggest problem is drugs that face our community. The absolute devil that besieges Savannah/Chatham County is drugs. Drugs. I'd say over 70% of crime related somewhere to drugs and alcohol. We need a unified effort. I've not always agreed with CNT, but I've always agreed that we needed them. Crimestoppers. Unfortunately people still have distrust in police. We need a vehicle like Crimestoppers as an avenue. There are things that you have to do because you live in a civilized community. Now we can say because politically it's a good thing to always say I'll never raise taxes, but if we hadn't lowered them we wouldn't have been in this position. We are in a self-fulfilling position. We raided the fund balance, and don't believe Harris Odell, look at going from \$12 million to \$108,000. That to me indicates raiding. We have reduced services. We need to decide. If you don't want a government, let's say we don't need a government and we don't do this, but if we're to do this, then let us protect those people who need our protection: the elderly –, let me finish –, the elderly, the blind, the mentally ill, the disabled. Let us not go at them first, the people who are poor and need health care services, let us not go at them. We are in a prosperous community. Is it too much to ask that we get a half –, mill and a half that's \$3.62 for a \$100,000 house. Most of us tip more than that at lunch. So when Billy [Hair] looked at Martin [Jackel] and said, where's your proposal, he looked at Joe [Rivers] and said, where's your proposal, Rayno came with a proposal and there are things in his proposal I liked. Dr. Thomas came with a proposal, and there's some things that I think are excellent in both proposals. I'm saddened that because I had to feed my mother, who is 83 who had to move in with me, that my fellow Commissioners decided to vote because I was 18 minutes late. I'm concerned that we don't need to act to achieve goals in total disregard to other Commissioners. I support Joe Murray Rivers' position that we delay, and there's no urgency, and for those people who think there is, get the four votes –, the five votes to do. We need to delay this. We have Frank Murray, one of the big –, Frank [Murray] is 100% SSD and proposals are brought that will affect Frank's district. Frank [Murray] is our Chairman Pro Tem. I'd like to have Frank [Murray] –, and people will say, well, Frank [Murray] is not here. Frank [Murray] is not here because he's serving his country. I'd like to have Frank [Murray] here to vote on our decision because we should act as a group, majority rules. And, Rayno, I think your budget postpones ultimately, but I think during the year we could discuss some things, and there are things that I really like. Dr. Thomas, likewise.

Chairman Hair said Commissioner Rayno and then Ms. Draffin.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you for your compliments, Commissioner Odell, I appreciate that. Commissioner Odell said, and I really meant them. Commissioner Rayno said, I know and that's why I'm thankful for them. You know, we talk about the library, the old way of thinking is we need to buy more books, but there's a paradigm shift across the country with libraries where they're forming portals using technology and you don't need to have as many books on the shelves, you don't need to have the brick and mortar that we used to have in the past. What you have are location servers to obtain information, people access them from their schools and they access them from their homes, and information is dispensed by an on-line librarian who has the technological capability to do that in Chatham County, but we're still in the old mode of thinking that we have to build brick and mortar, we have to have staff there to do inefficient ways of dispensing information. There's new ways of thinking that we haven't even looked at yet that would save a whole lot of money, but if we continue on with the old thinking and try to ram that into a budget, suddenly we get lost. My budget proposal, sure, it doesn't give the library what they want, but it would give us the breathing room to talk about the library in a larger context in a context that the community deserves to have. Talk about modern technology, portals, new ways of communicating. You know, we start talking about brick and mortar, [inaudible] that's not the way the nation's going and we'll still be behind, ten years behind the curve in Savannah like we always are, and it's something that we need to consider. And I still want to know why, we've got budget people here, you've got department heads, that we can't sit and look at my budget and say this is what I don't like, identify it and perhaps try to work it out. It's only 10:00 in the morning. I've got all night to sit here, and I'll sit here until it's done. If we delay this, we're not going to be any closer because what's going to happen is we're going to procrastinate, we're going to come in a the last minute with the same proposals once again, and it's going to be a hot bed of controversy. Why don't we just calmly sit here and ask these people what they think, what you don't like, if you don't like it, fine, let's find the money somewhere else. You've got all the figures right there, you've got the Finance guy there, you've got department heads over here. It doesn't get much better. Otherwise, you might get in trouble for having private meetings.

County Attorney Hart said, Commissioners, you do not have a Chairman or a Chairman Pro Tem. Somebody on this group –, y'all need to make a motion to elect somebody to run the meeting. Commissioner Odell said, well, we're still three and three. County Attorney Hart said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, well, Joe [Rivers] is the oldest. County Attorney Hart said, I'm just saying somebody needs to be running the meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, Harris [Odell] will do it so

eloquently, so I would like to suggest that Harris [Odell]. Commissioner Jackel said, Joe [Rivers] is the most experienced. He's got 17 years. If he doesn't know how to do it—. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll yield to the barrister. County Attorney Hart said, we need that in the form of a motion please somebody.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to make a motion that Harris [Odell] fits the role. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll handle that. Okay, there's a motion on the floor. All in favor let it be known by saying aye, or hit your button. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Thomas were not present.]

Commissioner Odell said, okay, now I think —, now that I've finally taken over —. [NOTE: Chairman Hair returned to the meeting at this point.] Commissioner Odell said, I think the first thing we do is to vote down Billy's [Hair] proposal. Chairman Hair said, there's two things you learn in politics. One's to always have your back to the wall and the other is being careful when you go to the bathroom.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Rayno, are you through? I guess he's through. He looks like he is anyway. All right, Ms. Draffin and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Rayno said, Commissioner Hair [sic] —. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry, I thought you were through. Commissioner Rayno said, well, I just want to know, are people —, do you want to talk about it or is it just something you just feel so strong about in delaying this because, like I said, everybody's here and we could ask them questions and get a lot of things done and on the floor that we need to talk about. Chairman Hair said, I think we've already voted to —, you know, we've already voted to have the letter sent to Mr. Griggers, so I think we've already made that decision. And since we've done that, it will be 30 days now at least for the public and everybody else to talk and give us feedback and all that sort of thing, so all those folks this morning, I think —, I think it would be better actually to wait since we've already made that decision, which I oppose, I voted against, but since the decision was to delay it, I think there's a lot of things that's been laid on the table, for example, the public hasn't see Dr. Thomas' proposal, they haven't seen your proposal in great detail, and I think you'll actually get better public input once you have that out there and have a chance to do it, so I think the public input will —, believe me, there'll be plenty of chance for public input over the next 30 days. As soon as your proposal hits the newspaper, there'll be plenty of public input, letters to the editor about it, so —, trust me from that. I think that would be the proper thing.

An unidentified lady in the audience said, excuse me, Mr. Chair. I have —. Chairman Hair said, for what purpose do you rise? The unidentified lady said, I rise because I have something to bring before the Board of Commissioners with reference to a compliant against the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Hair said, this is not the appropriate forum for that, ma'am. If you will see me right after the meeting, I'll make sure that we set up a proper meeting with you. Okay? The unidentified lady said, well, this is something that —. Chairman Hair said, ma'am, this is not the appropriate forum. The unidentified lady said, this is something in reference to the consolidation and —. Chairman Hair said, we're not discussing that. The unidentified lady said, and I have something that I need to bring to the floor and I'm going to bring it to the floor because it affects me and my granddaughter [inaudible], and the response that I got from him was very insulting and —. Chairman Hair said, ma'am, you're out of order. You're out of order.

Chairman Hair said, we'll recognize Ms. Draffin.

Youth Commissioner Draffin said, you've already voted to postpone the budget decision for 30 days. Regardless of that, while everyone is here and meeting together, you have several budget proposals on your table, pick one that you feel is easiest to work with and start tearing it apart. Start putting things in it that you want in it and taking things out that you don't want in it while you're all here together instead of everybody again adjourning and going home and finding their own budget and coming back and then there being nine more different budgets. Start here while you are together and start working on it and start asking questions. You know you're going to be able to have the public opinion now that you've delayed the voting, so you'll have more information when you come back, but while you're here just go ahead and start getting going and finding the stuff that you like and don't like in one of these.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Draffin. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Ms. Slay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I agree with Ms. Draffin. It probably won't happen because that's much too logical for us right here. We just don't seem to do the logical thing. I want to present the flip side to what Commissioner Odell is saying, and I appreciate his comments and respect his comments, but I want to just represent the double —, the two parents working home with children. When you have a mother and a father going off to work, you have possibly two kids in daycare, \$600 a month or so for that, having to scrape up enough money to buy them a house, they're living week to week for their paycheck, they're close, they're very close to that part we're talking about helping with government. They've one week, one fall, one ankle break, one arm, you know, one problem away from being in the sector that we're talking about we need to help. And, true, we need to help. People needs to help. The people needs to help. But I don't believe the government is the one that necessarily needs to dictate to you people —, we don't need to tell you that we're smarter than you, that we know how to better spend your tax dollars than you know how to spend your money. If you've got a nonprofit organization that you can donate to, that ought to be your right as a citizen to donate to the nonprofit organization you want to donate to and receive your tax deduction. With the tax increase that has been proposed, again I respect all proposals. Every dollar counts for a lot of the people that will be affected by a tax increase. I'm working, my wife works, I've got two small children. I've heard a lot of—, I've heard various people say, oh, you know, all economic brackets also, a tax increase will be fine for me, but that's not the majority of the working people in Chatham County. A tax increase hurts those people.

You're going to by far hurt more people by raising taxes in Chatham County than you will help by continuing the wasteful spending that we do here in Chatham County. That's what you --, I believe, you have to look at when you're in a government position is the majority of the people. You've got to represent the majority at all times, and a tax increase is not the way to help the majority of the people in Chatham County. I want to apologize right off the bat --, off the bat to all of the nonprofits, everything that's going to be cut. There's not a perfect budget. Just not perfect. The Chairman, County Manager, no one has a perfect budget because we have a [sic] absolute mess here. We've had a government body that has increased spending over the years, decreased taxes and used their savings to pay for it. I commend Mr. Rayno, who was not a part of creating that trouble, for coming up with a solution to solve the problem, and this same body that many of them was responsible for creating the problem is now prolonging the problem and dragging it out. I believe we need to work, we need to sit here, whatever it takes. I agree with the Library Board, that is a County responsibility. We should find money to fund more for the library. Let's take the money that Mr. Rayno proposed to add back to grant-in-aids [sic] and give that to the library because that is a government project that we are entitled to do. We should provide the libraries for the area. And, again, it's hard because --, and I've said it before, every nonprofit organization is a great organization. It places --, they serve the blind people, and that's wonderful, you know. The Rape Crises Center, a wonderful organization. Every organization that helps nonprofits, they're great, but the taxpayers of Chatham County should be able to spend their money on the nonprofit organizations of their choice and a government body should adequately fund everything that they're entitled to fund, such as the libraries, police protection, everything that we should do. It's tough, it's not popular. I may get roasted on that, but that's one thing I'm going to give you is my honest opinion and, you know, again, no matter what we do up here today, half the people --. I don't care if everybody up here made a proposal, half the people in Chatham County's going to be upset with that person. So I'm sorry to all the people I just offended. I'm sorry for the people that we've all offended because we're all going to offend many of you on any decision because we have an absolute budget mess, and I hope we can sit here, go through --. If we agree that Mr. Rayno's is the closest because two things aren't going to happen here. One is the Sheriff's Department and the County Police will not consolidate. That's not going to happen so let's toss that out the window. That's a fantasy now. It's not going to happen. The other thing that will not happen with this Commission is a tax increase. It is as unrealistic as the combining of the two. Mr. Frank Murray, I'm interested for him to come back. I was very offended by the letter he sent. It's very nice to say that you're not going to increase taxes but I will not support this deduction here, I will not support this deduction, but I'm not going to increase your taxes. Well, why don't you fax us a letter, send us some answers. Don't send your problems. You're a part of this Board, send it to us. Let's solve the problem, let's bring him back. That's good. You know, it's politics at its worst. Don't present a problem without preventing the solution, and I commend Mr. Rayno, Mr. Hair, Mr. Odell, everyone, Dr. Thomas, for at least coming up with solutions here, and the reason that I did not come up with it is because I did what this young lady recommended, I looked at all of them, took the parts that I could support, and Mr. Rayno I believe is the closest to what we can all support because there's no consolidation of the Sheriff, there's no consolidation of the Police Department and the Sheriff's Department. He has restored the funds back into the grant-in-aids [sic], which is wonderful that he found the money. He added back the drainage, which is --. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm not wedded to it. If you want to give to the library, that's fine. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that --.

[At this time an unidentified lady in the audience began creating a disturbance and was removed from the audience by deputies from the Sheriff's Department.]

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, you've still got the floor.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, I believe Mr. Rayno's comment was he would not be opposed to restoring the funds or at least discussing moving the money from the grant-in-aids [sic] to the library. I believe doing that one change in that his proposal would come the absolute closest to doing what we're obligated to do in Chatham County that we can possibly do. We're not going to again raise the taxes. We're not going to consolidate. So those plans are out. I mean, we need to look at the best. I originally, like the Chief [Gellatly] said, I was behind Chairman Hair's proposal, and I still would be if we had the votes to consolidate because I believe there would be a savings that would not jeopardize safety in Chatham County, but that's not going to happen. It's not realistic, the tax increase is not realistic, so let's work through this and see what we can come up with because like Mr. Rayno said, we're going to do the same thing in 30 days. We're going to come back here and with all these department heads here we can go through this line item by line item and figure out what we need to do, and at the very least not vote on it today, but we can come to some type of conclusion that we can agree to put it back on the agenda next meeting, if that can happen. I mean, we need to move closer to some type of resolution, and I believe Mr. Rayno did it because he seems to have compromised a little bit with everybody.

Chairman Hair said, you know, I don't disagree with you philosophically, Commissioner Kicklighter, but I think we have to face the reality here. We're down to seven Commissioners and the chances of us --, we have to get five votes for anything we did today. We could stay here until five o'clock this afternoon and put proposal after proposal, but the question is are we going to get something that's going to get five votes out of seven. We've got to have five. Commissioner Rayno said, we won't know until we try it though, that's the point. Chairman Hair said, well, I mean, I think you've already laid yours on the table and you didn't get the votes and no one has offered any suggestions to yours and, you know, if you'd like to make modifications in yours and try a new motion, that's --, I'm all for it. Just make modifications and --.

Commissioner Rayno asked, Martin [Jackel], what would make you happy? Commissioner Jackel said, I'm with --, Joe Rivers stated part of my objection. I need some time to sit down with this.

Chairman Hair said, so see, the time issue that both Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Rivers is not going to be settled today. That's the problem, Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno asked, Harris [Odell]? Commissioner Odell said, well, I tend to agree with Joe [Rivers], who agreed with Martin [Jackel].

Chairman Hair said, so if you subtract three from seven, Jeff [Rayno], does that tell you anything? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, I just wanted to give you a little dose of political reality here, that's all. Chairman Hair recognized Ms. Slay.

Youth Commissioner Slay said, I just wanted to say that in my opinion both proposals were similar in some aspects and I agree with Ms. Draffin and what she said. All of you need to just sit down and possibly think of all the pros and cons of the proposals and come to some kind of common ground in that 30 days to make the public somewhat happy. I know everyone won't be pleased, but for the majority.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think that's what we're going to try to do.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, if I may also ask you or ask a question. Could the Manager give us a brief history on the budget of Crimestoppers, what it started as, what it currently stands at, because I believe this is a great example of government ballooning in expenses, major expenses from what it originally started, and if I could I would like for the public to heard this because it's not the County --, any of the proposals is not slashing help. It's something they can absolutely function on. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Abolt, could you briefly, or David [Persaud], could you briefly --.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll have to do it in concert with staff, and --. Chairman Hair asked, could we get that to you? I don't think we could do it today? I mean, could we get that to you? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, that will be fine. Chairman Hair said, and you can use it at a future meeting. Let us do that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm sorry, I interrupted her.

Chairman Hair recognized Ms. Slay.

Youth Commissioner Slay said, well, my next thing is to adjust Commissioner Rayno to what he said. On behalf of the library, I'm an employee at the library, a Computer Technician Intern, and there are a great need of books, but the funding and what he said kind of offended me that there weren't a great need of books at the library and we need to, you know, moving towards technology, which is true, but there were books on the Summer reading list for the public high schools. I couldn't even get at least two of my Summer read books because the library didn't have them. There are a number of inter-loan libraries, which where you get a book from another library, another system, if they aren't in the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library system. So, Dean Kicklighter, I agree with you with what you said that the funding from the grant-in-aid should be, the part as far as the library because we need funds because there are some people who use the computer in the library, but yet books are the main reason for coming to the library.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Slay. Well, I think we've decided that we are going to delay it for 30 days. We've already passed that motion, so I think it's time we move on.

Mr. Herman Lee asked, Mr. Chairman, could I have just one minute and I promise it will be very brief? Chairman Hair asked, for what purpose? Mr. Lee said, to encourage you folks about this budget and which I think you should do there, and I realize --, I believe most people in Chatham County will share my intent. Chairman Hair said, all right, I'm going to give you a couple minutes, but you'll have 30 days to give your opinion, but I'm going to give you --. Mr. Lee said, I may well not be here the next time, but in any event I do agree that first and foremost we do need a balanced budget, and I agree with Jeff Rayno on that. I also agree with Mr. Odell that part of the problem is the expenditures and that you need to be very careful about what your expenditures are. I think part of the problem that you now have in Chatham County is just as somebody said, some of the expenditures that you're now trying to cover former Commissions are responsible for those expenditures, things that necessarily the government and the people do not have to have and people if they can give them a choice would not choose to have their taxes funding. You know, one day sooner or later the people are going to figure out it's not the Chief Tax Assessor and tax appraisers who are responsible for their property taxes, they're going to figure out it's this County Commission right here and the School Board. Since they set the millage rate in Chatham County, they're the ones responsible for these outrageous property taxes. And, folks, I urge you not to try to raise property taxes. If you want to do that, that might be political suicide and maybe we need a new Commission up here if that's the case. But I also want to remind you, Mr. Hair, that I believe during the campaign you were not in favor of consolidation. I believe apparently you flip-flopped on that somewhat since then. I do not agree with consolidation of the Police Department and I think that should be taken off the table. Furthermore, that's mostly what I had to say, but I urge you to consider a balanced budget. I urge you to consider in the future some of the things you're going to spend the taxpayers money on, just as --, and I will for just one little small item will be the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Project, which is going to add more to the budget down the road on the taxpayers back for the --, continue to be able to take care of this project that y'all have now decided to go into. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Lee. Mr. Lee said, in any event, any event, that's what I have to say and I urge you not to consider raising taxes. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, appreciate it very much.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, before we move on, this Commission needs to set a time to take up the budget and make a budget because we're going to have to run an ad and --. Chairman Hair asked, why don't we just do it at the next meeting? County Attorney Hart said, well, it depends of the definition of a week, whether it's five days or seven days. You could do it, you know, we'd have to get the ad in today. Chairman Hair said, we could just go ahead and put the advertisement out. Does anybody have a problem with that? County Attorney Hart said, I don't think you can get it in by next meeting is what I'm saying. Chairman Hair said, two weeks. How long did you say the notice has to be? County

Manager Abolt said, let me defer to –. State law is very specific. Mr. David Persaud said, it has to be in the newspaper at least two weeks. County Attorney Hart said, prior to adoption. Chairman Hair said, so it will have to be four weeks then. Okay?

Commissioner Jackel said, for six months I've planned a trip to meet with family in Baltimore. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair said, and I will miss this next meeting, so if it's –. Chairman Hair said, four weeks and we'll direct staff to do the proper advertisements.

* * *

[NOTE: The following occurred after reconvening of the meeting upon adjourning the Executive Session.]

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, I have talked Gary Udinsky about this matter. If we ran the advertisement in order to have the meeting on the 24th of August, that meeting would be on a Friday and the earliest Gary [Udinsky] could get the digest to Atlanta would be the following Monday, which would put it at 31 days instead of 30 days which we had extended for. So what we need to do is extend it 15 more days so we have time with the full intention of getting it up there on the 31st day.

Chairman Hair said, we need a motion to ask for an extension of 45 days. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Jackel moved to delay this item until Commissioner Odell arrives. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to delay failed by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to the Commissioners approve up to a 2-mill increase, that additional workshops be held. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
3. Commissioner Rivers moved that the Board of Assessors be authorized to request a 30-day extension from the State of Georgia to file the County's Tax Digest. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
4. Commissioner Rivers moved that the Commissioners hold three public hearings as required by law to pass a 1.5-mill tax increase. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of four to four. [NOTE: Commissioner Murray was not present.]
5. Commissioner Rayno moved to appoint Commissioner Odell to conduct the meeting of the Board of Commissioners in the absence of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman Pro Tem. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Thomas were not present.]
6. Commissioner Rivers moved that the Board of Assessors be authorized to request an 45-day extension from the State of Georgia to file the County's Tax Digest. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF MPC PROPOSAL TO INITIATE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING UPDATE WORK PROGRAM.

Chairman Hair said, Item #3 has been removed from the agenda at MPC's request. They want more time to study that.

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4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO CONTINUE THE LOCATION OF A MANUFACTURED HOME FOR A MEDICAL HARDSHIP, ELIZABETH JOHNSON, 2413 NORWOOD AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel do you have any comments?

Commissioner Rayno said, I think it's in District 1 actually. That road on one side is District 1. Commissioner Jackel said, it's District 1.

Chairman Hair asked, well, do you want to make a motion? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, you have to have a hearing.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. I'd like to table it because, number one, I'd like more input from the people that live around that particular trailer. They have called me on past occasions and complained about it.

Chairman Hair said, put a date on it. Next meeting? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, motion to table it to next meeting? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, I have motion to table. Second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled. Let's make sure that --, somebody from staff make sure that this lady is contacted to make sure that she knows or her representative knows that this --. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Anderson will, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to table to the next meeting the request of Elizabeth Johnson, 2413 Norwood Avenue, to continue the location of a manufactured home for a medical hardship. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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5. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR NEW ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR, RETAIL PACKAGE SHOP FOR 2001. PETITIONER: TIMOTHY PAUL BULICK, D/B/A CHATHAM BEVERAGE CENTER, LOCATED AT 5921 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Gregori Anderson.

Mr. Anderson said, this is a request for a new alcoholic beverage license. This is at the Chatham Beverage Center, and the staff report indicates that the --. Chairman Hair said, they already have another location, don't they? Mr. Anderson said, I'm not sure, sir. I know this location is not operating currently. He's requesting through Mr. Bulick a new license for this location.

Chairman Hair asked, do you have a problem with this? Commissioner Gellatly, do you have a problem with it? This is the same company, I believe, that [inaudible]. Mr. Anderson said, there's an investigation that was done by the Police Department and they're here to answer any questions.

Commissioner Gellatly asked, what is the recommendation? Mr. Anderson said, it's Board consideration.

Chairman Hair asked, are y'all in favor of it, Chief? I mean, are you not opposed to it?

Chief Sprague said, gentlemen, our investigation as late as Wednesday of this week in contact with both the State Department of Corporate Records and the Alcohol and Beverage people on the State level is that Ms. Joyce is still on the State license. Now the reason that I didn't recommend that this license be renewed and put it in for your consideration is so that you will know that Mr. Bulick, who is a corporate officer as well as Ms. Joyce, it seems that they've switched, but if that's --, as long as you know that when you vote. She was not --, the license was not revoked because she sold to a minor, it was revoked because she did not reveal a conviction on her application for the County license. So I just wanted to make sure that the Commission knew her background to this --. Chairman Hair said, I appreciate that, Chief. Chief Sprague said, before you make a decision.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bulick has the right to reapply in his own name, but the Chief is right, we checked with the Secretary of State. There's a memo in your file of July 25th. It still shows Ms. Joyce as being the chief executive officer of the corporation and registered with the Secretary of State.

Chairman Hair asked, what's your recommendation, Mr. Hart? County Attorney Hart said, I don't have one insofar as that. All I'm saying to you is that you've got a situation --, if there was a totally separate license applicant and Ms. Joyce was no longer associated with the matter, then you would have to consider the license on its merits. Chairman Hair asked, does anybody here represent Mr. Bulick or Mr. Bulick himself?

Mr. Colin McRae said, my name's Colin McRae. I'm an attorney at Hunter, Maclean here in Savannah representing Mr. Bulick. I think I can quickly and easily dispel any concerns about Ms. Joyce's association or actually lack of association with the company. She has actually moved out of the city. She has transferred all of her interests in the Chatham Beverage Center to Mr. Bulick. She's no longer affiliated with it in the slightest. It's obviously not in operation now and she will not

be employed at the –, at the Center. Chairman Hair asked, why is her name still on the document at the State level? Mr. Bulick asked, State license? Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Bulick said, without a County license I don't effectively have a State license. The next step if you approve my County license would be to reapply for a transfer of the State –. Chairman Hair said, reapply to the State and get her name off of the State. Mr. Bulick said, State license [inaudible]. Mr. McRae said, I share a transfer agreement showing Ms. Joyce's transfer of all of her interest in the Chatham Beverage Center to Mr. Bulick that was made effective approximately three weeks after the previous denial. Chairman Hair asked, so she has no longer any interest in this business? Mr. Bulick said, she's no longer an employee of the Center.

Commissioner Odell asked, will that be tendered into the record? Chairman Hair said, yes. County Attorney Hart said, that's fine. The only other request I have of counsel is that they notify the Secretary of State so that they can amend their records showing that she is no longer the chief executive officer and the Secretary of State –. Chairman Hair said, well, if we approve that today that will be the next step. Do you understand that? Mr. McRae said, certainly.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

Commissioner Odell said, that application –, that share will be attached to the minutes, is that true? Chairman Hair said, yes, the transfer agreement we need to put as part of the record if you'll give it to the Clerk. Mr. McRae said, she's got it. Chairman Hair said, she's already got it. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request of petitioner Timothy Paul Bulick, d/b/a Chatham Beverage Center, located at 5921 Ogeechee Road, for a new alcoholic beverage license for beer, wine and liquor, retail package

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SHARE TRANSFER AGREEMENT

THIS SHARE TRANSFER AGREEMENT ("Agreement"), is made effective as of April 2001, by and between EUNAE JOYCE HONG ("Seller") and TIMOTHY P. BULICK ("Purchaser").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Seller owns one (1) share of common stock (the "Share") of Chatham Beverage Center and Convenience Store, Inc. (the "Company"); and

WHEREAS, Seller wishes to sell, transfer and assign to Purchaser her right, title, and interest in the Share;

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten and no/100 Dollars (\$10.00), the mutual covenants herein contained and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Agreement to Purchase Shares. Subject to and in reliance upon the representations and warranties herein set forth and subject to the terms and conditions herein contained, Purchaser hereby purchases from Seller, and Seller hereby conveys, sells, assigns, transfers and delivers to Purchaser, the Share.

2. Representations and Warranties.

(a) Representations and Warranties of Seller. Seller hereby represents and warrants to Purchaser as follows:

(i) Seller has the full power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement, to perform her obligations hereunder, and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

(ii) Seller has, and will convey, good and marketable title to the Shares to Purchaser.

(b) Representations and Warranties of Purchaser. Purchaser hereby represents and warrants to Seller as follows:

(i) Purchaser has the power and authority to execute and deliver this Agreement, to perform his obligations hereunder, and to consummate the transactions contemplated hereby.

3. **Miscellaneous.** The parties hereto shall pay their own expenses, including the fees of any attorneys, accountants, consultants or others engaged by any of them, incurred in connection with the negotiation and execution of and performance under this Agreement. This Agreement may not be assigned by any party without the prior written consent of other party hereto. All of the terms of this Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the respective successors and permitted assigns of the parties hereto. This Agreement shall be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Georgia. This Agreement may not be amended, modified, or supplemented except by a writing duly executed by or on behalf of each party hereto. This Agreement contains the entire agreement and understanding of the parties. There are no representations or warranties made by any party hereto and relied upon by any party hereto except as set forth herein. In addition to the foregoing, each of the parties hereto shall perform all acts to be performed by them pursuant to this Agreement, shall refrain from taking or omitting to take any action that would violate their representations and warranties hereunder, and shall deliver any and all such documents and take any actions reasonably necessary or appropriate to fully effect the transactions contemplated herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be effective as of the day and year first above written.

SELLER

 [L.S.]
EUNAE JOYCE HONG

PURCHASER

 [L.S.]
TIMOTHY W. BULICK

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- 6. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF HIRING FREEZE:
 - ENGINEERING: CIVIL ENGINEER II (1 POSITION)

- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III (1 POSITION); MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (1 POSITION) AND RESULTING VACANCY**
- **POLICE: POLICE OFFICER (1 POSITION)**
- **PURCHASING: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III (1 POSITION)**
- **SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR: CLERICAL ASSISTANT II (1 POSITION)**

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, before we move to the next item I feel we should have an open discussion as to whether or not we still have a hiring freeze or not because these issues keep coming back up again. Chairman Hair said, we have a hiring freeze, but as always the policymakers can waive the freeze. If we put something in place we can waive it. That's what we do. We have a freeze. That's why you have on the agenda –, if you didn't have a freeze, they wouldn't be up here. They're only here for exemptions to the freeze. So the freeze is in place but we still have the right to waiver on certain cases. Commissioner Rayno said, it's foolish to have a freeze if we keep bringing waivers back every other week. Chairman Hair said, the Commission makes that decision. You can't have a freeze that you never can waiver. That would be a terrible situation to be in because there's cases that, you know, you need to do that. So that's –.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, let me put my two cents in on that. You know, it's one thing –, first of all, they're not filled for 90 days, so we have 90 days to gain from that, and the other thing is we can't reduce force as people leave because some of these positions are more critical than others. Commissioner Rayno said, then we should have an automatic refill policy if someone's left and then we don't have to go through this every time. Chairman Hair said, well, I think if you want to make a motion to that effect of something in the future that maybe you want to discuss with staff and decide how to word it and that sort of thing, I'd be happy to entertain that motion.

County Manager Abolt said, just purely as background, the budget I submitted and certainly would be a part of any adopted budget with modifications you've offered has no freeze. This is to protect your options –. Chairman Hair said, right. County Manager Abolt said, as you'll be about balancing, and once you adopt the budget, unless someone wants to re-institute a freeze, it goes away. Chairman Hair said, that's correct.

Engineering: Civil Engineer II (1 position):

Chairman Hair recognized County Engineer Al Bungard.

County Engineer Bungard said, we have normally two engineers in the department to handle general public engineering issues, everything from drainage, road issues, property issues. This position was vacated by Ms. Bush last October. We have been recruiting in the meantime. Right now we have one person handling the entire County, that's Mr. Grevemberg. We now after all these months finally have a qualified applicant who's a professional engineer, and made the offer. I don't know if he'll accept it yet, but I've told him it's contingent upon your approval, and this person will be handling engineering issues on the Westside, primarily Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Districts.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I could, Mr. Chairman, I want Al [Bungard] to know he got me right on the end. Chairman Hair said, yes. I think he knew that, too.

* * *

Chairman Hair said, sir, to what position are you rising? An unidentified gentleman in the audience said, Item #4 that you had. What was the outcome of that? Chairman Hair said, we tabled it because Mr. Rayno wants us to talk to the neighbors of the situation. We tabled it. It will be at the next meeting. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Building Maintenance: Administrative Assistant III (1 position); Maintenance Mechanic (1 position) and resulting vacancy:

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. George Lynch.

Mr. Lynch said, we normally would have nine people maintaining slightly over a million square feet of structure. We're down to seven. The result of it is we're building a backlog and we aren't able to get our preventive maintenance done because we're limited to fixing things when they break.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. That's on –, we did both. You want to take it separately, that was –. Mr. Lynch said, that was the maintenance man.

Chairman Hair asked, all right, what about the Administrative Assistant?

Mr. Lynch said, one of a kind. Extremely heavy telephone loads, scheduling load, et cetera, that's done by this one of a kind administrator.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of four to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Police: Police Officer (1 position):

Chairman Hair recognized Chief Sprague.

Chief Sprague said, this is a police officer transfer position. Chairman Hair asked, what level is this? Is this a Deputy? Chief Sprague said, bottom level. Chairman Hair said, bottom level, okay.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Chief.

Purchasing: Administrative Assistant III (1 position):

Chairman Hair asked, who's going to deal with that? Mr. Lynch is that yours?

Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. We presently are operating with four people out of seven in Purchasing. The position of Administrative Assistant allows us to use the specialist in procurement to do procurement instead of doing a not very good job of filing and things of that nature. We feel it's essential and we feel that going with the Administrative Assistant is the best way to get there.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

Superior Court Administrator: Clerical Assistant II (1 position):

Chairman Hair asked, anybody –, we have Mr. DeLoach here.

Mr. Danny DeLoach said, yes sir, this is a position we've had open since October of 2000. I've covered with temporary help. We ran out of temp pool. We covered with professional fees out of last year's budget. It's covered by the Case Manager. I just lost a Case Manager as of today and the position's critical.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise Engineering - Civil Engineer II (1 position). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Building Maintenance - Maintenance Mechanic (1 position) and resulting vacancy. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Building Maintenance - Administrative Assistant III (1 position). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of four to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

- 4. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Police - Police Officer (1 position). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]
- 5. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Purchasing - Administrative Assistant III (1 position). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]
- 6. Commissioner Odell moved to approve waiver of the 90-day hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise: Superior Court Administrator - Clerical Assistant II (1 position). Chairman Hair and Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a tie vote of three to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything from the Action Calendar?

Commissioner Jackel said, please. Number 4 -. Chairman Hair said, I knew we'd be too lucky to do this -. Commissioner Rayno said, 12. Chairman Hair said, wait just a second. Commissioner Jackel, four? Commissioner Jackel said, 5, 11 and H. Commissioner Rayno said, 12. Chairman Hair said, I've got it. Anything else? H? Okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13-H. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 13, 2001, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 13, 2001, as mailed. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 4 THROUGH JULY 18, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 4, 2001, through July 18, 2001, in the amount of \$4,210,154. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT AND EXECUTE 13 GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to accept and execute the following thirteen (13) Georgia Department of Community Affairs Local Assistance Grants pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 50-8-8(a): \$25,000 for the Communities in Schools; \$45,000 for Recreation/Leisure capital improvements; \$5,000 for the Tatumville gym; \$10,000 for the Parent Resource Center; \$40,0-00 for Ash Tree Organization; \$35,000 for special equipment for the Chatham County Police Department; \$20,000 for Meals on Wheels (kitchen); \$5,000 for MedBank; \$11,475 for Savannah Speech and Hearing (testing/sound booth); \$10,000 for a multi-use neighborhood park (unnamed); \$50,000 for Greenbriar (operating and renovations); \$12,000 for Tympanometers and Oto-Acoustic Emissions Test; and \$25,000 for AASU, Law Enforcement Training Center. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR RENEWAL OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL “STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN” GRANT AND TO ACCEPT A RENEWAL OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH COORDINATING COUNCIL’S JUVENILE OUTREACH PROJECT AND INDEPENDENT JUVENILE COURT SERVICES GRANTS AND AMEND THE MULTIPLE GRANTS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDS.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just wanted to let the public know that we’re receiving this grant and that it’s one of the really good things that we do and we need to stop the violence against women. It’s over one-third of the emergency room visits, and I just publicize that and I’d be proud to move that we move forward with it.

Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to approve the request for approval to apply for renewal of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council “Stop Violence Against Women” grant of \$50,.000 with a local match of \$16,667 to come from the District Attorney’s budget, and to accept a renewal of the Children and Youth Coordinating Council’s Juvenile Outreach Project grant of \$48,658 with a \$6,000 match from the Juvenile Court budget and an Independent Juvenile Court Services grant of \$111,725 with a \$12,525 match from the Juvenile Court budget, and amend the Multiple Grants Special Revenue Fund for the amount of the grant awards. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE CONTINUED FUNDING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2001 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DRUG CONTROL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FORMULA GRANT

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, and this is the same sort of thing. We’re receiving another grant that will help us with crime control in our canine program and I want the people to know that we are applying for these grants where they are available and they reduce our tax burden.

Chairman Hair said, I’ll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the continued funding and acceptance of the 2001 Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvements Formula Grant (\$500,000 reimbursable non-matching monies). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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- 6. REQUEST FROM TRIPLE CROWN DEVELOPERS, THROUGH THEIR ENGINEER, STEVENSON & PALMER, TO RELEASE THE SUBDIVISION BOND FOR VILLAGE OF WILD HERON, PHASE 2, AND ACCEPT THE PAVING AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR COUNTY MAINTENANCE.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from Triple Crown Developers, through their engineer, Stevenson & Palmer, to release the subdivision bond for Village of Wild Heron, Phase 2, and accept the paving and drainage improvements for County maintenance. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, INTERNATIONAL PAPER REALTY, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR BERWICK PLANTATION, DIVISION 1, WHICH CREATES THE FIRST SECTION OF BERWICK BOULEVARD, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A STREETLIGHTING DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, International Paper Realty, to record the subdivision plat for Berwick Plantation, Division 1, which creates the first section of Berwick Boulevard, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee, and waive the requirement for a streetlighting district. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A REQUEST FROM MR. NEPHEW CLARK AND MS. JOYCE EDENFIELD FOR THE COUNTY TO DECLARE A PORTION OF THE RIVERSIDE DRIVE RIGHT-OF-WAY ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE PROPERTY.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from Mr. Nephew Clark and Ms. Joyce Edenfield for the County to declare a portion of the Riverside Drive right-of-way on Whitemarsh Island as surplus and to quitclaim the property. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST BOARD ACCEPT THE DEDICATION OF THE RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A PORTION OF RED GATE ROAD FROM MR. DENNIS HOFFMAN.
[DISTRICT 5.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to accept the dedication of the right-of-way for a portion of Red Gate Farm from Mr. Dennis Hoffman. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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**10. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE PROPERTY HELD BY TAX DEED NEAR US 80 IN GARDEN CITY.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to declare as surplus and offer for sale property near US 80 in Garden City held by tax deed and described as PIN 6-0733-03-003, Tct Central Junction E of Highway 80 VAC, approximately seven (7) acres in size and located near the overpass of US 80, near railroad tracks and Rogerwood in Garden City. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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**11. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO ADD 5.09 ACRES OF WETLANDS INTO THE HENDERSON CONSERVATION COVENANT.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, this is kind of an information thing. We are doing the right thing here. It's very important that we preserve our wetlands. Where we have destroyed them, we need to add it and we are doing this here and I wanted just to bring that out.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request for authorization to add 5.09 acres of wetlands into the Henderson Conservation Covenant. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WRITE OFF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FROM THE 1993 AND 2000 TAX DIGEST WHICH ARE UNDER \$5, FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF 3,658 BILLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,328.98.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I went through some of the PIN numbers that were listed in the background information and when you have a homeowners association and you have, say, 200 occupants within that homeowners association, Georgia law and BOA policy dictate that on the deed of the homeowners it has to specify a percentage of their ownership in the commons area. If that particular caveat does not exist, you cannot call the commons area —, you cannot file it under an exception under appraisal law, and what we're doing here, if we pass this today, and I think we need more investigation on this, if we pass this today, we're rubber-stamping what might simply be a clerical error or it might be even deeper than that. We might be writing off property that's actually worth a lot more than the \$10 that's being assessed for right now. So I don't want to violate —.

Chairman Hair asked, what's your motion? Commissioner Rayno said, I want to table it for more investigation. Chairman Hair said, motion to table. Is there a second to your motion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said,

all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to table to the next meeting for more investigation the request to write off real and personal property taxes from 1993 and 2000 tax digest which are under \$5, for a grand total of 3,658 bills in the amount of \$8,328.98: 1993, 16 bills for \$11.36; 1994, 4 bills for \$6.76; 1995, 3 bills for \$6.21; 1996, 11 bills for \$24.03; 197, 6 bills for \$13.92; 1998, 16 bills for \$24.59; 1999, 72 bills for \$142.07; and 2000, 3,530 bills for \$8,100.04. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Confirmation emergency purchase of one model year 2001 Buick Regal	Police	Critz, Inc.	\$19,731.63	CIP - Vehicle Replacement
B. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the construction of Truman Linear Trail, Phase IA, for additional additions and deductions as requested by the City of Savannah	SPLOST	Kangeter Builders, Inc.	\$5,509.96	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Truman Linear Trail
C. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the construction of Phase I of the Westlake/South Springfield Canal for fiber optic splicing	SPLOST	The Industrial Company (TIC)	\$4,439.30	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Westlake Project
D. Contract for Whitemarsh Island Road/Highway 80 Intersection improvements	SPLOST	Clifton Construction, Inc. (WBE)	\$629,690	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Islands Expressway/US 80 Interchange (pending Board approval of transfer)
E. 32 Dell computers	I.C.S.	Dell Marketing (state contract)	\$35,936	CIP - NetPlan 2000 project
F. Amendment No. 1 to the contract to provide probation services for additional scope of work	Superior Court	Pride Integrated Services	N/A - Paid by the individual probationer	N/A
G. Rental agreement for use of Memorial Stadium	Parks and Recreation	•Board of Public Education •Benedictine Military School	•\$11,250 •\$ 3,000	Revenue Producing
H. Contract to provide primary medical/health care to indigent citizens of Chatham County. If approved, the contract will be for one year, but will automatically renew itself annually for three additional one-year terms unless the Board, by specific affirmative action, votes not to allow the contract to renew itself	Indigent Medical/Health Care	Westside Urban Health Center	•Year 1 - \$2,786,172 •Year 2 - \$3,249,996 •Year 3 - \$3,500,004 •Year 4 - \$3,750,000	General Fund/M&O - Indigent Medical/Health Care
I. Change Order No. 1 to the contract to provide master plan design and construction management of the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Corridor to provide additional design services for Triplett Park as part of the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal Corridor	SPLOST	Hinesley-Hickson Association (WBE)	\$55,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Tom Triplett Park/Ogeechee Canal

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
J. Confirmation Change Order No. 4 to the contract for the design of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway/Highway 21 Interchange for additional design/engineering services	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, Inc.	\$22,887.23	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase II (pending Board approval of transfer)
K. Change Order No. 4 to the contract for Wilmington Park Canal drainage improvement project design for additional work	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton	\$53,950	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Wilmington Park Canal Project
L. Annual price agreements for the purchase of various mosquito control chemicals on an "as needed basis"	Mosquito Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adapco •Clarke Mosquito Control Products •Vopak Van Waters and Rogers •B & G Chemical Company 	Varies by item	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
M. Change Order No. 2 to contract for ferry dock design for redesign of docks to meet new permit requirements	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$17,500	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Inland Ferry Docks
N. Change Order No. 3 to contract for ferry dock design to design and permit an additional 300 feet of ferry dock	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$21,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Inland Ferry Docks
O. Contract for renovations and improvements to the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum	SPLOST	C.E. Hall Construction	\$187,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SPLOST (1993-1998) - Civil Rights Museum (\$65,800) •Private funds from Ralph Mark Gilbert Museum Board (\$121,200)

Items 13-A through 13-O, except 13-H:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 13-A through 13-O, except Item 13-H. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

Item 13-H:

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, now as I understand this thing, there was a total fee for the four-year period not to exceed \$14.3 million, which represented an increase of \$5.4 million. Mr. George Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, I just can't go along with that. I just --, I mean, that just --, that increase is just staggering. The increases for the period of the contract are just staggering. If we have to do it on some sort of continuing basis until we can find someone to do it cheaper --. Chairman Hair said, make a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, well, one is that we reject --. Chairman Hair asked, are you denying? Commissioner Jackel said, we reject.

Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion is to reject. Commissioner Jackel said, we're talking --, I mean, I'm just staggered that it's an increase of \$5.4 million. Chairman Hair asked, all right, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, I just offer caution because, as you recall, primary health care has been an acknowledged responsibility of the County for many, many years. It is funded in all budget proposals before you. It just really is the basic grant-in-aid type service to folks in the most need. I would ask --, I defer to Mr. Lynch and then to the representative of Westside. If you deny it right now, we may be absent any type of primary health care as of the 1st of August.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I overrule my second? Chairman Hair said, he withdrew his second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I withdraw my second. Chairman Hair asked, okay, do we have a --, now --.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve --. Chairman Hair said, well, wait a minute. Let's get the other motion. You made a motion to deny, does it have a second? Commissioner Odell said, no. Chairman Hair said, all right, motion fails --. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair said, to approve. Do we have a second? Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to amend --, see if he'll accept an amendment that we only approve --. The Clerk asked, do we have a second to that first? Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay second. Commissioner Jackel said, that we only approve for one year and then that --. Chairman Hair said, that's what you're doing, Commissioner Jackel, if you read the thing. It clearly states that all

we've got to do is take a motion to deny it. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I'd rather have it strictly limited to one year because this –. Chairman Hair asked, do you accept that as an amendment? Commissioner Odell said, no. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, then I'm going to vote against it. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 13-A through 13-O, except Item 13-H. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 13-H. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Jackel voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **AMENDMENT TO CHATHAM COUNTY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE I, SECTION 17-111, "RULES AND REGULATIONS" BY ADDING A NEW PARAGRAPH 12 DEALING WITH THE SALE OF ALCOHOL TO MINORS AND PENALTIES FOR ALCOHOL LICENSE HOLDERS.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain –.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to publicly thank Tom Sprague one more time and also Jon Hart for the hard work they put into this.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry, did they incorporate the changes I suggested? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners River, Murray and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve an amendment to the Alcoholic Beverage Ordinance of the Chatham County Code, Chapter 17, Article 1, Section 17-111, "Rules and Regulations", by adding a new Paragraph 12 dealing with the

sale of alcohol to minors and penalties for alcohol license holders. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

1. 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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2. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Odell, seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 10:47 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Thomas were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. **CHATHAM-EFFINGHAM-LIBERTY REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to make the following appointments to the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library Board: Appoint Heather Fish to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Christy Divine, which term will expire June 30, 2003; appoint Cheryl Koester to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mary Ellen Sprague, which term will expire June 30, 2002; and reappoint Richard Riley and Karl Bohnstedt to terms which will expire June 30, 2004. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Murray and Thomas were 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 11:02 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK