

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 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, August 24, 2001.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Jeff Rayno gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five David M. Gellatly, District Six B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. WAIVER OF PARADE PERMIT FEE FOR LABOR DAY EVENT ON THE ISLE OF HOPE.

Chairman Hair said, the first item today is under my section. I'm going to request my fellow Commissioners to waive a \$100 permit fee. There's a community group in Isle of Hope headed by Peggy Lee Bowers that wants to have a --, or has organized a little neighborhood --, it would be about 35 kids in the Isle of Hope neighborhood. They've applied for a permit and they've gone through the proper procedures, but I'm asking that we waive the \$100 fee for this.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to waive the \$100 fee. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to waive a \$100 fee for a parade permit for a Labor Day event involving about 35 neighborhood children on the Isle of Hope. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. SET MEETING WITH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION.

Chairman Hair said, the next item is to set the meeting with our Legislative Delegation. I have received a letter from Representative Mueller, who is the Dean of the Delegation, requesting that we set a date with her. She has only ruled out two dates, which was October 17th and 18th, where they will not be available. I would suggest that we try to do it fairly early in the Fall. I think it's to our advantage to get our request in in advance of a lot of the other departments and cities and that sort of thing. I would suggest something in late September, and my suggestion would be Wednesday, October 26th. Does anybody have any problem with that, and we would --, what we've been doing in the past historically is we have a twelve o'clock lunch. Commissioner Rayno asked, do you mean September 26th? Chairman Hair said, September 26th. September 26th at 12:00 Noon here in the Chambers, and we would have a lunch meeting with them, as we have in the past. Does anybody object to that?

Commissioner Odell asked, when is the NACo --. Commissioner Rivers said, I won't be here, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Odell asked, when is the NACo coming up? Chairman Hair said, it leave on the 30th. The 30th, I believe, 29th or 30th, through the 4th, I think it is. Commissioner Thomas said, yes, we would leave here --.

Chairman Hair said, the 30th I think is the date that we leave, so it shouldn't interfere with that, but that's a good point. Without objection then the meeting will be set for September 26th and, Russ [Abolt], if you'd made sure that Gail [Gordon] notifies the media and --. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, and would you also like to have some sort of pre-meeting to establish your legislative priorities? Chairman Hair said, probably but I think what we'd probably do that maybe is do it in conjunction with one of our regular meetings in September. We'd put it on the agenda, in fact you can put it under my section for --, let's do it for the second meeting in September, put it under my section and we'll have a time to discuss items that we want to discuss with them. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Commissioners by consent set the date of Wednesday, September 26th, at 12:00 Noon, in the Commission Meeting Room, for a meeting with the Legislative Delegation.

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2. YOUTH VIOLENCE (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I think you all got the report in your material sent to us by Barbara Haley. Is she here this morning? Well, she sent us all a letter about a program about violence and killing in the schools, and I know that the School Board should have a lot of input in that, but I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention that they have a program that's

been implemented in Boston, Massachusetts, and it's reduced violence by 80% in the schools because of this new program that they have, and I wanted to see what we could do to help the schools implement or look at implementing this program. I'm not sure it's right for us or what we would need to do or what the cost may be or whatever, but I just wanted to make sure this was on the agenda and brought to everyone's attention.

Chairman Hair asked, are you asking for anything particular? Commissioner Jackel said, that we have --, direct the staff to look into what it would take to seeing about the feasibility of this program. Chairman Hair said, okay. Without objection staff will look into the feasibility of it and report back to us. Do you have a problem with that, Russ? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, I don't. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff was directed to look into the feasibility of a program implemented in Boston, Massachusetts, that has reduced violence in the schools by 80%, and report back to the Board.

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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 action 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. At meeting of June 8, 2001, item was tabled to meeting of August 10, 2001. At meeting of August 10, 2001, item was tabled to meeting of September 21, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item will come before the Commissioners for consideration on September 21, 2001.

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- * 3. **ADOPTION OF BUDGET IN CERTAIN SEQUENCE: At meeting of July 27, 2001, item was tabled to meeting of August 24, 2001.**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to make a recommendation that we have a motion to take Item #3, which is the adoption of the budget, off of the agenda and set it as the last item on our regular agenda. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

- A. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY 2002 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.)**

Chairman Hair said, at this time we will begin our discussions of the budget, and I would like to start off by making some comments, and I'm going to go to the well to do them. First of all, I think that we need to recognize that we've got some

very serious decisions to make today. We have debated this issue for a number of months now, quite frankly, and the first thing I'd like to say is that I think we must make a decision today. I would hope that there would be no attempt to delay this budget vote beyond today, and I am willing to stay here until Midnight tonight if that's what it takes for us to come to a conclusion because I think that if we delay this vote today, a lot of things will happen and they're all bad. If we delay today, we delay the Commissioner being able to send out the tax bills. If the Commissioner can't send out the tax bills, then we delay us getting revenue in, which means we're already under a continuing resolution and borrowing money now and spending interest and that will continue. Secondly, I think we'd be very unfair to the Board of Education if we delay this vote today because over two-thirds of the money that we collect goes to the Board of Education, and if we delay today this vote, we would put them in a terrible situation, and I don't think we should do that. The next point I'd like to make is that a lot of things you're going to hear today are going to be described as fact. I think it's important as we listen to the deliberation today, as we listen to everyone today that we separate fact from opinion because a lot of things that's going to be said today, I believe, in the name of fact are really going to be opinion. So when we have to make this serious decision some time later today, let's make sure that we listen to the facts and make sure that we're not listening to opinion. There's nothing wrong with opinions, and I'm probably going to express my opinion many times today and I'm sure you're going to express your opinion, but when we express our opinion, let's express it as my opinion and not as a fact, not something that can be proved. The second thing that we're going to hear a lot of today is we're going to hear a lot of discussion about what's right and what's wrong. Well, there are going to be some things that are right or wrong today, but a lot of times things are going to be couched in those terms, when really it's not right or wrong to do something but it's my personal preference that it be done this way. And, again, I would hope that when someone makes a statement and makes a statement about right or wrong, that they say that's their personal preference and it really —, characteristically is really not right or wrong. We can't prove that something is right or wrong.

Chairman Hair said, let's go ahead and address the first issue head on. There's been many proposals that have been made that deals with tax increases. I think we have clearly demonstrated that there are five votes on this Commission that oppose a tax increase. I do not believe that a single one of those five votes are going to change today, so we could sit up here today for hour upon hour upon hour and we could talk about all the wonderful merits of raising taxes and after we discuss that for six hours the vote's going to be taken and it's going to be five to four. I'm not a mathematician, but I can tell you there's five votes against the tax increase and four for it. So if you stipulate and if you believe that there are five votes against the tax increase, then basically when you begin to look at the proposals, there are only two out there that do not have tax increases. Three if you county Commissioner Murray's, but his basically has a \$6 million deficit, but only two that balance the budget that do not have a tax increase. That's mine and that's Commissioner Rayno's, which I'm sure he's going to have a presentation on his in a few moments, comments. When I put my proposal together, I want to remind the Commissioners what happened. If y'all will remember, in this very room months ago I started out with a lot of premises in putting a budget together and in those premises I listened to what individual Commissioners had to say. Commissioner Rivers, you said all recurring revenue, no fund balance. My budget has all recurring revenue, no fund balance. Not only does it not go into the fund balance, but my budget does not include any revenue from the digest growth, which means that, if my budget were to pass today, all of the extra money that would come in from the digest increase would be split, according to a policy we've already passed, half would go to fund balance and half of that money would go to buy much needed vehicles off our CIP list. That hasn't been discussed, but that's there. There's no digest increase. Commissioner Kicklighter, I listened to you when you said drainage affects the Westside more than it does the other parts of the County. I restored \$400,000 in the budget at your request. I listened to Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner Murray when they said no new taxes. There are no new taxes in my budget. No tax increase. And I listened to the majority of this Board when we rejected the Manager's budget to start with because it had layoffs of 200 County employees. My budget has no layoffs of any County employee. It eliminates vacant positions, but it lays off not a single County employee that's currently employed. I have two major objections to Commissioner Rayno's budget. The first is that the budget according to the information you received from the County Manager yesterday, these are not my numbers, these are County Manager's numbers, staff's numbers, that if that budget were to pass today, two things would happen beginning Monday morning. First, 201 people would lose their jobs. If you cut more than Commissioner Rayno is suggesting, then more than 201 people would lose their jobs. I just believe that at the end of the day today, when you look at a budget proposal that might have some things in there that you personally don't like, but when you have a chance to vote for that or you have a chance to vote for an alternative that takes care of your personal preference but it lays off 200 people, I believe we're going to do the right thing. There's a second problem with Commissioner Rayno's budget and any budget that cuts the departments more than I have cut them. I can promise you that if we pass that budget today, by ten o'clock Monday morning on my desk are going to be four or five writs of mandamus from constitutional officers. I will guarantee you that will happen. I've not discussed it with any of the constitutional officers, but I'll tell you that if we cut a —, pass a budget today that lays off 200 people, those writs are going to be on my desk. Let me tell you what's going to happen with those writs. First of all, we're going to lose every single one of them because what is going to happen is once we get the writs, none of our judges in this County are going to hear those writs so the way it works is we're going to get a judge coming in from Columbus or Augusta or Macon and those judges are going to rule on those writs, and if you believe that a judge is going to come in here from out of town and rule against our constitutional officers, I've got some swampland to sell you because it's not going to happen. We're going to lose those writs, and what's going to happen when we lose those writs is all of a sudden now we're going to have an out of town judge coming into Chatham County and telling us how to spend our tax money because we, as Commissioners, wouldn't pass a budget that didn't have that, but because it had some things in there that we didn't like. And the second thing about these writs, and I want you to pay very careful attention to this, because when we lose those writs, which we will lose, we're going to lose those writs after we've already passed the budget, after we've already set a millage rate, so when the judge rules against us in September or October, now we have to restore hundreds of thousands of dollars to these constitutional departments. Guess where it's got to come from? We can't go back and raise taxes, we've already set the millage rate. So then we've got to take that money out of existing departments, and you talk about a mess, folks, you talk about a reduction in

government services, you let that happen to us and I promise you it will happen. Ask any legal scholar the last time a County has won a writ of mandamus. It's just going to happen.

Commissioner Rayno asked, Billy [Hair], which officers do you think will send us that? Chairman Hair said, I suspect that we would get one from the Sheriff, I think –, I suspect we'd get one from Judge Brannen, I suspect we'd get one from the Tax Commissioner, I suspect we'd probably get one from State Court, at least, and maybe more.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to recommend that none of us interrupt you and let you finish your –. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, thank you. I appreciate that, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Chairman Hair said, now let's look at the two major objections or concerns about my budget. 80% of my budget is no different than anybody else's budget that's been proposed. Most of my budget has what –, everything else. Most of my budget has what Commissioner Odell's budget has in it, what Commissioner Rayno's has in it, but the two things that has been the hangup and the reason we're here today 45 days after we should have voted on a budget is because some of you don't like the idea of consolidating the Police and the Sheriff's Department and some of you don't like the CNT cuts. Well, I'm going to address those individually. First, we have been told and you have been told and you have been lobbied, particularly by the City of Savannah, that, you know, if you pass these CNT shifts –, and, by the way, I want to make the record very, very clear. There are no cuts in CNT. Not a single dollar is cut. What it does is it says to a city if you want your officer, you're going to pay for it. And I ask you, why should a resident that lives out west of 95 on 204 pay \$400,000 to the City of Savannah with 90% of the activity of the CNT inside the city limits of Savannah? Why should your constituents, Commissioner Murray, that live out on Wilmington Island pay 15 police officers in the City of Savannah because they live in the unincorporated areas \$400,000? Now I want to point out something to you about what's been said to you. Do you really believe that Garden City and the City of Pooler are going to have to raise taxes if they have to pick up one CNT police officer for \$30,000 a year? Do you really believe that? That's what you've been told. Do you really believe the City of Savannah is going to have to raise its millage to offset \$400,000 in expenses when they go and the next day they talk about how many millions of dollars they've got in reserve at the bank? And they're telling you they're going to have to raise taxes because they're going to have to pick up \$400,000 of expenses. Do you really believe that? That's not consistent, but yet that's what you've been told. Is it such a terrible idea to shift this cost to the cities because you're going to bankrupt us? Garden City and Pooler are not going to be bankrupt at over \$30,000 and the City of Savannah is not going to be bankrupt at over \$400,000. I ask you folks to think about that. Think about what you've been told and think about the facts. Remember I started out talking about facts and myths. Think about the facts, and I just gave you the facts.

Chairman Hair said, the second is the consolidation of the Police Department. When I first began to discuss this, at least two of you came to me and said, you know, two of you that have since voted against it, came to me and said, you know, it's not a bad idea, I believe I could support that, but I need more information, I need to know where the savings are going to come from. On two separate occasions we have given very, very specific information as to where those cuts are going to come from. We even went so far as to list the positions that would be cut. Every one of those dollar savings in the consolidation of the Police and Sheriff's Departments have been outlined to you. You've got it. You asked for information, you got information. And this is one case where I particularly asked you to put your personal preference aside. It's not right to consolidate. It's not wrong not to consolidate. It's just your personal preference and all of us have rights to personal preference, but do you want as your personal preference to lay off 200 County employees? That's going to be your choice before this day is out. How important is that personal preference to you? That's what you're going to have to make a decision on. You know, when we sit there at the end of the day today and we have to make a decision, let's really try to put things in perspective. You know, if you're voting on my budget today, the consolidating the Sheriff's and Police and shifting CNT funding that's the only two issues. Let's me honest about it. You know, the world's still going to keep turning, the sun's still going to rise tomorrow, and we will have done a great service to the people of this community by balancing a budget with recurring revenue that has no tax increase and it has no layoffs of County employees. And I hope that in the end that we will do that. I thank you for your attention.

Commissioner Odell asked, will you take questions, Mr. Chairman? Chairman Hair said, I certainly will take questions, Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Rivers said, well, the Chair is on the end down there. Chairman Hair said, that's fine, she was recognized. Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I compliment you on your extensive work on the budget. You outlined a couple of premises. Can we also outline a very premise? Are there five votes for consolidating the Sheriff and the Police Departments? If there are five votes, then the ball game's over. Chairman Hair said, I think –, that's a very good question, Commissioner Odell, and I think when we take a vote there may very well be five votes for this reason: what are your alternatives? Your alternative is to vote that down and then you're back to a budget that's going to require massive layoffs of County employees. That's going to be your choice. Commissioner Odell said, my second concern is that if you look at CNT on an isolated basis, the reason CNT was consolidated and the County paid CNT was so that we would have a controlled central fight against drugs. That was the agreement that we made with the City of Savannah, Pooler, Garden City. Now if we plan to change that agreement, then whether we choose to believe it or not, we're impacting their budget in the middle of their budget year, and I agree that they probably do have, and I know that they all have a larger fund balance than we have. In fact, my children have a larger fund balance than we have. But the overall advantage was –, the overall advantage was that we would maintain that control. Why would out in Wilmington Island they be concerned about drugs in the City of Savannah? Because it's just a brief car ride away. The same reason we didn't go to Japan to fight the war in Vietnam. The war was in Vietnam, not in Japan. The drug problem, we go collectively where the drug problems are. Chairman Hair asked, can I address those comments please? Commissioner Odell said, oh, yes. Chairman Hair said, first of all, I have done extensive research as the Clerk can attest. I have had her go back and I pulled the minutes, and also the County Manager can attest to this because I saw several things in there that I didn't understand and I asked him for

clarification. You know, we could sit here today and talk about, you know, that CNT was created for this wonderful purpose and it was just all of a sudden this great idea, everybody got together and decided this was, you know, wonderful for Chatham County. That's not how it was created. You know how this was created? Go back and do the history that I've done on it. At the time the CNT was created was the time that the Ricky Jivens gang was very active in this community and there was a lot of public outcry about doing something for drugs in this County, and the Chairman at the time —, and don't take my word for this, go back and look at the minutes. That's what I've done —, the Chairman at the time came to staff and said, you know, we're getting a lot of heat about this drug problem, we've got to do something about it. Put something together that's going to deal with this issue. That's how this was created. That's exactly how it was created. It was created as a reaction to a gang that was operating in Chatham County at the time. It was not for this wonderful moral purpose that we're going to solve every drug problem in Chatham County. That wasn't why it was created. It was created as a reaction to a specific problem at the time. Now let me also state, as I have stated repeatedly, I think the CNT is a wonderful organization. I think Commander Smith and the CNT has done a terrific job. I have absolutely no problem with CNT and I hope they continue to grow and expand, but when they grow and expand it's a matter of who's going to pay for it. That's my only issue. I think it's wonderful that the CNT is here. We need a CNT, but the Chatham County taxpayer doesn't need to fund 100% of this. Let me also —, I'm in the management consulting business, Commissioner Odell. Let me tell you another problem I've seriously got with the way the CNT is funded. If you separate authority from responsibility, you've got a serious problem in any organization. Right now you've got the County funding 100% of CNT. If you really want involvement of the cities in CNT, if you really want to get the Mayor and Aldermen and the Chief of Police of Pooler and Bloomingdale, you want to get them involved in CNT, you make them fund their part of it and all of a sudden they're going to get real interested in what CNT is doing. Right now it doesn't cost them a dime. They can sit there and pat everybody on the back and say, yes, CNT's a wonderful thing, but, guess what? They don't really get involved because they don't have to pay for it. You only get involved in something when you pay for it. I will tell you that two years from now if you pass this budget, CNT will be stronger than ever because now these cities will be paying for something, they're going to make sure it operates well because now the City of Savannah is going to have \$400,000 in the deal. You don't think they're going to pay attention if they've got \$400,000 versus zero? They'll get more involved.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman —, and I haven't finished —, I think that relates to an earlier comment you made and that is the difference between opinion and fact. I think that that is —. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Commissioner Odell said, an opinion. My concern is that if the City of Savannah pays, and I think it's more than \$400,000, but whatever that sum is, if they paid for it, I see them pulling out of the service and doing their own little thing. I see on the Westside, if we require them to pay for it, that some of the municipalities are going to say our problems on the Westside are different from the problems downtown, and they're going to look at doing a joint venture. Frank's [Murray] people potentially, Tybee Island, can look at —, here's the only problem with fragmentation. In one instance we think it's a good thing to consolidate the Sheriff and the Police. In that same instance, the biggest problem confronting this community is drugs. It's drugs. 75% of all crimes are drug related. All citizens of Savannah, Pooler, all of Tybee, they're citizens of Chatham County, and just as we are taking a lead in some things —, I hope that you're right, Billy [Hair], I really hope that you're right on this because I think fragmentation ultimately hurts all of us, and in that I live in this community, I hope that they don't pull out, that we do have a stronger CNT because we need a stronger CNT. Chairman Hair said, we do. Commissioner Odell said, because if we cannot project to tourists who would desire to come here, which is the major component of our area's revenue, if we don't get a handle on the drug problem in this community, then we're going to be like some other southern cities where people are afraid to visit there because it's snatch the purse, run and gun, and no one wants to take a vacation and you have to also bring an Uzi. Chairman Hair said, you know, it's interesting, if you read the paper today, you mentioned spending, and you're absolutely correct, when I said it was going to be better two years from now, that is my opinion, but also I do have some empirical evidence that the cities are not going to pull out. If you read the paper today, you had one of the Aldermen already say that if the City needs to put their share up they should, and he was a former policeman, so I do think you already have some evidence that the Aldermen are considering doing that. Alderman Jones said it in the paper today that he believes the City should pay for it if they're required to. Commissioner Odell said, I think most them —, and I haven't finished, I think most of the police —, in fact, I know, David [Gellatly], when you moved here you were kind of surprised that we were paying for drugs enforcement through CNT and not the City of Savannah, but it was kind of unique in that respect. Am I correct? Commissioner Gellatly said, well, that was back when you had a Metro Drug Squad and, you're right, that is very unique.

Commissioner Odell said, Billy [Hair], my last point —. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, and then I'll yield, we have a self-fulfilling prophecy. Over the last several years we have raided the fund balance in excess of \$12 million. I think that it's heroic for us to say under no circumstance, under no eventuality will we raise taxes when we over the last —, since 1996 have reduced the millage, the microscopic levels and we justify that as being a taxpayer benefit when we crippled this County. We have put ourselves in this position, and let the record be clear, it is not Chatham County's employees' fault that we are here. We arrived here from what happened here not happening there. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree. Commissioner Odell said, and when I voted for the tax reduction, Billy [Hair], and you and I sit up here and we talk and we agree on things and we disagree on things. I respect your opinion and I realize that you've done a lot of work on this —, when I voted on a reduction, I agreed with the concept. In those years where the money is not needed, we as a people are taxed to death, and I think it's heroic and a good concept to say we stop here, but I think your equation leaves out one essential element, and that essential element is level of service. That any —, and I looked at Jeff's [Rayno] proposal —, any budget you have to ask yourself what is the impact on the only thing we do? The only thing we do is to provide service. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Commissioner Odell said, and my concern and what I support is not a millage increase because that's technically incorrect. It should be a millage restoration because we should go back to what had happened when we said we would give the money to the citizens. At this point we technically need the money, Billy [Hair]. We need the money. And I'll yield and say that that is an opinion.

Chairman Hair said, let me also comment on that, Commissioner Odell. I believe that if the nine of us are going to do the right thing before the day is out, and I believe we will, I believe it's going to take compromise. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. Chairman Hair said, there is not a perfect budget out there, and what you're going to have to do today is you're going to have to vote on a budget that's not going to have everything you like in it. There's going to be parts of it you're not going to like, but it sure is going to be a heck of a lot better than laying off 200 people and reducing services even further. Commissioner Odell, you talked about reduction in millage causing reduction in services, you wait until you lay off 200 people. Wait until you lay off 50 people in Chatham County. If you want to see services go down, that's what's going to happen. The final point I want to make is this, and it's related to the point I just made, is that if we're going to do the right thing, we're going to have to compromise. Two points I'll make about my budget. First of all, if we pass it today, there are no irreversible decisions in it. If we pass that budget today and we consolidate the Police and Sheriff's Departments, there's not a thing in the world that says a year from now, two years from now, it doesn't work out, something happens, we go back to the old system. We have that power. We're not making an irreversible decision today. The same thing on CNT. Commissioner Odell, if I am wrong in my opinion that CNT is not stronger two years from now, then all of us will still be sitting where we're sitting and we can correct that problem. You know, I think it's important that we know that decisions we make today are not irreversible. It's a little different, and I'm going to say something I have never ever said before. I am willing to compromise to this extent: I will not vote for a tax increase today for this budget year. I'll tell you what I will do though, and I'll look all of you in the eye with the TV cameras rolling, if we're here next year, if we pass my budget today and we're here next year and we have to face layoff 200 people or 50 people or 40 people and reduce the services to this community or raise taxes, I will vote to raise taxes. I'm a lame duck. I can't run again. I've got nothing to lose. I will tell you I will not in any way support a tax increase this year because it's not necessary this year, and I don't believe it's going to be necessary next year, but I will tell you this: you give me this same budget situation next year and I'm with you, Commissioner Odell, you've got my vote for a millage increase next year, but not this year because we haven't done the right thing yet. Let's get the efficiency out, let's get these things consolidated and let's do the best we can do and then if we need more money, you know, then I'm willing to do that.

Commissioner Odell said, Billy [Hair], just one other comment and then I'm through, I'm finished for the day. I think you, Dr. Thomas, Jeff [Rayno], Martin [Jackel], should be commended for the amount of time that you've spent on the budget, and most citizens believe that we have some ulterior motive. We don't. It's just a matter of opinion for our different perspectives as to what is right and what is wrong. It's not an absolute. If we had the right thing, if we had the chemical solution where H₂O is always water, then we could come up and we could do the right thing, but it's an opinion and, you know, we differ on some things, but that's an opinion, but I do not differ with the fact that y'all all done a lot of work on this, and the community benefits when we work hard and when we debate issues openly, candidly and frankly, but as gentlemen, and I think you and I have always done that. Chairman Hair said, I think we have and I commend you for that too. Commissioner Odell said, thank you for your time.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Kicklighter, Rivers and Murray, in that order.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd just like to state to kind of address the CNT issue, I relayed my opinion to the Chairman, beings [sic] we're talking about opinions and, you know, I let him know that I really couldn't support the CNT proposal because I felt it could dissolve the entire project. He said he would not be opposed to my recommendation, but we can't do it today because it would mess the numbers up, but he would not be opposed to at the next meeting doing a budget shift and paying for one officer per municipality. That would keep CNT a definite coordinating agency and then should the City of Savannah choose to add additional officers there, it would be at their choice, and hopefully they would, but by adding one officer per municipality back, CNT would remain in fact a coordinating agency to fight drugs in the community, and I would assume from that standpoint Savannah would pay for the additional officers because there's, your good statement about fighting a war in Japan when the war's not there. You know, Savannah needs to have the additional officers to fight the drugs in the community, and -, so I just want to state that for the Commission here that I believe we could come back next week or next meeting and deal with a budget shift and add back one per municipality, and that away [sic] we would have a coordinating agency in place. No matter how that worked, I mean, even -, Savannah may choose not to put 14 CNT officers, call them that, but they would have a Savannah police officer one CNT to coordinate the efforts with whatever it may be. That away [sic] drug fighting in Chatham County would not be reduced or compromised.

Commissioner Jackel asked, may I ask a question on that? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, under that scheme we're funding 100% of the smaller municipalities, but one-fourteenth of the City of Savannah. Is that -, is that appropriate? Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's equal funding. It's not unequal funding like we currently have. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't see it that way. Chairman Hair said, also, Commissioner Jackel, remember where most of the problem is, 90% of it's inside the city limits of Savannah, so I think you've got to keep that in mind as well.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and it keeps us as a coordinating agency is what we should be. We should be leading the charge and that would keep CNT intact and then, like I said, should the municipalities want to add more, then hopefully they would, they would add whatever was need.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I was relegated not to say anything at all with reference to the budget. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to ask me any questions, because I'll stay -? Commissioner Rivers said, no, no, no. Chairman Hair asked, you just want to make a comment? Commissioner Rivers said, I want to make a comment because I don't think this back and forth -, you know, I have these budgets over the last three, four, five months. I've got comments that I've

gone through last night, and a litany of things, and I'll make some comments because, you know, we've got a fine staff here and we pay them and they're well trained and they're well professionals and they've got accolades across the wall. Now if I can't rely on them to draw an opinion, and it's more than opinion, it's a calculated thing because I get information from them and I rely on 17 years of experience. We have gone from a County that was a very stable County to a County that's almost on the edge of bankruptcy that has been in the last five or six years talking about laying people off, cutting back and all of the other things that we went with, a County that went through a fund balance to bring us to this point here, which never should have happened. A Commission, two or three Commissions that sat up here and used fund balance and at the same time did an idiotic thing of rolling the millage back. Now that brought us to this point here. So, you know, I can't fault these new Commissioners that came on. They don't understand it. They really don't. Some of us don't even understand the impact that it's going to have on these communities even from the central standpoint of some agencies that we support, that keep children out of the street, keep children out of trouble. You know, we --, you don't even come in contact with them. You know, I was sort of insensitive until I went on the 811 Commission and worked on mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse. Hey, prior to that it didn't matter, but now if we work closely MH/MR and substance abuse, we'll see the impact and the effect that it has on us out in the community. And I don't need you to respond to it, Mr. Chairman, but I'm just saying all of these things that we don't see, we don't ride the buses so we don't feel the impact of what is happening out there with people on an everyday basis. I do. I --. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, I totally agree with you. I absolutely agree with you. That's why we don't need to lay off people. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I understand that. Now --, and I go along with one thing that you said. I came here prepared today that if you got five, then whatever the budget is, then that would suffice. Whatever happens, that's the way it would go. I'm not trying to sell one or the other, my vote would be no against all of it. What I proposed did not happen and it may not happen, and I don't think I've come here today with the will to delay this any further. Now if the people say delay it further, then I'd do that regardless of the outcome, but I've come here prepared not to vote for your litany of back and forth or justification because I've gone through all of this stuff, spent last night reading through this tedious document here. All right? So I don't --. Chairman Hair said, I agree. That's why I did not --, if you notice, I did not come in and go line item by line item. Everybody knows the budget is there, everybody knows what's in it, so I didn't do that this morning because I agree with you. Commissioner Rivers said, we don't --, we don't need a litany --. Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Rivers said, of things back and forth between each other because we're here, we're at the point either we're ready to bite whatever bullet --. Chairman Hair said, right. But I think after everyone's had a chance to --, I mean, I'm sure Commissioner Rayno wants to present his proposal to everybody and then I think we --. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I think he's going to defend his --, he's going to try to sell his because you've had the opportunity to project yours. Chairman Hair said, I'm going to tell you what I did, Commissioner Rivers. You can call it selling if you want to, but I'll tell you what I did. I told the truth based on information, not that I've gotten but it came from the same good staff you're talking about. Okay? These are not my numbers, they're their numbers. Okay? Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I commend you on some of the things that you brought forth. I don't agree with parts of it, so --. Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Rivers said, and it's not calculated on opinion, it's calculated on basically experience and, you see, most people in this County don't realize that we have two different sets of employees, one under the constitutional elected officers and one under us that has --, that are under the merit system. The merit system is very weak. I've tried to change that since I've been here, 17 years and haven't been successful in doing that, but, you know, some departments over there they can fire at will if they really wanted to, so there are a lot of things that, you know, people don't understand about this County and about this County's government, and that's what has brought us thus far. It's not what I'm telling you --, opinion. I'm telling you facts that happened over a period of time of the things that we did that we did not see or understand at that time when we did it that has impacted this budget negatively. Chairman Hair said, you know, Commissioner Rivers, you and I have been friends for a long time. We've known each other for a long time, but I'll tell you this, you have always, and I have said from that chair many times, that you have been that voice in the wilderness many, many times. You've always talked about recurring revenue, fund balance and one-time expenditures. You have been consistent from day one ever since I've been on the Commission and a long time before I was on the Commission, and I commend you for that, so you really have. And remember I started my comments out by saying I listened to you when I put this together because I knew if I presented a budget that did not have recurring revenue, you'd be the first in line like you always do, but it has recurring revenues. It has --, Dr. Thomas also mentioned the same thing to me, and it's got recurring revenues in it. It's not fund balance, it's not even the digest. Commissioner Rivers said, and that's why I commend you on that, but still yet even with this budget, believe me, next year if you live up to what you said, then we'll have a tax increase. Chairman Hair said, and I'll look you in the eye, Commissioner Rivers, and tell you personally I will vote for it. Before I lay people off next year, I will vote for a tax increase. Commissioner Rivers said, but I would have hoped that we could have set this budget straight and stabilized it this fiscal year. Chairman Hair said, well, I think this is a start. Commissioner Rivers said, and then we wouldn't have to --, well, yes, it's a start, but it doesn't carry us down the road to where we should be. Chairman Hair said, well, I agree, but, you know, also --. Commissioner Rivers said, and even --, even the one and a half mills that I proposed would not get us there. Chairman Hair said, right. Chairman Hair said, but, you know, as you correctly stated, we didn't get here overnight in one year, you know, and I think this is the beginning of getting out of it. We're not going to get out of it in one year either, but I think over the next couple of years we can.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you through, Commissioner? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, I'm going to go ahead and yield --, yield the floor. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner --. Chairman Hair asked, do you have questions of me, Frank [Murray], or do you just want to make some comments? I'll sit down if you're going to --.

Commissioner Murray said, no, you can stay there if you like. Some are comments, some may end up being questions. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not real sure. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I do appreciate the comments and the way you started this off because some of the things you said are some of the things I was going to say anyway, that there are nine of us up here, we all have nine different opinions on the way things should be done, we all represent a different group of people. We have different needs in our districts, some are common

needs, some are not. I'll address CNT first. You were right by going back to the minutes and looking at all that, but the minutes don't show everything that took place during that process. There was a committee established and many people throughout this community served on it. It was chaired by one of our Commissioners at the time. There was a lot of work went into it, and it was decided this was the way it would be done. There were agreements signed, governmental agreements signed to do it this way. I personally feel like that, yes, some of the —, they do need to pay part of their fair share. I don't think this is the arena where we need to do it. This is not the way we established the CNT and this is not the way we should just come up with our budget and say we automatically will take this out if that's voted in right now. I think we need to go through that process again with all these communities and with all those people involved, with the law enforcement agencies through this community, and sit down and work out a compromise in there somewhere wherever that falls. Chairman Hair asked, can I make a point about that, Commissioner Murray? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, as —, I just want to remind the Commissioners because you've been told this before, but you're absolutely correct. Remember the way the agreements are written, it takes 180 days to do that anyway. That's that six-month period. We can't —, we couldn't cut them off overnight if we wanted to. The agreement clearly states that we have to give them a 180-day notice, six months notice. That gives ample time to do what you're suggesting, and I appreciate that comment. Commissioner Murray said, well, I would not want to do something like that though without going through that process first, and that was the point I was trying to make. The other that you had on there is the consolidation of the Sheriff's and the County Police Departments. You know, we had —, this proposal came up many times, probably 10, 11, 12 years ago by then Commissioner Deanie Frazier kept pushing to do this. We did not do it for obvious reasons. My support has never been there to do it. It doesn't change today. Not because of the people and the personalities involved in those positions, but because of the positions themselves. Certainly we have a Sheriff right now that's capable of handling that if was consolidated today, but there are no guarantees anywhere that we've going to have that position down the road when he decides to retire or whatever happens over there, and I think rather than looking at individuals that serve in positions now when we talk about consolidating, we need to look at the positions themselves and what can happen or what can't happen in those positions, and that's where I have a real problem with that right now. We haven't done that I don't think, and to me that again is not something that should be part of the budget process. You had talked about compromise, and I think we're all willing to make some concessions to what we feel and what we would like to see in a budget versus what we're actually going to get when we finally approve one today, and I agree with you if it takes until twelve o'clock tonight or if it takes tomorrow some time to complete this, then I'm willing to stay here and do that. I think we all should do that because it's got to be done. But I'd like to ask you, where are you willing to compromise on your list because I haven't heard any compromise on your list yet. Chairman Hair said, I just —, I gave the biggest compromise a Republican could ever give you, Commissioner Murray. I said that I would vote for a millage increase next year. In the same situation I will not vote for a millage increase this year, but —, because we don't need to do it this year, but I'll tell you for somebody who believes as strongly against taxes as I do to sit up here in this well and tell you and look every one of the Commissioners in the eye and say if —, give me this same situation next year, I'll vote for a tax increase. If you don't think that's a compromise, that's about as good as I can do. Commissioner Murray said, I would go on record saying that too, but to me that is not a compromise on the budget, and that's what we're talking about now. Chairman Hair said, you know —. Commissioner Murray said, a compromise on these budgets —, budget proposals that we have out here. I sat down with staff, I guess it was Wednesday morning, and went over it, and when I saw the results of what we came up with, that's why I sent it out to everybody like I did. Not as a proposal, because I will not support this year a millage increase. I sat down looking at budgets, I looked at things when I was over in Kuwait when I'd get it on the Internet, speaking of using the Internet on government computers, but I —, but we were allowed to do that, but I did look at those and I looked at these proposals with the information I had, and I sat down and thought to myself, you know, really the only real way to come out of this is probably to have some type of millage increase. I'd always stated I would not do one and I will not vote for one this year. Yes, next year if it comes up and we've got problems, I don't think we have any choice except to vote for one. So I'll make that commitment too, but I'm willing to try it this year, but I think there are some areas through all of these budgets that we have that we can come up with some way to come up out of all these proposals with a compromise that will work. I can tell you up front I'm willing to compromise, but I'm not willing to vote in favor of changing those two items that you have on there that I've already discussed —. Chairman Hair said, well, I can —. Commissioner Murray said, in this budget so if that's the fifth vote, it won't happen. Chairman Hair asked, can I also ask you what you're willing to compromise on? You asked me that. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I'm willing to compromise on several things. Chairman Hair asked, what are you willing to —. Commissioner Murray said, one is not to do these, but I'm willing to do any of it. If it comes down to somebody else, then we're going to have to have some layoffs. You know, I don't like layoffs. Another thing, I would like to have seen in the budget, and I know it's not feasible to do it, and that's take the health insurance and break it out where it's not all in one year with that impact. That's why I sent that proposal —, not proposal, but sent the list out the other day. It had some things on there. It had things that I would like to do. My compromise is coming away from those things and not —, not pushing those items right now. So —, and I guess, you know, you ask me what I'm willing to compromise on, I'm willing to compromise on most of these budgets and try to come up with one out of all of them that will work for the community, but at the same time I don't see you compromising on your particular budget other than saying that you will vote for an increase next year, and that's what I was talking about. Chairman Hair said, as you just stated, you are not willing to vote for a tax increase this year, and I do not believe Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Kicklighter or Commissioner Rayno are willing to do that this year, so that goes back to my original premise that if you say there's not the votes there, then what you're left with is Commissioner Rayno's budget and —. Commissioner Murray said, not necessarily, not necessarily. Chairman Hair said, but I have a —. Commissioner Murray said, well, let me ask a question to staff. Commissioner Jackel has a proposal on the board that going down that list there would be a .44 millage increase and he's at 10% across the board. Would 12% bring off that .44 millage increase where there would be no millage increase? Let me —. Chairman Hair said, I'm going to sit down. You'll be here —. Commissioner Murray said, no that's fine. Well, you can speak from here anyway. Commissioner Rayno said, I have another question. Commissioner Murray said, my only question is, I'm just trying to say, you know, can it be done that way? If it can, it's something else to look at. I know Commissioner Rayno's got his budget he wants to speak about, and there are things in that budget that

would probably work that I would like to and can support, but I—, but it's some questions that I think we need to look at just like, you know, I don't know what it's going to take to come up with that .44 mill. County Manager Abolt said, sir, to answer your question—. Commissioner Murray said, and he may not even want to do it that way, I don't know. County Manager Abolt said, in answer to your question, I remember the math of a few days ago, and this affects your additives, but if you did not have the additives as an issue now, with about a 11% cut in Commissioner Jackel's you can balance. Commissioner Jackel asked, 11%? County Manager Abolt said, 11 or 12%. Commissioner Murray asked, what would be the additives now? You said—. County Manager Abolt said, in other words, you would not add back in your grants-in-aid and your drainage. Chairman Hair said, okay, are you finished? Commissioner Murray said, yes, I just—, but I'd like to hear from others because I feel like we can put this thing together today and have a vote and be done with it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, according to the staff's numbers that we were given the other day that they did a breakdown on all the proposals, your plan leaves \$1,090,862 deficit. How would you plan on overcoming that if we were to pass yours today? Chairman Hair said, I'm not really sure where those—, that primarily came from the vacancy—. County Manager Abolt said, exclusively. County Manager Abolt said, I think what they did was they calculated the cost of the vacancies and a lot of that is you don't know which vacancies are going to occur so a lot of that is somewhat speculation as to—, and I think in yours that's, I think, what? Half a million, 529 or something? Commissioner Rayno said, 565. Chairman Hair said, 565, and yours come to the same place in terms of calculating how much a vacancy's worth. I mean, I used \$30,000 and what they did was went back and used—, they used—. Pardon? County Manager Abolt said, we took the exact, the most recent—. Chairman Hair said, I tell you, you took actual position projections. For example, if you had a custodial position at \$17,000, they took \$17,000. Okay? They took the actual vacancies, you know, that's occurring right now. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, that says that if you've got five janitorial vacancies now, that's—, what? \$75,000. If you had five \$40,000 positions, that's \$200,000. That's the difference in that number. It's in terms of the vacancies. Commissioner Rayno said, well, thank you for explaining where it came from, but how would you overcome it? Chairman Hair said, well, because I was—, I think it will balance when you use—, if you look at—, if you go back and what you're doing if you're taking a snapshot instead of a moving picture; in other words, if you were to take a snapshot every week of the vacant positions times 52 and divide by 52, then you'd have a real number. You know, but there's no way to totally accurately protect what will come from vacant positions because you don't know which vacancies will occur and you don't know which vacancies would, you know, would be eliminated. That's why in the Sheriff's Department proposal we actually listed positions by salary, fringes and everything. Commissioner Rayno said, uh huh. Chairman Hair said, but in this one you've got to use some number that, you know, that's—, there's no way you can predict what vacancies are going to occur. Commissioner Rayno asked, so you think you could easily overcome that \$1,090,000? Chairman Hair said, yes, just like I think your 565 could be easily overcome. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Chairman Hair said, it's not a problem.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Jackel said, I thought I was next. Chairman Hair said, no, you're—, well, I was given a list. Go ahead. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was wondering what's your opinion on this. Do you think it would be appropriate or out of line to take a vote right off the bat on whether or not we're going to combine the Sheriff's Department and Chatham County Police Department and the CNT elimination? That away [sic] if so, we can move through with your budget. If not, we know to move on. Chairman Hair said, I think an appropriate motion would be on the budget itself, which included that, not on that as a separate issue. But if you wanted to make a motion for my budget and we get a second to that, we can vote on that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe for the sake of moving this on to another, we need to see rather than beating the dead horse, so to speak, let's—, with the understanding that we can come back and add—. Chairman Hair said, the only other thing I would comment about that, Commissioner Kicklighter, before you make the motion is in all fairness to Commissioner Rayno and these others, I think it would be fair to hear their proposals because I—, I'll tell you this, you know, you can vote on mine now and you might get a no vote, but when you vote on it hours from now, if you hear another one and you're talking about 250 being laid off, your vote might be different. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's why I was asking if it was appropriate. Chairman Hair said, so I really think it would be better to hear the other proposals—. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Chairman Hair said, and then do that at one time. So, I'll recognize Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner—, that's all I've got, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Odell said, then put me. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay. I, too, want to thank everybody for their hard work on this thing, but let's get right down to it. There's enough blame to go around for everybody so I don't think we need to cast blames at any individuals, past or present. We can all take—, take our share of what went wrong here. Everybody has their theories of what went wrong, and I will try as much as I can stick with the Chairman's guidelines on fact and opinion since we all tend to blur that sometimes. The first fact that's out of whack, it's not \$12.3 that we're short, it's \$13.7 that we're short, and I think that misconception arose not by any intent, but the Chairman started with the County Manager's budget, which was—, and then he added back things. So if you start at the base line, it's clearly \$3.7 million [sic] that we're out of whack—, \$13.7 million. Chairman Hair said, and all of the budgets have that total. Commissioner Jackel said, all the budgets have that number, so—, the paper and others keep talking about \$12.3, which is scary enough, but it's \$13.7 is the actual number we have to deal with. Now the staff gave us a comparison of the budgets side by side. Mine started out with a 10% cut across the board, and that meant departments, elected officials or grants-in-aid, everybody, Crimestoppers, everybody got hit with 10%. I was not happy doing that because some of the things I support the most and feel the strongest about were also cut 10%. I also understand the unfairness of cutting everything 10% and that certain bigger departments can absorb their 10% reduction easier than a small department. I think Engineering is a perfect example. They only had like three people and their supplies are nominal, so it really—, it really hurts them, but when you're looking at 13.7, you're in desperate situations. So that the

opening gambit. As you look further down the list, the Chairman's and Commissioner Rayno's differ from mine substantially in that they have \$2.6 million in vacant positions. Okay. That means that they're proposing that we will not fill these vacant positions, and that way they save almost 2.7 -, 2.6 -, it's actually closer to 2.7, but we'll go with \$2.6 million by not filling them. I think that creates a real disaster because, one, we've already made substantial cuts and then we have all these vacant positions, so some departments get a double cut. They've gotten cut and they can't fill vacant positions, and there's a great inequity about that. Now I'm not -, not trying to throw rocks at one and single them out, I'm just using by way of example. As of this morning since we voted to fill the State Court position, they're 100% filled. They don't have any vacancies. To my knowledge, Probate Court has no vacant positions. Superior Court now has no vacant positions. The Sheriff has 15, or is it 17? I forget. The Library has 10 or more vacant positions. Probate Court has no vacant positions, or did I already say that? The Tax Commissioner has 7 vacant positions. Now there's no plan here. This is the way people left and it's created vacant positions. So all of a sudden we're saying, without a plan, we're not going to fill vacant positions. I don't think that's the way to manage it. I've often said if we're going to do that, we've got to sit down and say which positions are best to cut. My plan puts the burden where it ought to be. Not on us to micro manage, but to say, Sheriff, you've got 10% less than you had last year, Mr. Powers, you've got 10% less than you had last year, Superior Court Judges, you've got 10% less than you had last year. You figure out how you're going to do it. If you've got the money to fill those positions, you fill them. If you don't have the money, you don't, but each department and each elected official knows their business better than we do. I venture to say that some of our Commissioners don't even know all of our departments, must less just say, okay, those positions are vacant, we won't fill them. So I see that as a real problem with the Chairman's budget and Mr. Rayno's budget. Now if you look at that one item of vacant positions and \$2.6 million, if you look at the deficit on my budget, what does it come to? \$2.6 million for the deficit. It's derived at in different ways, but it's the same number. Again, which positions ought to be filled ought to be left up to the elected officials who were elected to run their departments, and department heads who were hired to run their departments to decide what to fill, what money to spend, where they can cut, where they can't cut. We decide how much money they get, and that is our job and it's also a matter of philosophy. Now to solve my deficit shortfall I proposed, and the only way left after I took additional cuts, was a .44 millage increase. That's less than a half. It's \$14 a year on a \$100,000 house. It's \$1.17 a month on a \$100,000 house. And I was talking to Commissioner Murray, half in jest, and maybe this is a little outside the realm, but I said, you know, how about if I offered anyone that writes me and said I swear to you I can't pay the \$14 a year and my house is less than \$150,000, I said I'll pay it up to a copy of \$1,000, I don't believe I'd spend that \$1,000. Now we talked about the spirit of compromise. All I've heard is closed minds on the question of a tax increase. Now certainly if we were in a position where we were maybe a half million dollars short, maybe if we were \$3 million short, maybe if we were \$5 million short, \$10 million short, but we're \$13.7 million short. This is not ordinary times. This is a drastic situation when you're that far short and you can only cut so much and then you're not delivering the services that the people are paying for. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to take questions -, do you want to finish and then at the end? Commissioner Jackel said, right. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. We had talked about earlier consolidating Recreation Departments. Well, that would have cost us more money, but where would we be if we had done that? We'd have to cut way back. They're going to lose all kind of positions out of Recreation. I mean, this thing -, why have ball fields that kids can't play on? Why have libraries without adequate book collections, without shortening the hours that people can use it, and all that, when we can do it by a very small millage increase. Plus the cuts. The last thing I wanted to do was raise taxes, but I had made huge cuts. I'd made 10% across the board; everybody, as well as additional cuts, additional cuts of substantial amounts. Health care insurance \$2.2 million; golf course \$200,000; Mosquito Control \$300,000; Overhead a half million dollars; total adjustments of \$3.2 million. So we cut and cut and cut and then the thing to do was to ask for an increase. I didn't hear any spirit of compromise. Not only did I not hear a spirit of compromise, I didn't even hear an open mind. I didn't hear an open mind. I heard the door slam shut: I will not even consider. I tried to keep a position where I said I will consider everything and look at it and then make a decision, but all I heard was a flat no. All right. Again, I said there's enough blame to go around for everybody, and it's not -, it's not my thing to cast blame, but I think it is appropriate if I'm not going to vote for someone else's proposal, I think it's appropriate for me to say the problems I have with it, so I hope it will be understood in that light as the problem I have with it, which is of course a criticism, but it's meant to be in the appropriate spirit. The -, the Chairman's asked for compromised and he says so many things. I agree that if -, I disagree with him when we talk about the CNT. I think it's not just that 90% of it is in the City, I think what a lot of the CNT does, it keeps it from spreading out from the City. I think all our people who are in the Islands, whether they like it or not, sometimes they have to at least drive through the City to get somewhere. Commissioner Murray said, we have drugs at the Islands and drugs at The Landings and drugs all through -. Commissioner Jackel said, there's drugs everywhere. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible] in certain areas. Commissioner Jackel said, and certainly we're all in this together. I feel like it's working. I think we can use that old phrase if it's not broken, don't fix it, and I think tampering with it when it is working well and the drugs are everywhere and we don't need them spreading, we don't need a patchwork thing when we're dealing with something as serious as drugs. I have real concerns about that. I have spoke at length about the consolidation of the Sheriff and the Police. I have read the material from both sides. We have been inundated with material. I do not think we're going to realize the savings -, and again this is an opinion -, I do not think by consolidating the departments because I think they have different functions, so I think that's a real problem. With Mr. Rayno's budget, Commissioner Rayno's budget I see the problem with his budget is, in effect, he makes not one cut, but he makes three cuts, and he one he makes substantial -, just one minute -, he makes his cuts which are quite heavy and then he cuts in the object codes, which affects the departments again, and then we do not fill employees so he departments get another cut in that they don't have these employees. I'm afraid that's going to lead to substantial layoffs. Now, how can we compromise? How can we compromise? Well, first of all, when you're that far out of whack, \$13.7 million, it's just -, it's just drastic, and I'm telling you to even think about a tax increase, even propose a tax increase disturbs me greatly because, believe it or not, I'm against that, but it's that \$13.7 thing. So I was hoping at one end we had people about a 2 mill increase and mine was .44, \$14 a year on a \$100,000 house, that was a good compromise. Apparently that's not going to work. We couldn't even get the thing where we could keep it open as an option, but I still think doing substantial cuts, the citizens of Chatham County would not be for a tax increase if we're just going to increase their taxes, but when they see all the cuts we've made, I think they

could understand that, but if you cannot see it that way, then I think what Commissioner Murray was talking about instead of my 10%, if we have to go to 11% or 11.5 –, David [Persaud], do we have a number yet on what it would take? 12? County Manager Abolt said, sir, it would be –, as we understand it, it would be about 12%, but then you would have to hold your additives, your grants-in-aid and drainage. Chairman Hair asked, are you going to [inaudible]? Commissioner Jackel said, see, now I cut those 10% too. I cut drainage 10% –. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Jackel said, and I cut grants-in-aid –, they would also be cut whatever it is, 11 or 12, whatever it takes to work. County Manager Abolt said, we'd have to take some time to compute. I think you're at least at 12% and our initial figures earlier this week were that if we held back on the grants-in-aid and drainage, which of course you've already reduced some –. Commissioner Jackel said, right. County Manager Abolt said, but you eliminated that additive expenditure to get where you wanted to be using your proposal by upping the cut to about 12%.

Chairman Hair said, you know, I must make a comment here. [Inaudible] have time to finish your presentation, but this is exactly what I was afraid was going to happen when we got to this level. I sent a memo out 10 days ago to all the Commissioners and I said to them if you've got a proposal, give it to us at least a week in advance, give us a chance to look at it, not try to do things in a Commission meeting where, you know, you've got calculators going overtime because it's very difficult to do what you're trying to do in this setting. I just point that out to you. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Chairman Hair said, you know, you had a memo that said 10 days –. Commissioner Jackel asked, what can I say? I can say you're right, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay. Just let me know when you're ready for questions. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, I'm ready for questions. Chairman Hair said, all right, I've got a couple. Commissioner Jackel said, go. Chairman Hair said, you're cutting –, you're cutting the departments 7.491 million. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno's budget cuts it 4.6 million, and his –, his budget would result in 201 layoffs, so how many positions would be laid off in your budget because you're almost twice as many –, your cuts in departments are almost twice as much as the cuts in Commissioner Rayno's budget? Commissioner Jackel said, well, the –. Chairman Hair asked, how many positions are affected? Commissioner Jackel said, okay, here's the difference. You can't look just at that figure. You must look at that other figure. If you look at Rayno's, his total is 9.3 –. Chairman Hair said, I just want to know the number of positions that would be laid off. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. That would be up to each department to determine what they had to do based upon the money they have. Chairman Hair said, but there would be substantial layoffs. Commissioner Jackel said, there could be –, there could be some, but when you look at the difference even between yours, Rayno's and mine and that figure, Commissioner Rayno's is 9.3, yours is 8.2, mine is 7.8, so mine would call for less than yours or Rayno's. Chairman Hair said, my budget has no layoffs in the budget. Yours has substantial layoffs. There's a big difference. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I respectfully disagree because you're handling by the vacant positions. Chairman Hair said, let me ask you another question. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm handling it with the departments to decide what they need to do. Chairman Hair said, well you –, but you can't answer my question. You don't know how many layoffs there are going to be, but it's going to be substantial. Commissioner Jackel said, well, you're keeping 90 positions vacant. Is that correct? Chairman Hair said, 96. Commissioner Jackel said, 96, okay. Chairman Hair said, vacant positions. Commissioner Jackel said, and my figure –, my figure is a million dollars less than your figure. Chairman Hair said, I just need an answer to the question. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Chairman Hair said, my question is how many people are going to be laid off? Commissioner Jackel said, well, it should affect less than 90 people and not necessarily not layoffs. They could choose to not fill empty positions. Chairman Hair said, all right. I'll stipulate –, we don't know how many positions will be laid off under your budget, right? So we'd be voting on something today and not knowing until Monday morning how many positions will be laid off. Commissioner Jackel said, well, my –. Chairman Hair said, I don't think that's fair to the Commissioners quite frankly. Commissioner Jackel said, well, as I –, as I see it, the Sheriff's got like 15 vacant positions. He can fill 10 of those and keep 5 vacant. Now someone else whose budget is, he's going to have to say I don't have any vacant positions, but I'm going to have to eliminate one. Chairman Hair said, all right, let's –, let me move on to another question. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Chairman Hair said, because you can't answer that question, so let me move on to another question. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I think I did. Chairman Hair said, in the constitutional officers where –, when I gave my presentation remember I raised one of my major concerns, receive writs of mandamus. Commissioner Jackel said, right, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, okay, well, they're going to be very severe under your budget proposal. For example, under the District Attorney I cut \$188,000, you cut almost twice that much. Under the Superior Court I cut a total of 320, you cut almost twice that much. Commissioner Jackel said, uh huh. Chairman Hair asked, do you believe –, I'm asking your opinion here –, that you will get writs of mandamus from those? Commissioner Jackel said, well, here's my understanding of what the law is. I understand that we have to supply our elected officials with necessities. On the other hand, I think it's clear that the law specifies that we control the purse strings, and when we cut everyone 10% across the board, I think the courts will say that we have the right to do that to control the purse strings, and when everyone is cut, they have to live within the prescription. Chairman Hair asked, so you're telling me we'll not get writs of mandamus? Commissioner Jackel said, I cannot say that, but I would expect that they would –. Chairman Hair asked, are they likely or not likely? In your opinion. Commissioner Jackel said, I think it would be unlikely because I think everybody would understand that everybody was cut the same. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, and so I think it's less likely that we would get them, and I think the law is on our side that we control the purse strings and they have to live within the parameters in that that we also have to have a balanced budget and that's a fair way of achieving it. Chairman Hair said, I cut the Sheriff's Department \$147,000, you cut it \$465,000. Commissioner Jackel said, well, as I said again, when we –. Chairman Hair asked, what was the basis of those cuts? Commissioner Jackel said, okay, when we talk about that we've got to make sure we're comparing apples with apples and oranges –. Chairman Hair said, inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, no, because your –, part of your cuts involve that figure for vacant positions. Chairman Hair said, no, it does not. Commissioner Jackel said, yes it does. Chairman Hair said, the vacant positions are separate from the object code cuts. Commissioner Jackel said, no. Chairman Hair said, the vacant positions are –, this 147 is in addition –. Commissioner Jackel said, but in the total money that they have, if they can't fill those positions, that's how your figures work. That's why when you look at those columns that's the way they are. Chairman Hair said, in all due respect, Commissioner Jackel –. Commissioner Jackel said, well,

we may disagree on that. Chairman Hair said, well, no, I don't think it's that. I think --, I'm asking two questions and you can't answer either one of them. I asked you how many positions you were going to lay off --. Commissioner Jackel said, no, I disagree with that. I think I have. When you look at the bottom line --. Chairman Hair asked, how many positions are going to be laid off? Commissioner Jackel said, you called for --, you called --, well, I told you, that's a variable in mine depending upon what department --. Chairman Hair said, so you don't know the answer to that question. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't have --, but it's going to be less than 90 in the vacancies. In the vacancies. Yours calls for \$8.2 million in that total and mine calls for \$7.8 so I think it would be less than the figure that you had. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter has a questions.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's more of a statement. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is why I think we need to possibly change it up and vote each proposal and that away [sic] we can get to one that we can all work together to compromise on. Chairman Hair said, well, I'm --. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is not --, it's --, I admire you for your hard work, I really do, but it's clear it's not going to pass. I mean, you did a great job --. Commissioner Jackel said, well, it may pass at 11% or 12%. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, if we vote on it now, we won't --, then we won't waste everybody's time and then we can move through it and find one that we can all work on.

Chairman Hair said, and I am a little disappointed, Commissioner Jackel, that you're the only Commissioner that didn't do what we asked everybody else to do, which was to give all this in advance, give us time to sort it --. Commissioner Jackel said, well, wait, y'all have had --, you've had my budget for weeks now. Chairman Hair said, we have --, we have not had --, you're making modifications to it from the well. Commissioner Jackel said, well, all of them have had modifications and we talked about adding back CNT and all this stuff. That's what we were here for. Chairman Hair said, okay, I --. Commissioner Jackel said, that's not a fair criticism. You've had this thing for weeks. Uh --, I forget the first day it came out. Commissioner Odell said, I've had mine for weeks. Commissioner Jackel said, for weeks. Yes, everybody's had it for weeks. Chairman Hair asked, when you've had it for weeks why can't you tell me how many people are going to get laid off, Commissioner Jackel? You can't even tell me that. Commissioner Jackel said, I told you it's less than the open positions that you have and it will be up to the elected officials and the department officials to see where they could cut other ways or lay off people, and those are the people who ought to make the decision and not us and it ought not be done [inaudible] --. Chairman Hair said, I'm not asking who makes the decision, I'm asking the number. Commissioner Jackel said, I can't tell you that, I told you that. Chairman Hair said, well, if you've had it for weeks and you can't tell me, Commissioner Jackel --. Commissioner Jackel said, because it's a variable. Chairman Hair said, no, it's because we don't --, you don't want us sitting up here, we're voting, to say I'm voting on a position --, a budget that's fixing to lay off 112 people or 96 people or whatever. We need to know that when we vote. Commissioner Jackel said, well, just the figures ought to tell you when Mr. Rayno's is 9.3 and mine's 7.8 that it's going to have less than his and it's less than yours. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, in all fairness to Commissioner Jackel, we had his proposal. We didn't ask him the details of it and we should have, like we did for everybody else. That's what we did, we went back and we asked staff to do that. So in all fairness to him --.

Commissioner Odell said, and I don't think that we are limited here to Billy's [Hair] proposal or to Rayno's. Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Odell said, I mean, that's not the rules which I am playing by. If that's the rules that we have voted on, then you voted illegally and we need to do that. Chairman Hair said, the only rules that we --. Commissioner Odell said, I mean, that's not the rule in play. Chairman Hair said, I agree if you have five votes against raising taxes. If you've got a vote to raise taxes, you're absolutely correct, then everything's back on the table. Commissioner Odell said, well --. Chairman Hair said, but Commissioner Kicklighter is correct, Commissioner Kicklighter is correct that if there are five votes against a tax increase, then you are back to two. Okay? It's fair clear to me. Commissioner Odell said, no, but we might have more, and the reason I say that we might have more, we might have a combination of yours, a combination of Rayno's, a combination of Jackel's and a combination of Dr. Thomas', and those combined or taking elements from all of them, we're not precluded from doing that. Chairman Hair said, well, I agree and as soon as we see one of those, we'll talk about it, but I haven't seen one of those yet. Commissioner Odell said, I think --, look straight ahead of you and you'll see. It's just [inaudible].

Chairman Hair asked, are you finished or are you --. Commissioner Jackel said, I think Commissioner Rayno has a question. Commissioner Rayno said, well, no, I just --. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry. Chairman Hair asked, are you finished with your presentation? Commissioner Rivers said, he's waiting to get [inaudible]. Commissioner Rayno said, I just said I was agreeing with you that I --. Chairman Hair said, all right, he's ready --, we're ready for Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno, I'll recognize you for your proposal. Commissioner Rivers said, don't throw me no curves. Commissioner Odell said, Jeff [Rayno], before you start we just want you to know that this is a process where you come in a pig and come out a sausage. [Unintelligible comments when several persons were talking at the same time.] Commissioner Odell said, this is a tough crowd.

Commissioner Rayno said, anyway --. Commissioner Rivers asked, do you have handouts? Commissioner Rayno said, I can give those out later. Chairman Hair said, he's going to swap those for votes. Don't give too much information now. Commissioner Rayno said, that's right. Nothing's changed in my proposal. It's the same as what it was before. I would like to offer the fact that what I'm going to offer today is the starting point, and I think we can use some of the Chairman's ideas, not necessarily today when we pass this budget, but perhaps in the future and we take some of Dr. Thomas' ideas and perhaps some of Mr. Jackel's ideas in the future and use those. If we propose a budget today and pass it and just let the budget go and do nothing, chances are next time next year we will be back in the same situation again, but as a Republican, and a very conservative one, I would not stand here today and say that next year at this point in time I would

raise the millage rate because I'm not going to sit back and do nothing for a year and let the budget take its course and say everything's fine, we passed a budget, good thing we got that money off our back, I'm not going to do anything anymore. I think what we should do as a Commission that works together as a team and as a [inaudible] building body, should come up with a very strong action plan that we put on a fast track and we find ways to cut spending and save money and do the things that you've already talked about and agreed upon in the past, such as the merging of the Recreation Departments, the merging of the inspection services. Of course there will be cuts in certain departments because there will be certain layoffs. What a wonderful time to act as a catalyst to start these mergers. We don't have to worry about laying anybody off in the case of a merger. It's already happened and you can move into merging Recreation Departments. There's already been layoffs in Inspections. You can start talking about that merger very seriously and put it on a fast track to get that in the process. And also while we're doing that, we answer the promises to our constituents that we made that we're going to make a difference, and that's why we all became politicians to make a difference in this community and do it at the best possible service at the least amount of price, and the talks on consolidation between the City and the County are moving along too, and again this could be very advantageous for us to be in a situation where we've already got people that are not there and we can start to merge services and operations. And I think about the people that could be involved in such a process. I think that Dr. Thomas working with faith-based organizations and the youth authority to go and look for money federal-wise for grants-in-aid folks so that next year when that comes back up again and the grants-in-aid people are searching for money, you would have the opportunity to talk to Jack Kingston's office and all the staff there and say what funds would be available for these folks that we replace what we've done locally in the past. I think of the Chief and Martin [Jackel] working closely with Al St. Lawrence and the jails and looking at, say, why do we have deadbeat dads in jail when we cut put collars on their ankles and send them home and then if they get a cut a home, they can put a band-aid on it rather than going to the hospital and charging us thousands of dollars. We can look at the mentally disabled that are in the jail right now and say to the State, look, it's the work and the opportunity of Georgia Regional to take care of these people, not Sheriff Al St. Lawrence. We could look at other individuals, the substance abuse people that are in the jails right now and say why are they there, they should be in a treatment program. We know the problems we've had in this community where people said treatment programs are great, but we don't want them in our neighborhood. We would need to find some kind of a task force to find a place where we could have a substance abuse facility and get them out of the prisons. You take those three groups out of the prisons and you're going to see millions of dollars and anything that Al [St. Lawrence] feels like he's lost now will be realized again by taking that action. I think of Frank Murray working on the issue of surplus property, not only the Demere tract, but all the neighborhood parks and all that, plus your knowledge of the MPC and all the things there. You can see what properties could be sold, what we would do with that money, take that money and start a vehicle replacement program in the County. As soon as we start a vehicle replacement program, we reduce the maintenance cost on all those vehicles that are already hurting and falling apart right now. I would personally like to work with ICS to automate service delivery in the Tax Assessor's office and the Tax Commissioner's office where people have to go down and wait in line right now. Why couldn't they just go to a local library and get on the Internet and pay their bills or make inquiries or type in their own tag changes rather than having a bureaucrat sit there and type in the information as we repeat it through a window. We could do it ourselves and save time and increase productivity. And if Danny [Powers] has four less employees right now at this point, that would certainly make up for that in productivity. I think of Joe Murray Rivers identifying recurring revenue and expanding upon ways to make that recurring revenue happen. And I look at Billy Hair, looking at business growth, working very closely with SEDA and also, since you're a productivity expert, looking at all the departments, as you've already done with your budget process, and find ways to make them more productive. And I look at Dean Kicklighter for looking for alternative funding choices for drainage and also for possibly looking further into the possibility of forming that West Chatham narcotics team you're talking about because the greatest area of growth happens to be in West Chatham County, and as it grows out there and you get people, you're going to have more drug problems. And let's be serious about drugs. They're everywhere. There's people out in The Landings sniffing cocaine, and if we say they're not, we're just lying. Drugs are everywhere. It crosses all socioeconomic boundaries. So with that in mind, let's look at this budget as a starting point. Let's take all the controversial issues out of the budget. Let's take the issue such as the consolidation of the Police and the Sheriff's Departments and say this is a good argument. Billy [Hair] says we've gotten all the information we need. I don't think so. We've got textual arguments that say this and this. Pro and con. What I'd like to see is a spreadsheet analysis done by number crunches which says specifically if we consolidate, here's the numbers, here's the department, here's the line item where it's actually going to happen. No, we're not accountants, but we can understand numbers. Numbers mean far more than textual opinionated arguments, and if we do that, I'm going to tell you right now I'm open, up or down. Consolidate if the numbers look good, you know, let's do it. But if the numbers don't look good, I'm going to change my position and I'm going to say we'd better not do it, it just doesn't make sense. But where's the number crunching been? There's been no number crunching on the issue of consolidation. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner, I have to correct you there. We did submit -, there are numbers out there. We have identified the exact number of dollars, so I -, in all due respect, I must disagree with you on that issue. Commissioner Rayno said, but again that would be a snapshot and not a line by line analysis. Chairman Hair said, it was even by position. Commissioner Rayno said, by position, but not a line by -. Chairman Hair said, savings. Commissioner Rayno said, but not a line by line analysis and the effect on that process -. Chairman Hair said, I just wanted to make sure you -. Commissioner Rayno said, I think you and I can agree to disagree on that.

Commissioner Rivers asked, can I say something, Mr. Rayno? Commissioner Rayno said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, it just doesn't go to numbers in that situation, but there are a number of other things that impact people that I won't even go into. So it's not a matter of numbers, and it's a matter of -, we control the Police Department. We can move their numbers either way we want them. Yes, the voters have control over the Sheriff, but we don't have that control. And if the Sheriff does fire anybody and it comes up through the system, he has the last word -. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, and the only other thing -. Chairman Hair said, you didn't -. Commissioner Rivers said, hold up, hold on, hold on. Chairman Hair said, you didn't -, you really weren't recognized. I had Commissioner Odell ahead

of you. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, well then call me out of order. Chairman Hair said, I will do that. Commissioner Rivers said, and don't let me start speaking, but don't interrupt me by –.

Commissioner Rayno said, this is why we don't want to talk about it today because it brings up too many emotional arguments that need to be discussed at another time, and that's simply my point.

Commissioner Rivers said, point of order, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, continue, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, thank you. But I'm saying that it's more than just a matter of that, Jeff [Rayno], more than a matter of numbers. It's a matter of a whole lot of things and having control. Until we can really afford to have the constitutional elected officers just to volunteer and come under the merit system with a compromise that they would have the last word. See, in a merit system you don't allow them to have the last word if we're dealing with their department by right either one way or the other. They should have a chance to go into Superior Court if they don't get a favorable decision and the person should have the same right. So there's a lot of things that go a little further. That's why I said, see, I'm talking from experience and from working on things over the years. Had everybody [inaudible] at one point, we wouldn't even be here today.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Odell asked, Jeff [Rayno], you will accept questions? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. I'd like to really finish the whole presentation and –. Commissioner Odell said, I'll yield and finish and just let me know when I can ask you a question.

Chairman Hair said, go ahead. Continue. Let us know when you're through.

Commissioner Rayno said, on the issue of CNT again I think that should be a separate argument that we take outside of this budget debate and if we pass a balanced budget today and we come back on these arguments, we can assume that some of these things might pass and we'll have more money to put back into the budget. The CNT thing I think is something –, it deserves a lot of conversation and a lot of talk. And again, the same thing with the privatization of EMS. You've got the RFP's that went and have come back, and we need to have these people come up and talk to us and it could be, whether you're pro or con, you need to hear all those things before we make a decision, and it could be that we find out, you know, if 80% is already privatized, why not do the other 20% or it could be we find out that, you know, they've got some real legitimate concerns about whether or not the indigent population is going to be taken care of properly. But that deserves a full debate. Commissioner Odell said, that's not part of this. Chairman Hair said, no it's not. Commissioner Rayno said, no, it's not. It's what I'm saying is let's pass a budget and then start looking at these things in all the areas I've talked about, and I know that you know in your heart of hearts that there's ways that we can save money and come up with efficiency to make this happen. And again, if we do nothing, we will be in a situation like we are this year, but I think –, I have full confidence in each and every one now that I've come to know you. You know, I had a different opinion of you before I came into office and I was very critical of you publicly all the time. Commissioner Odell said, and we of you. Commissioner Rayno said, I know. Isn't that wonderful. Commissioner Murray said, that happens doesn't it. Commissioner Rayno said, it's amazing what a little [inaudible] will do for all of us. But now that I know you and I know what you're concerns and your passions are and your abilities, I have the full confidence that if you go for my budget today that I'm proposing, we can work together on a fast track and really make a difference in this County and not have to raise taxes, and I just know we can. And I'd like to dispel some rumors, and I'm going to use facts because the Chairman's very concerned that we use facts rather than opinion, and I've got numbers here, and I know you cannot see them, but I'll just highlight a few things. The amended portion on the far lefthand side of that comparison chart are the numbers that Russ [Abolt] gave us in the three-ring binder. That's not a Rayno number that's concocted. It's an amended budget number that Russ [Abolt] gave us. On the plateau budget on the far righthand side, that's another number that the staff gave us. That's what they hope to see after they get the 5% COLA increase in all those departments. So that's the number they're wishing for and the number on the far left is what they had last year. In Superior Court they had last year \$1.9 million. In the Rayno budget, after all the dramatic cuts that you hear about, they're going to get \$2.69 million. That's an increase. It's not a cut from what they had last year. If you look at the budget from last year for the court expenditures, they spent \$2.2 million. Rayno budget after all those dramatic cuts, they're going to get \$2.4 million this year. That's almost a \$200,000 increase. Clerk of Superior Court \$1.2 million last year. After all the dramatic Rayno cuts, they're going to get \$1.3 million this year. That's an increase. Magistrate Court \$924,000. They actually get a cut, \$912,000. Probate Court \$463,000. They actually get a cut, \$402,000. State Court Judges 693, they actually get a cut down to 650,000. Clerk of State Court \$744,000. Budget after all the dramatic Rayno cuts, they get an increase up to \$807,000. The DA \$3.2 million last year. After all the dramatic cuts they're going to get \$3.298 million. That's an increase of about \$40,000 over last year. Child Support gets an increase of over \$100,000 from last year after all the cuts. The Grand Jury gets an increase of \$6,000 after all the dramatic Rayno cuts. Victim Witness gets a decrease, Office of the Receiver gets a decrease and Juvenile Court gets a decrease. But after all the dramatic cuts, there's actually increases. Commissioner Jackel asked, where are the cuts then? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, exactly. The cuts are actually the cuts in the amount of increase, and that's the difference. Now, the Sheriff's budget is even more dramatic. Last year the numbers were roughly in the amended budget the Sheriff got \$4.659 million, and this budget after all the dramatic Rayno cuts he actually gets an increase up to 4.702, \$4,702,992, and then down to the Detention Center, a very dramatic increase for the Sheriff. He went from \$18,329,000 up to \$18,904,000. That's about a \$600,000 increase in the Sheriff's budget there. And then the maintenance of the jail went from \$323,605 up to 374. That's an increase of about \$50,000 after all the dramatic Rayno cuts. Now, Billy [Hair] says we're going to get a law suit from these people, and I don't know how he could go into a court of law and say last year I got this amount of money and those rotten evil Commissioners are giving me more money than I got last year so I should sue them. If I was a lawyer for the County, I would certainly say, Your Honor, actually, you know, most of the departments

only suffered a 6% decrease. The true cuts actually occurred in County government. I shouldn't have used my daughter's little [inaudible]. Anyhow, the true cuts are here. Commissioners take a 31% hit in our budget, and I think that's appropriate because leadership should start at the top. The County Attorney took a hit and dropped \$40,000, the County Clerk took a hit, \$3,000, Maintenance and Operations took a hit of about \$200,000, County Manager took a hit of \$30,000, Administrative Services took a hit of over \$100,000, Fleet Services takes a hit of about \$100,000, Human Resources took a hit of \$200,000, Pool for Temporary Help actually got an increase because I understand [inaudible] overtime, Finance took a hit of about \$80,000, Central Services got an increase because of my concern the fact that we need to maintain what we have. The Tax Assessor took a hit of about \$300,000, Tax Commissioner about \$200,000, Purchasing took a hit —, yes, it took a hit of about \$200,000, Internal Audit is about the same roughly, Voter Registration took an increase and Elections Board took a huge hit. Of course, you'll remember last year we bought all those voting machines, that's why that figure was higher that year. And then BOE took a hit. General government took a hit, not the constitutional officers, and I think if we worked together with the constitutional officers, we'd say to the Sheriff, look, let's look at your jail and get those problems out of the jail, let's quit ignoring that problem, Al [St. Lawrence] is going to, I hope, in his heart of hearts say I really don't think I should sue these people because they're going to work with me and they're going to reduce my costs and they're going to be helpful and we're going to cooperate together, and I think Danny [Powers], if we tell him that, you know, we're going to cooperate with you and with our ICS Department and we're going to try to get everything automated so your employees won't have to work as hard, then in his heart of hearts I don't think he'll necessarily feel he'll have to sue us to get what he needs. I want to look at one other thing. Right here, between Billy's [Hair] proposal and mine, when you look at all the court stuff where he says his proposal will not lead to a lawsuit but the Rayno one will, there's only really a \$72,000 difference between his cuts and my cuts over that whole section. Do you think really honestly that over \$72,000 the court's going to sue us over Billy's [Hair] plan as compared to mine? And then the only difference between the Hair plan and the Rayno plan is the Sheriff and the maintenance of the jail and Detention Center is a 3% difference. Do you really think there's that much of a difference that they're going to sue us over that, and we're offering the olive branch of working with them and helping them to save money. I really don't think so, and all these dramatic cuts we're talking about aren't really cuts. They're increases. And when we talk about the layoff of jobs, which is a really scary thing to put out in the public and it sounds good on the news, 85 of those positions are already vacant. We're not pushing 85 people out that door and saying don't come back, you're not working for us anymore. They're vacant positions. They're not there anymore. That's a fact. Another fact is the fact that through attrition that over the course of a year you could estimate we probably lose about 120 people. What's the remainder on our layoffs that we're talking about? 80? 120. We're going to lose 120 people anyhow through attrition. But let's look at these layoffs as temporary, and why do we say temporary? Because you as a Commission, us as a team working together, looking at all these issues of the consolidation of the Police and the Sheriff, CNT and the Chatham EMS, we can find money, and as we find that money we go back to the laid off employees and say, guess what? We've got some more money, come on back to work. And before you know it, they're coming back and they're not laid off anymore. They might be laid off for one month, they might be laid off for two months, they might be laid off for three months, but they're on unemployment during that period. They're not on the street with no money. They've got money in their pockets. They're going to be okay. It's not dramatic, it's not a cutoff, you're out on the street, see you later. We phase them back in. We've got the money in this budget to do this. As you can see, there's still 500 and something thousand dollars on the table at the end of the day, but we heard from the Chairman today that figure can be overcome. But I would again suggest strongly that we place an embargo against grants-in-aid and drainage and wait until six months down the road when the audit comes in and the audit will give us the true picture of where we are financially, and at that point in time we can say let's move forward on the drainage and let's move forward on the grants-in-aid and then do the business of the people. I think I've laid this out very clearly. I think it's a very responsible budget. I don't think it's as dramatic as people want to say that it is. I've shown you the figures. They're actually increases in some of these departments. These are the figures that Russ [Abolt] gave us. They're not decreases. Sure some people will be laid off, but I think they'll come back. All the budgets that were submitted assumed zero growth. All of the budgets submitted factored in roll backs in the BOE in case people appealed their taxes, but because of the Stephens-Day Bill, those numbers are going to be down this year. So I think there's going to be more revenue coming in than we know about because we won't be rolling back taxes the way we think we might be on particular properties, individual properties and we're going to have more money there down the road. That's my proposal, and I am willing to compromise. You know, if today you say, Rayno, I can't go for that, let's look at the CNT and throw that in the freezer, fine, let's do that. I'm willing to compromise. I'm not going to sit here and tell you, no, I'm drawing a line in the sand. We'd like to leave here today with a balanced budget. If we don't balance the budget, you know, it does affect all those departments that Billy [Hair] talked about, and when we don't have money in the bank we lose interest that we could be gaining. There's many, many reasons to pass a budget today and I know that we can do it. I trust that we can do it. We know that we don't want tax increases. This is the way to do it, this is the way to get the job done and this is the way to create catalysts, for once and for all it puts us together as a team to find a common solution to a common problem, and I'm asking you to do that today. If you pass my budget, that's what we're going to be doing conceptually. Okay, I'll take questions.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Odell said, Jeff [Rayno, thank you. I think your proposal is —, and I told you approximately three weeks ago when we met, I think you have some good things. One of the good things is that there's no consolidation of the Sheriff and the Police Departments, and I don't think there's a will to consolidate, that there's not the votes to consolidate. There's no tax increase. My concern was in looking at your numbers, were they numbers or were they —, did you analyze the impact of those numbers? Commissioner Rayno said, well, staff has crunched these numbers. Russ [Abolt], would you care to elaborate on that or have David [Persaud] do it? County Manager Abolt said, well, Commissioner Rayno and I have had some very candid discussions, as I have with many of you. The issue we've had with the way in which the numbers crunch are the percentage of hits in some departments, and I told Commissioner Rayno when you're at 20% or more there can

be some problems. You know, some departments are 30% or more, so that's the service issue and I think in a hurried time, and Commissioner Rayno has been very open to this, but we have some departments that weren't mentioned on there like Human Resources, really the Recreation was mentioned and there's a substantial hit there, and there's a shift and there will be some service ramifications, no doubt about it. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Jeff [Rayno], the only thing I'd like to add is that my concern about how we do budgeting is that we take the amount of money that we're told that we would have and then we force it into all of the departments, which is a very logical way of doing it. I think that we should look, and I'd like to see fellow Commissioners join in, we should look at the things that by Constitution we're obligated to do. We're going to have courts, and whether we like it or not we're going to have courts. You're going to have jails, and there are other services that we're going to have, and we care enough at the beginning of the year to make a determination of what things we want to have. What I'd like to see us do is to look at the mandatory services, the optional service like there's some concerns that we should not be operating a golf course and what that costs us. There's some concern that we should not still own a race track. We need to look at we, as a Commission, this new Commission, need to look at what services we're going to operate, at what level, because neither your proposal nor Billy's [Hair] proposal speaks to the issue of level of services. Commissioner Rayno said, I agree with that wholeheartedly. Commissioner Odell said, and perhaps next year we could look at what —, services to be offered, level of service and a cost. Now, if we do that and you participate in that process, will you keep an open mind as to our applying whatever millage rate it might be to fund that program which we have jointly walked through and determined these are the things we want to do and this is the service of it? Will you keep an open mind to that? Commissioner Rayno said, I would keep an open mind to the fact that we're going to work together, but if it came down to the fact that —, once we got to the point that we knew what the service level was and we all agreed upon that, I would rather than suggest a millage increase, would suggest the following. That we start working with our legislative delegation on the State level and then also on the Federal level to identify grants that are available and get the money from there, and I think that those funds are available. I don't think that we utilize grants enough. We do a good job of it, but I think we could do better, and we could be at a phenomenal level with State and Federal grants. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Rayno, I was wondering when you were going through your cuts and before I get going I want to commend you on your hard work, when you finally got to the Tax Commissioner, you mentioned a \$300,000 reduction, I saw him about go through the roof back there, so would you be opposed to possibly adding back in the \$300,000 and putting —, which would put your adjusted deficit at \$860,000, which the Chairman already said we could overcome. Commissioner Rayno said, where would the 300 —, oh, yes, that's right, you did say that, didn't you? Yes, I don't think that would be a problem. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and that away [sic] it would put it back at a level where we possibly could keep the lawsuit because just by judging reactions, I could tell he wasn't happy with it. Commissioner Rayno asked, well, did his face turn his normal red when he's mad? Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, no, he just popped out of his chair.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, it turned redder. I've got a question. You mentioned it was 200 and something in your —, there, Jeff [Rayno], but the information I've got shows 431,000. I'm kind of perplexed at the numbers. I mean, we get these from Mr. Abolt and then we get up here with you. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, it is that amount. It's reduced from the plateau budget. Chairman Hair said, that is the real cut, Commissioner Powers. Tax Commissioner Powers said, yes, 400 and something —. Chairman Hair said, yes, that is the real cut. Tax Commissioner Powers said, we would be in court. Chairman Hair said, yes, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, and you'd win. Chairman Hair said, no question. Easily. Commissioner Rayno said, but if you got —, but Danny [Powers], if you got the 300,000 back —, Danny [Powers], if you got the 300,000 back, would you be happy? Chairman Hair said, you know, Commissioner Rayno, what you're suggesting is —. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm offering a compromise, Billy [Hair], but you're not willing to do that it. Chairman Hair said, no, I'm willing to give you another compromise then. Why don't we restore the 447,000 to the Sheriff's Department. That's going to keep us out of court too. I mean, we're going to have to restore —. Commissioner Rayno said, no, you weren't here when I told you the Sheriff's actually getting an increase, where's Danny [Powers] is actually getting a decrease. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, I'm not getting an increase. Chairman Hair said, you see, this is the problem in trying to do this. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I got my figures from Russ [Abolt], and they've got me cut in the Detention Center by \$992,000 in your proposal —. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I can't live with that. I'm just —, I don't know where these figures are getting —, and I'm willing to try to work with anybody, but I can't take a \$992,000 cut. Commissioner Rayno said, it comes off the increase. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, but you're working from the plateau budget. The plateau budget is the budget that the Manager and the Finance staff cut my budget to, which there wasn't no frills there then, and then I'm going to take another \$992,000 —. Listen —. Chairman Hair said, there's no way. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, if you can figure out a way this morning to take 300 prisoners off my hands, I'll try to work with you any way I can. Commissioner Rayno said, that's what we were talking about. Commissioner Rivers said, don't panic, Sheriff. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'm not —, no, I'm not going to panic. I hear Jeff [Rayno] in all honesty telling —, saying one figure, and that's not what I have here from the Manager's office. Chairman Hair said, and also —, this also, Sheriff, clearly points out what I said in my opening statement. If this budget passes, it cuts into departments so severely, we're going to get writs of mandamus from every constitutional officer. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I really don't know because I'm confused on the numbers now. Commissioner Rayno said, and the cuts are from off of the plateau budget. Chairman Hair said, they're still cuts on there. Commissioner Rayno said, but then they represent an increase from what they got last year.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I still have the floor, Mr. Chairman —. Chairman Hair said, you've got the floor. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is what we need is open discussions. Now, taking this —, looking at what you proposed so far, we've seen —, we've got a good idea that we'll get some lawsuits. All right, now, would we have up here enough people —, we've already talked about —, we know the Sheriff's consolidation is out. Would we have enough to agree to

reduce the amount of CNT officers down to Chatham County funding one per municipality, take that money in excess, restore with the all the money that could be saved there to our constitutional officers to avoid the law suit to come into some type of balance there? Commissioner Murray said, we do that and some municipalities won't have any officers. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we would fund those officers. Chairman Hair said, and not only that -. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's currently participating one per municipality. Chairman Hair said, not only that, Commissioner Kicklighter, you've got a more serious problem, which is the one I addressed at the outset. The more serious problem is the large number of people to be laid off -, not necessarily in the constitutional departments, and the reduction in services that comes from this budget. That's the real problem. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and the real problem's obvious. That is a problem. Chairman Hair said, that's a serious problem.. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but the real problem sitting here -, as we sit here today, other than that obvious terrible problem we're facing is we say we've got five people -, this is what's been said -, we've got five people that's not going to raise taxes, but we've got to cut something. That's obvious, and what I've seen here is I see -, that's why some type of motion needs to be taken right off the bat because I see right now you and you and at least [inaudible] with no flexibility toward abandoning the idea of the consolidation issue, and if that's the case, we can sit here for 10 week straight and we're not going to pass a budget because we -, I mean, that's why we need to take the vote on that and then come to the conclusion -, and if we can't support either yours or Mr. Rayno's, then I suggest someone of you that said you'll vote for taxes next year may as well do it now. I'm not going to do it and I don't think Mr. Rayno is, and I don't think Mr. Gellatly is, and I don't support it, but I will bend to run in to support one of these two proposals, but somebody out of you two or actually out of Commissioner Murray down there is going to have to show the direction that it has to go to get there to the five votes to approve a budget.

Commissioner Murray asked, can I comment on that? Commissioner Kicklighter said, please. Commissioner Murray said, you know, over the last several months there have been a lot of people that think they know more about how I feel about things and how I'm going to vote than I do, so don't assume that I'm going to do something, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I don't have a clue. That's why I'm asking -. Commissioner Murray said, well, just don't assume it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, asking for your opinion. I don't assume anything in politics.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, the only thing I want to put in is that, you know, you start assuming, you get into trouble, and I don't think this is a matter of what political party persuasion or what. We should never ever do that. Heretofore when it was just the opposite, I never -, I cannot remember us doing that. We looked at the needs, the services, the concerns, and that's the way we have been voting, but now all of a sudden I can hear nothing about we've got, you know, the five votes in one direction or another. I don't think that's the way we should go. As a matter of fact, I know that's not the way we should go. We should be settling our minds as to what is before us and what we really need to be doing. Whatever compromise that we need to make, we need to look at it positively and try to compromise and do that. We've had some excellent proposals on all sides, and there are some things in each of these proposals that each one of us may not like for whatever reasons, and I think what we need to do is settle down and perhaps decide what we're not going to actually vote on and look at what we will vote on, and then move from there, but I would like to reemphasize what Commissioner Odell has said because I've been saying that for a long time too, for the past five or six years. Maybe longer than that. That we need to look at the mandatory services, the optional services and at what level that we're going to deal with that, and if we're up front with our citizens and let them know that here we are, these are the concerns, these are the problems that we're having, this is what we need to do, this is how we need to get where we need to go, and I think that they're intelligent enough to kind of work with us and help us to get where we need to go.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, can I clarify -. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then myself. Commissioner Murray said, let him go ahead. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to clarify one thing. I never mentioned party during my -, my spiel there. I mentioned five people said they weren't going to raise taxes. I also mentioned that five people said they're not going to consolidate, and I believe that crossed those party lines that was just referred to. I'm not referring to parties, I'm referring to opinions and whether or not people are going to vote for a tax increase, which does not involve a party because I don't care what party they're in, just we need to solve this budget problem today.

Chairman Hair said, I do think -. After Commissioner Rayno's completed -, are you completed? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. I was just [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, I really don't have a question. I think all the questions have been asked -. Commissioner Murray said, I've got some, but I just wanted to let him go ahead. Chairman Hair said, I think as soon as Commissioner Murray completes his comments, I do think -, I agree with Commissioner Kicklighter, I think it's time for us to eliminate some budget proposals, and I would entertain a motion to approve or deny certain ones after Commissioner Murray has had his -, time to say whatever he wants to say.

Commissioner Murray said, Commissioner Rayno, we discussed and talked on the phone some of the line items, one being the grant-in-aid and possibly cutting that on a 50% basis this year. There's a couple of other areas that we discussed, and just so I have it clear right now, are we just talking about M&O budget, are we going to vote on these separate, and how are we going to come up with each one? Commissioner Rayno said, this is just M&O right now. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, SSD -. Commissioner Murray said, but what I'm saying though is part of the grants-in-aid does come out of SSD. Chairman Hair said, the way -, the law specifies how we have to vote on this. Commissioner Murray said, well, I know we have to vote on them separate. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's my point. So the law's very clear. We have to -, we're going to have to take three votes. Commissioner Murray said, but this figure that's in here right now -, okay. I understand that part. The -. Never mind. Just go ahead. We're okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you, Commissioner Rayno. If there are no other questions –. Commissioner Rayno said, I appreciate that. Chairman Hair said, then I do think it's time to begin to eliminate or either approve if the five votes are there certain proposals. So if any Commissioner wants to make a motion on any proposal, we'll go ahead and get a second and take a vote on it. Commissioner Rayno, do you want to take a vote on your budget? Do you want to make a motion to approve your budget? Commissioner Odell said, I think we start with you. Chairman Hair said, that's fine, we can start with me. I can't make a motion. Commissioner Odell said, okay, who –.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I make a motion that we accept the Chairman's proposal. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second for the Chairman's budget. All those in favor –.

Mr. Ken Earls said, excuse me. Whoa. Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Earls said, we going to have discussion. Chairman Hair asked, what do you want to discuss? Mr. Earls said, consolidation for one thing. My name is Ken Earls. First of all, I wish we had access to a computer. We could use the Internet because I think we need to look at dictionary.com to find out what the definition of a compromise is. I think I've been out of school too long, I guess I forgot what it was, but consolidation of the Sheriff's Department. We've been talking about fact and opinion. Sheriff St. Lawrence was elected last year to be sheriff. That's a fact. I'd be willing to say 99.9% of the people who voted for him, which I did. I voted for him every year, so this is nothing political there. 99.9% of the people who voted for him did not vote for him to run the Police Department, and I don't know if it has been asked, is it legal for you as an elected body to hand the authority that you have over to another elected official who was not elected for that purpose? Commissioner Jackel said, I've asked that question. Mr. Earls asked, and? Chairman Hair said, the answer's yes. Commissioner Jackel said, and I think it's no. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Earls, let me address that. Mr. Earls said, please. Chairman Hair said, I'd be glad to address that. Mr. Earls said, good. Chairman Hair said, there are only 11 out of 159 counties that have this dual –. Mr. Earls said, I've heard that before. Chairman Hair said, well, that's the truth. I mean –. Mr. Earls said, okay. I know that's the truth. Chairman Hair said, okay, I just –. Mr. Earls said, but the question was is it legal for you to give power over to another elected official? Is it legal to do to give an individual the power which he was not elected to perform? Commissioner Odell said, Ken [Earls], not only is –, I agree with Martin [Jackel], I don't think it's legal, but beyond any legal, what we have is the Police Department by ordinance reports to the Manager –. Mr. Earls said, right. Commissioner Odell said, what we are seeking to do by this vote is to correct an ordinance without going through our standard process of publishing the ordinance and first reading and second reading, yada, yada, yada [phonetic]. So beyond that, I agree with Martin [Jackel] that it's –. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Hart. I'll ask the Attorney. Mr. Hart, would you answer Mr. Earls' question. County Attorney Hart said, yes. We've done an opinion on the process that would have to be followed insofar as if this Commission were to vote to consolidate the Sheriff's office. The conclusion was that legally you could do it. Commissioner Odell raises a good point that you'd have to go back into the ordinance and, as part of that, amend your ordinance to delete the department that you created in the Police Chief's Department. Chairman Hair said, but it's perfectly legal. It's just a process. County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. It would be a –. Chairman Hair asked, that answer your question? Mr. Earls asked, so that can be done with any department, you can give power over to anybody for anything? Commissioner Murray said, we've got two attorneys saying no and our County Attorney saying yes. Mr. Earls said, well, that's attorneys for you, but anyway we've had several different numbers on how much money will be saved. When this was first brought up and attempted to be pushed through back in March or April, the number was \$700,000 would be saved. On July 13th the Chairman amended his budget to like it would have been \$1.38 million would be saved, and I think according to the paper, which if it was wrong I'm sure you'll correct me –. Chairman Hair said, it was wrong. Mr. Earls said, no, I'm not wrong. Chairman Hair said, I said it was wrong. Mr. Earls said, it was just –, well, how much are you saying now? Chairman Hair said, \$1,076,900 –. Mr. Earls said, that's what the paper said. Chairman Hair said, you said \$1.3. Mr. Earls said, no, in July 13th at the budget hearing you amended your budget to say \$1.38 million. So now you're down to \$1,076,000, and as far as I know, the Commissioners may have gotten line by line figures, but I don't think anything's been released to the public again. I might be wrong, but –. Now, the County Police Department is paid for through SSD. The Sheriff is through M&O I do believe. During previous discussions the Chairman has discussed putting Sheriff's officers on the street to patrol. So does that mean the SSD budget would increase and M&O would go down? Commissioner Odell said, no. Under the Chairman's proposal, we're going to charge an administrative fee against SSD to shore M&O. That's \$650,000? Chairman Hair said, and they also already have the power to stop –, they do traffic stops every day so –. Mr. Earls said, well, you weren't talking about traffic stops, you were just talking about patrols period. Chairman Hair said, they do it right now. Mr. Earls asked, all over? Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Mr. Earls said, okay, that's fine. Still, this has –, also it's been said that the public will have more authority over the Sheriff, over police patrol if this –, if the Sheriff is in charge. First of all, I believe it's a joke. This is nothing against Sheriff St. Lawrence, this could be his successors, whatever. It's a joke to say what the Commission giveth, the Commission can taketh away. I can just see what a –, the Sheriff, whoever he or she might be in the future, you try to take back control of the Police Department, take away the power, take away the money. Yeah, right. I'd love to see that battle. Chairman Hair said, well, you know, it would be just as hard as taking it away from the Police Department right now. Mr. Earls said, you wouldn't end up in court. Commissioner Odell said, that's right. Our Police Department can't take us to court. Mr. Earls said, exactly. Commissioner Odell said, our Sheriff can. Mr. Earls said, exactly. Commissioner Odell said, so we would win –. Mr. Earls said, or you'd lose. Commissioner Odell said, yes. Mr. Earls said, you could come out both ways. Finally, overall I might not have any trouble with this consolidation; however, if this was a good plan, March –, a couple of months after the election, why wasn't it a good plan the same time last year when you could have let the people vote, put the real decision in the hands of the people, let the citizens vote: do you want a consolidated Police and Sheriff's Departments, and then we could have had a real election to see who would have headed that department. I'm glad I'm not in your shoes now with this whole budget process. I didn't put you there. You put yourselves there, so you're going to have to get yourselves out and you're going to have to take the criticism that may come from the public whether it's founded or not, and anyone who gets up here should not be harangued by Commissioners because they're expressing their opinions, and you do know what they say about opinions: everyone has one. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Earls. Mr. Earls said, good luck. You'll need it.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the vote [sic] vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Rayno said, I thought we were voting on yours. Chairman Hair said, we are voting on mine. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of my budget vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Okay, I'll entertain a motion on anybody else's budget.

Commissioner Jackel said, I move to –, the approval of my budget and move that 10% figure to whatever figure it takes to –, so there would be no tax increase. Commissioner Murray said, no, no. We have to know what that figure is. Chairman Hair said, you can't just –. County Manager Abolt said, I think it's 13.5%. Commissioner Jackel said, 13.5%. Chairman Hair said, 13 –, cut the budget 13.5% with no tax increase. I have a motion. Do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Gellatly asked, with no tax increase? Commissioner Jackel said, no tax increase. Chairman Hair said, but it cuts the budget 13.5%. Commissioner Jackel said, from what it was last year with the other cuts in there. The same proposal that I've given except the 10% would be changed to –. Chairman Hair said, all he's done is take the tax increase out and dump –, and put it back on the departments. It takes more out of the departments. That's all he's done. All right, is that a –. Commissioner Murray said, I will second it for purposes of discussion. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, we're getting ready to go through a process of four or five different proposals that are sitting here, and I think he's made a change to his. I really kind of question that 13-point whatever it was you said figure, of course I don't have a calculator, but if we keep going through this process, we're going to be sitting here with no budgets again. Chairman Hair said, we don't know that yet. Let's go through it. Commissioner Murray said, no, we don't, but I –, I would like to see more of a compromise on some of these other budgets along with that. Chairman Hair said, I think if all of them fail, Chairman Hair, I think that's the time. I mean, let's make sure that all of them don't pass. If any of them –, if none of them have five votes I think you're absolutely correct, but let's –, I think it's fair to the people proposing the budget –. Commissioner Murray said, you don't like about Martin's [Jackel] budget is the fact that he allows the department heads on whether they lay people off or who they lay off and that type thing instead of us dictating who's going to be out. I'll vote for it.

Chairman Hair said, all right, motion and second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Okay, Commissioner Rayno, would you like to make a motion on yours?

Commissioner Rayno said, as I proposed my budget this morning, I offered it as a starting point. I didn't offer it as a final destination, and I think if we take a vote on it now and it fails, then we're back to square one, but I think it could be a starting point because I've been the only one that's willing to compromise, and I'm willing to sit here and bargain so that we can come up with a final product. There's no point in voting on it and say no because of something you don't like in it. Then we're back to square one. Then we're going to be staring at each other and go where do we go from here? Let's just take it as a starting point right now –. Chairman Hair asked, so you don't want to take a vote. Commissioner Rayno said, I want a straw vote from people saying I'm ready to support it and then we'll move forward, but to cut it down right now and –.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I've got a recommendation for the budget. Chairman Hair said, let me explain something. Just because it was voted down does not mean that you still can't modify it and bring it back. Just because it's voted on is not –, in any way that we can't use it as a starting point, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, I want to solve the problem today. Chairman Hair said, well, but I think we need to see if we've got five votes. You may have five votes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to –, I'll make a motion to approve Mr. Rayno's budget with a change to the adjusted deficit, adding 500 more thousand dollars to that adjusted deficit, splitting \$250,000 between the Tax Commissioner and the Sheriff, adding back into their budget. That adjusted deficit would still be less than the Chairman's adjusted deficit, which he stated earlier we can overcome. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to the motion? Commissioner Rayno said, before –, can we overcome that, Russ [Abolt]? Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? County Manager Abolt said, it'll be a challenge. It certainly will. It will give us [inaudible]. What I'm concerned, and again I know Commissioner Rayno's been very open and I appreciate your –, wrong choice of words –, your understanding that complies with constitutional officers. I would be remiss though in allowing the discussion to pursue without the opportunity at least to summarize what you see in the packet as far as support. I think Commissioner Rayno's –, I'm lucky certainly that the gentleman on my right and the two gentlemen on my left as far as that. We are taking some very serious hits in our ability just to sustain the organization. Chairman Hair said, and I think that's a very good point, Russ [Abolt]. I mean, that budget in the County Attorney's office we're going to have lay off the Assistant County Attorney. I mean, we don't realize that, you know, we're sitting up here and taking these votes, we don't realize what the impact is going to do to the County's employees. We're talking serious, serious cuts here. Commissioner Thomas said, that's right. Chairman Hair said, you know, and that's why, you know, I just think we need to realize that when we push this button up here. It's not just making a light light up. You know, we're affecting people's lives, we're affecting services to the community. Commissioner Rayno said, but I'd still like further discussion before you take a vote.

Chairman Hair said, well, let's get –, we've got a motion on the floor. Do I have a second to Commissioner Kicklighter's motion? All right, it dies for lack of a second. Okay, Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I want –, I want to know what it's going to take for us to get a straw vote support for this before we go into the vote. Let's work on this today and get it done rather than say –.

Chairman Hair asked, all right, how many can support Commissioner Rayno's budget? Commissioner Murray said, this isn't a very good budget. Now you didn't get a second because there were several things added in there and I think there needs to be more of a discussion on that budget before we make a motion to approve it. Now if we'd made a second, then there probably would have been 10 or 15 different amendments to it. Chairman Hair asked, would you like to make an amendment? Commissioner Murray said, no, I'd just like some discussion on it though. I think that --. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm ready to make another motion. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Jackel's ready to make a motion.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, I'm going to go with my original budget proposal, which calls for a 10% cut across the board, other cuts and leaves a deficit of \$2.6 million, which would require a millage increase of .44. Chairman Hair said, okay. Do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Commissioner Murray, I'll recognize you for discussion on Commissioner Rayno's budget.

Commissioner Murray said, I didn't have my hand up. Chairman Hair said, well, you said we needed discussion. Commissioner Murray said, there's no motion made. All right, let's go down the list then if we want to go through this process like this, okay. Jeff [Rayno], would you consider on grants-in-aid 50% reduction? Commissioner Rayno asked, and where would we put the extra money into? Commissioner Murray asked, where would we put that money? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, we would move that money into the SSD put the \$65,000 in for the MPC that we discussed doing. Commissioner Rayno said, in the SSD budget I've got a separate proposal which shows there's tons of money in object code cuts that you could make to cover all that stuff and we wouldn't have to do that. Commissioner Murray said, the \$607,325 you've got in increased overhead, would you be willing to --, excuse me. No, but that's a reduction because it would be paid out of SSD. Are you willing to change that figure to, say, a 60/40 split because we have a policy in place already that says that it will not be any greater than 50%, and I think the only reason that you pulled that figure over is because you were trying to put as many things as you could on there that were in the Chairman's budget. Is that correct? To have some type of compromise with that. Commissioner Rayno said, uh huh. Commissioner Murray said, I could probably support that with a 60/40 split rather than a 50/50 that we already in place to handle. Commissioner Rayno said, and so then it would be made up and then adjusted deficit would be --. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but I don't believe that we're going to sit there and come out with a bottom line of adjusted deficit of over a million dollars and then be able to cover that during the year. We certainly didn't do it this past year. Commissioner Rayno said, we have to. County Manager Abolt said, a challenge in general when you get beyond the --, just a figure, let's say a half a million, that's purely arbitrary, but realize some of these changes, for example, if you proceed in health insurance, are not going to be implemented for a full year, so there are certain things that obviously we don't have the benefit of because we're not starting at the first month of 12 months, we're starting at the ninth month. Commissioner Murray said, six months.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody have any offers? Any changes to Commissioner Rayno's budget? Commissioner Rayno said, Dr. Thomas --. Commissioner Murray said, I made some recommendations. I didn't get an answer. Commissioner Rayno said, I said fine. Commissioner Murray said, oh, okay. Okay.

Commissioner Rayno asked, Dr. Thomas, what would it take for you to approve a budget as a starting point? Commissioner Thomas said, I'm really, Commissioner Rayno, trying to see where I would best like to make a change. Just give me a minute. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. And, Dr. Hair? Chairman Hair said, yes sir? Commissioner Rayno said, your thing with the consolidation of the Police Department, I agree with that, but I definitely think that we should debate that and long term, and if you passionately believe that this is the right thing to do, which I know you do, I think that you could use your persuasiveness in that future debate to make it happen, and it's going to free up that much more money in the budget and that's why I --. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno, that's not really my problem with your budget. My problem, as I told you two nights ago, my problem with your budget is that it lays off 200 people, reducing the services to the people of this County. That's my problem with your budget. It has nothing to do with consolidation. I just can't sit here --, I've got to sleep with me tonight, and I can't sit here and vote for a budget that's going to lay off hundreds --, I don't care if it's 30 County employees, especially when you have an option that doesn't do that. But because that option has something that people personally oppose --, we can sit here. We don't have to lay off anybody. When we walk out of this room today whatever vote we make, if we lay off County employees, we don't have to lay off anybody. We have a proposal on the table that laid off no one. Chairman Hair asked, does Dr. Hair's proposal lay off no one, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, the only operating position, we disagree on vacant positions. Chairman Hair said, yes, just vacant positions. County Manager Abolt said, and that would mean that we would have to find the \$1,090,000. Commissioner Rayno said, so that would be the 85 people. So there's 120 that are actually getting pushed out the door, but as I proposed --. Chairman Hair said, no. What you're failing to realize is that --, is that you have constant attrition, okay, and --. Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Hair. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Rayno said, my problem is I tried to explain everything when I got into the well, but you left as I stayed through your whole proposal and I explained a lot of things. Chairman Hair said, actually I was helping one of your constituents in your district who was very upset, so --. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, okay. I've got a couple of those, but --, but, Mr. Hair, as I stated, we can start to resupply those positions as we work together as a team and we work towards the merging of Inspections and Recreation and we work together towards talking about the issues of privatization of EMS and the Sheriff's and Police Departments and we can come up with this money and start putting people back in the system. When they are laid off, it doesn't mean they leave the door with no money in their pocket. They have unemployment coming to them at their homes and I'm sure that we can work together as a team and get them back on board within a few months if we fast track these things. Chairman Hair said,

then if you do that, then you haven't saved any money because if you save money for six months, you put them back on board. You haven't saved any money. Commissioner Rayno said, no. Chairman Hair said, if you're going to hire them all back. I mean, I'm not -, I'm not your fifth vote anyway. Commissioner Rayno said, but you said we have attrition of 120 a year at least. You said -. Chairman Hair said, a lot more than that. Commissioner Rayno asked, it's a lot more than that? Chairman Hair said, we have some departments that have 40% attrition. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, we've cut the attrition substantially. Commissioner Rayno said, so using that argument then, we would lose these people anyhow, Dr. Hair. Chairman Hair said, it's the number of positions that are cut, not whether they're vacant or attrition. It's the number of positions. Your budget cuts County services dramatically. That's my problem. Commissioner Rayno said, and I'm saying if we work together we could put them back on board in a short period of time. Chairman Hair said, well, I'm not your fifth vote though, Commissioner Rayno. You need to be talking to all the Commissioners, not just me because I'm not your fifth vote. Commissioner Rayno said, well, I -. Chairman Hair said, you didn't have anything close to five votes. Commissioner Rayno said, well, you talked about the spirit of compromise and I'm trying to figure out where your compromise is. Chairman Hair said, I think I said it from the well. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, that you'll raise taxes. I think that's very Republican of you. Chairman Hair said, yes, next year. Before I lay people off. This year I don't have to raise taxes because there's an option of not doing that and not laying people off. I have an option. Commissioner Rayno said, you'd rather put the pressure back on the taxpayer then rather than try to figure out -. Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Rayno said, and work and find out a solution, which is what we were elected to do. Chairman Hair said, quite the opposite. There's only two proposals on the table that don't raise taxes, that's mine and yours. Okay, everybody else's raises taxes. My proposal doesn't raise taxes.

Commissioner Jackel said, we've got another proposal coming here. Chairman Hair said, okay. Good. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, what we want to -. Chairman Hair said, all right, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. I want to say we need -. Okay, my original proposal was 10% across the board. I think everybody understands that. We now feel that we can raise that to 11% -. Commissioner Murray said, 11.5. Commissioner Jackel said, 11.5% and that will leave a deficit of what the Chairman's is is about million dollars, which we feel that we can cover. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, so 11.5% reduction in all departments? Commissioner Jackel said, in all departments, elected and non-elected, 11.5 across the board and with the other cuts, the golf course and Mosquito, all that kind of stuff, and no tax increase. Chairman Hair asked, are you making that in the form of a motion? Commissioner Jackel said, that's in the form of a -. Chairman Hair asked, have we got a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, I want to make sure everybody understands what we're talking about. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to ask a question on that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, does that reduce, like, certain projects and all? Every -, everything, like, say, drainage projects. Is that 11% cuts and all that. Commissioner Jackel said, well, drainage was on there, it would be 11% too -, 11.5%.

Chairman Hair said, all right we have a motion and a second on the floor. Commissioner Jackel said, 11.5. County Manager Abolt said, clarification. This is on your proposal? Commissioner Jackel said, my proposal. Chairman Hair said, at 11½%, no taxes. Commissioner Jackel said, we're changing the figures. It was 10 to 11.5 and will leave a deficit of a million dollars, which we believe -. Chairman Hair said, it's basically your proposal except yours was 16% across the board, his is 11½. County Manager Abolt said, I understand. Chairman Hair said, all right, motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. The Clerk asked, who made the second on that? Commissioner Murray said, I did. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray made the second. Commissioner Jackel said, we need -, I need you and Priscilla [Thomas] now. Priscilla [Thomas], do you want to reconsider your vote along with Joe [Rivers] and we've got this thing wrapped up? Commissioner Rivers said, we'll come back and reconsider it, that's why I put it up there. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, if there were lawsuits in my budget, there's definitely going to be lawsuits in that one.

Chairman Hair asked, can I offer again -, I can't make a motion. I can't make a motion, but let me suggest to -. Commissioner Rivers said, give it to somebody else, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, well, I'm going to suggest a modification in mine, that we pass it but we put a stipulation in it that we revisit consolidation and CNT cuts next year, that we make it a one-year thing. Commissioner Rayno asked, why next year? Chairman Hair said, because that gives us a right to reverse the decision if doesn't work. Now all those people say it's not going to work, so let's try it for a year and see if it works. If it doesn't work, then we can reverse it. Commissioner Rayno asked, why don't we start talking about these things immediately. Chairman Hair said, you asked me about compromise, that's a compromise. Commissioner Odell asked, why don't you do an administrative contract between the Sheriff's Department and -, rather than transferring it? Chairman Hair said, that's what I'm suggesting that we do. Do a contract with the Sheriff's Department -, listen careful. This is -, listen carefully, Commissioner Jackel and Commissioner Thomas. What I'm proposing is to modify my proposal. The budget numbers would stay the same, but instead of consolidating the Sheriff's Department and County Police, we would do an administrative contract where the Sheriff's Department would contract to operate the Police Department for one year, and then at the end of the year we could either renew the contract or not renew the contract. Okay? And then everything else would stay the same in the proposal. So if somebody would like to make that motion. I can't make a motion. It would be -, it would be an administrative contract as opposed to a -. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it could be canceled too. Chairman Hair said, exactly, and we could always not renew the contract at the end of the year. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, with a contract you could cancel -, you could cancel at any time, right, on a contract. Chairman Hair said, well, no, you'd probably need to try it for a year. I wouldn't think -, you couldn't have -, you wouldn't

want to put in there. It would be for 12 months. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Chairman Hair asked, anybody want to make that motion?

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Mr. Earls said, no. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Earls, I'll recognize you, sir. You don't need to yell. I've always recognized you. Mr. Earls said, well, when you're rushing things, yes you do. Where's the Chief going to be during this time? Chairman Hair said, it would be an administrative contract -. Mr. Earls said, uh huh. Chairman Hair said, and the contract would specify that. Mr. Earls said, well, nothing has been set. We're just -. Chairman Hair said, you can't the contract in this meeting, Mr. Earls. Mr. Earls said, you can speak of at least basics of the contract. Chairman Hair said, well, I think we've done that. Mr. Earls said, no, you didn't, so -. Chairman Hair said, okay, it's failed anyway. Mr. Earls asked, and what about -. Chairman Hair said, the motion's failed, Mr. Earls. You can sit back down. Chairman Hair said, oh, thanks for your permission. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, all right, anybody else got a -? Commissioner Rivers, you want to try something? You're the only one sitting over there quietly. Have you got a motion? Commissioner Odell said, let's try the Executive Session. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, we need to pass something. Commissioner Rivers said, I don't have five votes to do what I want. Chairman Hair said, well, neither do I. Commissioner Odell said, let's pass the Executive Session. Chairman Hair said, no, we don't need to go to Executive Session. We need to stay out here and put pressure on ourselves.

Chairman Hair declared a five minute recess at 12:07 p.m., and the meeting was reconvened at 12:12 p.m.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Murray, do you have any other alternatives you want passed or present or -? Do you want to make any modifications to anybody's budget. Commissioner Murray said, I didn't realize I had any. Chairman Hair said, well, you said awhile ago about -. Commissioner Murray asked, did I ask for the floor? Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Murray said, I didn't think so. Chairman Hair said, I'm just asking you anybody. Commissioner Rayno, are you -. Commissioner Rayno said, I'll be there in a second. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, Mr. Chairman, before the break I was going to ask a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Tax Commissioner Powers said, we're laboring back and forth here this morning. Do we -, do we actually know how the County ended up with last year's budget? We heard it started out at a \$8,000 -, a \$8 million deficit, it went to three, it went to whatever. My question is -. Chairman Hair asked, you mean as of June 30th? Tax Commissioner Powers said, yes. Is there an actual deficit for that and if it's not, if there's some fund balance, that might help us compromise to get through some of these problems, and you guys said y'all might raise taxes next year. Chairman Hair said, he just said -, he just said there is no fund balance. Tax Commissioner Powers asked, there is none? County Manager Abolt said, sir, what -. Chairman Hair said, that's what the Manager just said. County Manager Abolt said, we have not had the audit yet, but you'll recall in my budget message if the digest had grown in the most optimistic of fashion of 5%, we'd have picked up about \$3 million. Our forecast for the fiscal year that just ended the first of -, 30th of June I should say, we were looking at being out of balance a projected \$3 million. When the final figures came in of the digest, it was just less than 3%, which would raise a million and a half, so for planning purposes we cannot in any type of professional honesty tell you to plan on a fund balance. In fact, we feel it will be zero or minus. And the same holds true for SSD. SSD, as you'll recall, had a minus figure of about something under \$100,000.

Chairman Hair said, all right, Commissioner Jackel. It's not -, it can't be the same motion. It's got to be -. Commissioner Jackel said, well, we need Commissioner Rivers to do a motion for reconsideration. Chairman Hair said, point of order, Mr. Hart. County Attorney Hart said, I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, he wants to bring the identical motion back. Can he do that? I don't think so. Commissioner Rivers said, we can ask for -. County Attorney Hart said, he can ask for a motion for reconsideration. Chairman Hair said, or just let Joe [Rivers] make it if it's -. Commissioner Rivers said, you can ask for reconsideration. I'll do whatever -. It would have to be on the winning side though. Chairman Hair said, go ahead and make your motion, Commissioner Rivers. I'll recognize you.

Commissioner Rivers said, for the purpose I'll ask for reconsideration, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, of Commissioner Jackel's motion. Commissioner Rivers said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second to that? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion for reconsideration carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes so we have reconsideration. Now, I'll entertain a motion. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, what I propose is that we cut across the board 11.5% along with the additional cuts that are listed and the other adjustments to golf course, Mosquito Control, health insurance, consolidation -, well, I don't have consolidation, pollution abatement, for a total adjustments of \$3.2 million. That should leave us a deficit of approximately a million dollars which staff assures us that they'll be able to tolerate and I think we can solve this budget problem. Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, all in favor of the motion vote yes -. Commissioner Rivers said, hold on, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Murray said, we need to discuss it, if we're going to discuss it. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, go ahead, Jeff [Rayno].

Commissioner Rayno said, I just want him to state it one more time just so we're clear on this. Chairman Hair said, okay, state your motion again, Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, it's that we modify my original proposal that called for 10% across the board, including grants-in-aid, drainage, and everything, and that would be cut 11.5%, and that would leave a deficit of about a million dollars, which staff assures us they can cover that shortfall. So this would affect elected officials as well as department heads. Everyone would take the same cut and then have to make a decision on how they want to spend the money and where they're going to have to make the cuts. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have restated the motion. Does everybody understand the motion? And it already has a second.

Commissioner Rivers said, all right, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask you a question, Russ [Abolt]. Okay, in effect, we'll be looking at department-wise, cut-wise, personnel layoffs and whatever, which will effect this particular -. County Manager Abolt said, there would be a reduction in -, there would be position reduction. If you would look, just for the sake of the numbers. If you look at Dr. Thomas' budget, when Dr. Thomas came to me she asked me to come up with department cuts that would fall just short of laying folks off. So when you look at her budget and you look at that first number, departmental reductions, \$4.6 million. For planning purposes you would have to assume that anything over \$4.6 million in reduction would result in -, you result in some layoffs. Of course, the benefit you would have, if you want to call it that, is that you've not already eliminated your vacant positions, so we would have some maneuvering room. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Have maneuvering from the vacant positions. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, Russ [Abolt], what will that equate to, have y'all look at it as far as job layoffs, and we're talking minus vacant positions, but are we adequately going to be able to deal with that? County Manager Abolt said, just hearing the motion for the first time, we did some quick and dirty -, please understand it's quick and dirty. As I told Commissioner Rayno yesterday on the phone, I was on my horse [inaudible], these are horseback figures. When Commissioner Jackel was making his presentation, we were looking at the type of cuts that would amass to about 13%. We each figured on our horseback about 75 positions, and that's a little under \$40,000 a job. With a vacancy of, you know, a little bit more than that, we'd have some options, but again if we find ourselves actually having to reduce the force of positions currently filled, that number, that estimate would have to be increased, given our unemployment liability. Commissioner Rivers said, okay, see, that's -, that's part of the problem that I have. County Manager Abolt said, that's a horseback. Commissioner Rivers said, I can go ahead and do this thing, but yet I'll have to do what I said I wouldn't do because I would leave myself some leeway without doing this and that would further delay what we are planning to do or trying to do.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, anything else, Commissioner Rivers? County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Jackel asked, does somebody understand that? They're projecting 75 employees, but we have 90-some vacancies. Chairman Hair said, I think that's beyond the vacancies. Commissioner Jackel asked, beyond the vacancies? County Manager Abolt said, no, no no. No, sir. The way I understand your comment, no, again on the horseback, when you made your presentation in the well, we did a computation of about 75 positions would have to be eliminated. That's given a factoring in of a little less than \$40,000 a job. Now your proposal, if I understand it, and I'm looking at it in front of me, you did not factor in taking the current vacant positions. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, the current vacant positions are about 80 -, well, whatever happened today we've got 80-plus positions that are vacant. Commissioner Jackel said, that's the -, the vacant positions was \$2.6 million. County Manager Abolt said, but, sir, in your proposal you did not take that. Commissioner Jackel said, and so with that \$2.6 million, what I did was left a million and then raised the reduction so -, to cover that \$2.6 million. So it should -. County Manager Abolt said, but let me restate what I think you -. Commissioner Jackel said, so it should be equivalent to the number of vacancies. County Manager Abolt said, the way I -, please, the way I understand the motion, and I'm looking at the column that has your name at the top of it. Commissioner Jackel said, right. County Manager Abolt said, the only change that would be made is that one item which is currently on the printed page that says 7.491 million. We can up that to 11-something percent. Commissioner Jackel said, right. County Manager Abolt said, it would not go any further. For example, you're not picking up specific object code reductions -. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, you're not picking up vacant positions because you want to give discretion to the departments. Commissioner Jackel said, that's correct. County Manager Abolt said, what I tried to do then, and again on my horseback, which I apologize but that's the best we can do at this point, if you were to pass this, and our estimate of about 75 positions reduction were a factor, we would still have, not a trump card, but we'd have the option of looking at vacant positions as we work with the departments to look at reduction of force.

Chairman Hair said, I've got a question, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, sir. Chairman Hair said, your budget cuts 16? County Manager Abolt said, correct, sir. Chairman Hair said, in your budget you said, quoting your own numbers, your 16% cut resulted in 200 position layoffs. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, and that was the understanding -. Chairman Hair said, all right, so how is 16% equates to 200, does that include the vacancies? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Chairman Hair said, well, see, that's my problem with the analysis because then if you -, how does 11½ convert to 75 if 16% converts to 200? There's something wrong there. County Manager Abolt said, that's valid, yes sir. We need some time. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's -, that's something wrong with those numbers. County Manager Abolt said, get off the horse and -. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, all right, I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to declare -, would y'all need 15 minutes, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, but I -. Yes sir, we really need time. One thing Mr. Kaigler immediately told me, which I think may be a way of addressing in part the discrepancy, my proposal did not include the shifting of costs for health insurance. But, yes sir, we'd like to have 15 minutes. Commissioner Murray said, I'd rather they have the time to go over it rather than just guessing. Chairman Hair said, I just said, I'm going to declare a 15-minute recess. We'll come back at 12:35. County Manager Abolt asked, may I just restate what I understand to be the motion? Chairman Hair said,

yes. County Manager Abolt said, we're looking at Commissioner Jackel's column on this summary page and rather than cutting the 7.4, which equates to 10% -. Chairman Hair said, you take 11.5. County Manager Abolt said, [inaudible] to 1½ percentage more and come back. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, we need some time.

Chairman Hair said, we already have a motion on the floor. I'm going to declare a recess. After we get the real numbers we'll come back at 12:35. County Manager Abolt said, we're going to go to a quiet place. Chairman Hair said, 12:35.

The meeting was recessed at 12:20 p.m. The meeting of the Board of Commissioners reconvened at 12:45 p.m.

Chairman Hair said, I will declare us back in session. I'm going to call on Commissioner Jackel to -, first, let's get an answer to the question and he's going to need to modify his motion. Okay, Mr. Abolt, what's the answer.

County Manager Abolt said, my understanding of the questions posed of how many positions would be estimated to be eliminated from the budget were the current motion to pass, our estimate is a total position count estimated at 140 positions -. Chairman Hair said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, with 85 vacancies that would leave, again assume -, knowing full well that's not a, you know, transfer completely of those 85 positions, but it would be 55 positions that would have to be eliminated from the standpoint of not knowing other positions we'll be shifting to.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I'm going to call on Commissioner Jackel to modify his motion. There's a motion and a second on the floor.

Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Thank you. Frank [Murray] has a question. Commissioner Murray asked, was there anything else or is that all y'all were -? County Manager Abolt said, we were doing something else too. We cannot have any motion that assumes a deficit to be adopted when the dust settles. So what I was -, what we were suggesting here is that, and we realize your discussion earlier today on the sale of the Fulton Building, if you would realize and anticipate a yield of that of \$1.3 million and then charge that with doing all we can as the budget year progresses to be able to save that amount of money. You cannot just adopt a budget today that is out of balance. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel asked, is 11.5 the figure we need? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, percentage wise. Commissioner Jackel said, percentage. Okay, I'd like to restate my motion. Chairman Hair said, you're just modifying it though. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. It's that we -, my proposal is that we have across the board, grants-in-aid and everybody else, a reduction of 11.5%, that we urge staff with the sale of the Fulton Building that we'll have \$1.1 million and then -. Chairman Hair said, point three. County Attorney Hart said, point three. Commissioner Jackel said, point three and that we will have no deficit; that in the Special Service District -. Commissioner Murray said, that's not included -. County Manager Abolt said, don't -, just do -, you can do M&O now, we'll do Special Service District -. Chairman Hair said, well, the motion is -. County Manager Abolt said, it might be too confusing. I think I know where you're going, so -. You're going to have to make a motion on the \$313 million budget, I would suggest process wise that you deal with M&O and do some residual effects on SSD -. Chairman Hair said, okay, all right, let's go ahead and keep your motion as it is. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, but I just wanted to assure my colleagues that I will do the \$40,000 motion at the appropriate time. Chairman Hair said, for the SSD. Commissioner Murray asked, what now? Commissioner Jackel said, we want to add \$40,000 in for the SSD for drainage. Chairman Hair said, that won't affect this motion. Commissioner Jackel said, for drainage. We're going to add that back in.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and a second to -, across the board cuts of 11.5%. All those in favor vote yes -. Commissioner Odell said, discussion. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to hear some input from department heads. I'd like to hear if Al -. Chairman Hair said, all right, Sheriff.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'm not going to bend your ear very long, but I can't live with a \$2 million cut on the jail or with the cut on the Sheriff's side and, you know, I've been Sheriff since '92. We've never been at odds as far as court, but I can assure you that I'll be in court Monday morning. You are right, the Commissioners do have the right and the authority to set the budget. There's a new Supreme Court decision of two months ago in the Georgia Supreme Court, and I'll just read the last paragraph to you. The court went on to note that the Commission has the authority to review and approve the proposed budget, and that review of the budget, the proposed budget, is limited to claims of abuse of discretion. There is no abuse and discretion on my part on what I've asked for. I was willing to sit for the plateau budget. You're cutting me \$2 million beyond that. I can't live with it, and I can't speak for nobody else, but I've got an overcrowded situation, I run a backlog of 12,000 warrants, I've got more to do than I can do and I ain't taking no cuts like that. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I certainly sympathize with your position and I've supported you all along -. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has the floor. Commissioner Jackel said, I've got -. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has the floor. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to hear from Danny [Powers]. Commissioner Jackel said, [inaudible] before he leaves. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Jackel said, I've got \$13.7 million deficit to deal with and I'm dealing with -, I asked for a millage increase and I'm not getting it so I'm dealing with it the best I can. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand that, but I just want you to know I have to deal with -. Commissioner Jackel said, oh, I understand that too. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, with the mandated duties that I have. Commissioner Jackel said, no question about it. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, nothing personal as I -. Commissioner Jackel said, I expect you to do that. I expect you to.

Chairman Hair recognized Tax Commissioner Powers.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, I'm in no better shape, folks. Commissioner Odell asked, if we cut you 11½% as opposed to —. Tax Commissioner Powers said, basically it's the same with all these proposals. You know, back —. Commissioner Odell said, we cut earlier. Tax Commissioner Powers said, yes, back in April or May or whenever we met, I went line item by line item, I cut out \$130,000 out of my budget that did not reappear, and then I held jobs open to try to help the County out, and now these jobs are affected in this overall package. So I'm —, I'm looking at a hit, so the only way to keep my department operating is going to be just like the Sheriff said. Commissioner Odell asked, 11½% doesn't equate to about \$300,000 or \$400,000 to you. Tax Commissioner Powers said, I'd be over —, yes, well over three. Commissioner Odell said, so that would put you close to being cut \$470,000? Tax Commissioner Powers said, well, I figure it like —. Commissioner Odell said, out the original. Tax Commissioner Powers said, yes. If I cut four employees right now that only equates to like \$110,000 in my department. One thing you've got to understand too, my department only makes up .11% of the total millage out there and we do all the work in bringing in all the revenue, and I'm —, you know, I'm asking you folks, you know, don't do this to me.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Odell asked, Danny [Powers], can you talk to Al [St. Lawrence] and see if he can make a copy of that case where the Commissioners lost and give that to all of the constitutional officers? Tax Commissioner Powers said, yes, I've already got a copy. Chairman Hair said, yes, we'll do that. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to have one. I'm going to circulate it too. Chairman Hair said, okay. Any further questions? We have a motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. This is on Commissioner Jackel's motion. Everybody needs to vote please. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay. Commissioner Jackel said, thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, we need to go ahead and officially adopt the resolutions. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, yes sir. Could I help you on this because we eventually have to have one vote that adopts all the resolutions. Commissioner Murray asked, what about on SSD? Chairman Hair said, we'll get to that. Go ahead, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to ask for reconsideration of that previous motion and that it be entered into the minutes. Where's Jon [Hart]? Commissioner Odell asked, what previous motion? Commissioner Jackel said, the one that just passed. Commissioner Rivers said, the one that just passed. That's the previous motion. Chairman Hair said, what that means is is that it will come up for a revote at the next meeting. Commissioner Jackel said, it has the option of coming up, right. Chairman Hair said, no, well, if he's asking for reconsideration it will come up. Commissioner Rivers said, now, where's Jon [Hart]? Commissioner Rayno said, he went to make some copies. Tax Commissioner Powers said, he went to make copies. Commissioner Jackel said, boy, our budget is trim isn't it? We've got him making copies. Chairman Hair said, well, at least he got one, you know. [Inaudible] may not have one. Pro bono. Commissioner Jackel said, that's right. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Hart, Commissioner Rivers has a question for you. He just made a motion to reconsider. It hasn't passed yet. Commissioner Rivers said, Jon [Hart], the motion —, the motion passed and I entered that into the minutes so it doesn't have to pass. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Rivers said, that doesn't come up until the next meeting anyway. County Attorney Hart said, when you call it up. Jon [Hart], I want to ask a couple of questions. One is that if I put it in abeyance under that reconsideration and it holds in abeyance and yet they take us into court under a certificate of need, at that point can we come back and adjust whatever we need to do whether it's a millage increase or it's a —? County Attorney Hart said, as long as you have not adopted the millage, yes. But right now you've got a motion where you have adopted it and all you've done is ask for a reconsideration to be entered in the minutes, which delays the ultimate decision until you call your motion to reconsider up.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, I ask you to please think about what you just did. I think it puts us in —. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, tremendous problems. Commissioner Rivers said, no, Mr. Chairman, if you listened and if you listen to me and what I was trying to do is that if it didn't hold it in abeyance and hold it up with them not going into court, I'm just trying to give us some wiggle room so that we can deal with them [inaudible] the court. If there's no way that we can do that legally, then it becomes a moot issue. Chairman Hair said, well, that's my point. Commissioner Rivers said, and I will withdraw that. So that's why I asked Jon [Hart] whether I can hold it in abeyance and yet they go into court with a certificate of need prior to that —. County Attorney Hart said, you could go ahead —, the current motion has adopted this proposed budget and I was out making some copies. Did y'all adopt a millage? Chairman Hair said, no. No, we haven't done that yet, but the point is the motion to reconsider is only to reconsider the previous motion. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Chairman Hair said, which means we've got to vote on that again, the budget again. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Chairman Hair said, you can't —, then if you want to make another motion with changing the millage, you could do that, but his motion to reconsider is only on Commissioner Jackel's motion. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. So, Mr. Chair, I'll withdraw that. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. I appreciate that very much, Commissioner Rivers. I appreciate it. Okay, I —.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, I beg your indulgence on this. This will hopefully be no more confusing than this time will allow us to explain. The issue then becomes the Special Service District budget, which I believe you want some resolution before you pass all of your resolutions dealing with the entire 300-plus million dollar budget. By taking the action in the M&O budget affecting the health insurance contribution by employees, which in detail we hope will be resolved in a few moments, we estimate a savings in the SSD budget of about \$560,000. Therefore, if there is a desire to reinstate any of the cuts that I have made or make changes in the SSD budget, this would be your opportunity to do that.

Chairman Hair said, and that's what we want to do. I'll entertain a motion to —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Still with the original plan that I have at 11.5 –. Chairman Hair said, this is just SSD. Commissioner Jackel said, yes, but it would be the same –, the same –. County Manager Abolt said, you do not have a –, I mean, SSD is not a problem. Chairman Hair said, we don't need to do that. County Manager Abolt said, I would encourage you –. Chairman Hair said, it's already balanced. Commissioner Jackel asked, so is the drainage in there for that \$40,000. Chairman Hair said, that's not drainage. County Manager Abolt said, sir, if I may. We have assumed your \$40,000 increase in M&O. Drainage is an M&O expenditure. Commissioner Jackel said, oh, it is?

Chairman Hair said, let me call on Commissioner Gellatly to make the motion about the Crimestoppers, to restore the Crimestoppers.

Commissioner Gellatly said, right. That's a very important issue. Certainly a high priority as far as public safety is concerned. We had some of the most horrendous crimes that have occurred both in the City and the County that have been solved through their actions, so I make a motion to have their funding restored. Chairman Hair said, all right, we really –, the proper motion would be to pass the SSD budget with that restored. Commissioner Gellatly said, that would –, I amend my motion to that. Chairman Hair said, okay, let's get a second first. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked is that just to put that into the budget? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, all right, because, you know, we had a figure of \$80,000 and when we were having our break I understand that figure should be \$56,500. Is that right? County Manager Abolt said, crime [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, the same funding that they had last year. The \$80,000 figure came in because –. County Manager Abolt said, there was an analyst. Commissioner Murray said, this \$56,000 or whatever that figure is –. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Murray said, I'd also like in that budget to have the \$65,000 in there to start our rezoning ordinances for MPC, which is supposed to be \$65,000 a year for the next three years. It may not be that much, but that's the round figure on that. County Manager Abolt said, and also the RDC dues. Commissioner Murray said, and the RDC dues is by law we have to pay that. That is –, is that \$60,000. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, whatever that is, that number is. By law we have to pay that and it comes out of SSD.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion to pass the SSD with the Crimestoppers, the RDC dues and the –, it's actually the southeast quadrant planning study. County Manager Abolt said, no, it's rewrite –, rewrite of the zoning ordinance. Chairman Hair said, rewrite the zoning ordinance, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just have a question. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, this will not involve anything to do with Chatham Area Transit, right? Chairman Hair said, no. County Manager Abolt said, that will be another budget later on. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, will we get to vote on that actually separate. Commissioner Murray said, yes, we'll do that separate. County Manager Abolt said, in a few minutes you're going to do everything. Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to ask for an amendment on that Crimestoppers be cut by 11.5. I don't see why it should be favored over any of the other agencies that we deal with. Chairman Hair said, well, you've got to ask it –, if Commissioner Gellatly will accept that as part of the motion. I don't –. Commissioner Gellatly said, \$55,000, that restores it to what it was last year. Commissioner Jackel said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, well, it's 56-something. Chairman Hair said, he's recommending an 11½% cut of the \$55,000, which would cut about \$6,000 or \$7,000 out of that. Commissioner Jackel said, I don't think they ought to get any special consideration. Everybody else is –. Commissioner Gellatly said, across the board. I agree with that.

Chairman Hair asked, all right. Will the second accept that? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, the second accepts that. So it's a modification with the 11½% cut. All right, then with the RDC dues and with the rezoning.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to make a motion that we approve the SSD budget with these changes. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. [NOTE: A motion was already on the floor made by Commissioner Gellatly and seconded by Commissioner Murray.]

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, what you can do if you choose is to proceed with adopting all the resolutions which would total the new aggregate budget of about \$313 million. The only thing we ask that you do either before or immediately after that, we'd give you a brief presentation on the health plan because that is a defined benefit plan. We've got the targeted figures, but it's imperative that you officially act on that so we can begin implementing those cost reductions. Chairman Hair asked, why can't we do that as part of the resolutions? County Manager Abolt said, because you have some choices, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. We don't want to do CAT as part of that. So, all the resolutions minus CAT.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve all the budget resolutions except Chatham Area Transit. Commissioner Jackel said, I'll second that –, so moved. So moved. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the County Manager wants to –. County Manager Abolt said, just a point of information. Now the CAT budget before you has no millage increase. The recommendation from the CAT Board was not embodied in the resolution before you. If you wish to increase the millage, you have the same

strictures as before. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hair said, all right, now I'll entertain a motion on the Chatham Area Transit budget. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved approval. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and this has no tax increase. Commissioner Jackel said, no tax increase. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the budget proposal presented by Chairman Hair. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of five to four.
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve his budget proposal but eliminate the tax increase and change the percentage of cuts to all departments from 10% to 13.5%. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of six to three.
3. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve his original budget proposal, which calls for a 10% cut across the board, with other cuts, and leaves a deficit of \$2.6 million, which would require a millage increase of .44. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Commissioners Jackel and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of seven to two.
4. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve his budget proposal, eliminating the tax increase and changing the percentage of cuts to all departments across the board from 10% to 11.5%. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Jackel, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of six to three.
5. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Chairman Hair's budget proposal but instead of consolidating the Sheriff's Department and County Police, we enter into an administrative contract where the Sheriff's Department would contract to operate the Police Department for one year and at the end of one year we would either renew or not renew the contract. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of five to four.
6. Commissioner Rivers moved to reconsider Commissioner Jackel's previous motion. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion for reconsideration carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno and Thomas were not present.]
7. Commissioner Jackel moved that we cut across the board 11.5% along with the additional cuts that are listed in his original proposal and the other adjustments to drainage, grants-in-aid, golf course, Mosquito Control, health insurance, pollution abatement. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.
8. Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the SSD budget with the Crimestoppers restored, but cut by 11.5%, and that the funds for rezoning and RDC dues be included. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
9. Commissioner Jackel moved to approve all the budget resolutions except Chatham Area Transit. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
10. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the Chatham Area Transit budget. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

B. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2001, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2002.

Chairman Hair said, we need to approve a resolution clarifying the millage rate and, David [Persaud], the millage rate would be what number? The millage rate is what number? Mr. David Persaud said, approve the resolution. County Manager Abolt said, David [Persaud], make sure we've got the right -. Mr. Persaud said, we need 3-B and C. B is that the Board approve a resolution clarifying the millage levy. That, of course, is for the fiscal year. You should have a

resolution in your file. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve a resolution clarifying the millage rate.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, just before you adopt the millage rate, I just want to make one statement. I've talked to y'all in Executive Session on the position we take in regard to constitutional officers. That is obviously between attorney/client privileged type information and remains so. We have been put on notice by at least one constitutional officer today that we will probably end up in litigation. The outcome of that litigation, if I could be a predictor, I'd get out of the lawyering business and be a predictor. If you set the millage though today, which you need to do, and should we be instructed by the court to do otherwise with our constitutional officers from a budgetary standpoint, you will not be allowed to go back and readjust your millage rate. Chairman Hair said, that's what I said when I was –, I said that in my presentation. County Attorney Hart said, I just want to make sure y'all understood that.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion for the resolution on the millage. Commissioner Odell asked, what's the option? That's what the problem is. Chairman Hair said, the other option is that you'd have to take cuts in other places. Basically, you're going to be nonconstitutional –. County Attorney Hart said, you would have to either increase revenues in your budget or cut your budget. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, as Jon [Hart] and I discussed, that there's no law, we would be cutting new ground if we came back to try to adjust the millage to offset what the courts may render. So even with that, that's why I was trying to see if I could hold it –. Chairman Hair said, I don't believe you can change the millage. Commissioner Rivers said, well, if we can't –, well, Mr. Chairman, it's no law, and I've discussed it with him, just as you've discussed it with him, and if there's no law to it, then it's no telling we may get something rendered back and we may have to go into court with it. Chairman Hair said, he just ruled, Commissioner Rivers, that –, that the millage rate, we could not adjust the millage rate. That's what he just said. County Attorney Hart said, I think what Commissioner Rivers is saying is if you received a court order or the judge directed you to raise the millage to cover some expense, whether the court order could actually allow this body to do that, and there just isn't any law anywhere around there. Chairman Hair said, yes, well –. County Attorney Hart said, there are some school board decisions involving busing where federal judges have –. Chairman Hair said, in all likelihood, none of us know, Commissioner Rivers, you're correct, but he's more likely to say restore X-number of dollars and not restore the millage rate. He's going to leave it up to us where to come up with the money from.

Commissioner Odell asked, is that what the Board of Education [inaudible] did that? County Attorney Hart said, in some circumstances, yes sir.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second on the floor. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that the constitutional elected officers would accommodate us and ask them to –.

The Clerk asked, did we have a motion and a second on the floor? Chairman Hair said, yes, we did. Commissioner Murray said, yes, but I don't know who –. The Clerk asked, who made the motion and who seconded it? Chairman Hair said, all right, who made the motion? Commissioner Jackel said, I made the motion. The Clerk asked, and who seconded it? Commissioner Odell said, second.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to adopt a resolution clarifying the millage levy for fiscal year July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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, now I'll entertain a –. I've got to read this into the record. The motion will be to adopt –, I can't make it, one of you will have to make it, but to adopt the 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. I'll entertain a motion.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and again for clarification –. Chairman Hair said, no tax increase. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, I've been told we wore out our representative from Jones, Hill, Mercer so we'll come back to you at a later meeting on that. Chairman Hair said, yes, let's do that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to adopt Year 2001 Chatham County General Maintenance and Operations (10.367 mills - net of sales tax rollback of 1.41), Special Service District (3.475 mills - net of insurance premium rollback of .79 mills), Chatham Area Transit District (.853 millage), and the Board of Public Education for the City of Savannah and the County of Chatham (18.576 mills - 16.179 for maintenance and operations, 2.397 for G. O. bond debt) millage levy resolution pursuant to advertisement having been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Georgia Department of Revenue Forms PT 35 and PT 32.1. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 4. 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. Item was untabled at meeting of July 27, 2001, then re-tabled to meeting of August 10, 2001. Attached is a written report from the County Attorney as to additional information. At meeting of August 10, 2001, item was tabled to September 7, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item will come before the Commissioners for consideration on September 7, 2001.

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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 APPROVAL TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL-GREATER SAVANNAH REALTY TO AGGRESSIVELY MARKET AND PROVIDE FULL REALTOR SERVICES FOR THE SALE OF LAND AND STRUCTURES (NOW VACANT OLD POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND SOON-TO-BE-VACATED OLD TAG OFFICE) AT 7606 HODGSON MEMORIAL DRIVE (THE COMMISSION OF 2.74% WILL BE PAID FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE). FURTHER REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ESTABLISH, AT THE REALTOR'S RECOMMENDATION, A MINIMUM PRICE OF \$850,000 FOR THE PROPERTY.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I don't have any problem with that, but while we're on that, this would pertain to it, we've got several properties throughout the County that some are going to be up for sale. We also received a memo a couple of days ago talking about where the money would be spent that comes in from —, the revenues be spent that comes in from that. This Commission has already set a policy that half of the revenues, non-occurring revenues would —, non-reoccurring revenues, 50% of that would go into a fund balance, and that would pertain —, the way I understood it, that would pertain to these properties also. Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, and there was a property on Whitmarsh Island that also was listed and it said the other 50% would go into development of the Demere Tract. I don't think we need to develop any more tracts until we take care of the properties we already have in place, recreational facilities or whatever they may, and as far as I'm concerned that tract can sit just like it is for the next 30 years. If we don't have the money to do it, we don't need to take funding and do that and then have maintenance on top of it when we can't take care of the ones we have. So —, yes?

County Attorney Hart said, there is only one issue with the property, if it's the Richardson Creek property, is that was given to the County for recreational purposes, so we may have to look at an issue as to whether the funds we received —.

Commissioner Murray said, well, it can go in to recreation, but those facilities we now have that we need to be –. County Attorney Hart said, that would work. Commissioner Murray said, not take another facility and start another –. County Attorney Hart said, correct. That would –, that would work. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Commissioner Rayno said, keep it as a natural habitat too as a recreational place [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request to engage the services of Coldwell Banker Commercial-Greater Savannah Realty to aggressively market and provide full Realtor services for the sale of land and structures (now vacant Police Headquarters and soon-to-be-vacated old Tag Office) at Hodgson Memorial Drive (the commission of 2.74% will be paid from the proceeds of the sale), and to approve the Realtor's recommendation to establish a minimum price of \$850,000 for the property. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. APPEALS FROM SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR ON FILLING VACANT POSITIONS:

- **JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER (1 POSITION)**
- **JUDICIAL COUNTER CLERK (1 POSITION)**

Chairman Hair asked, who is here? Mr. DeLoach or who's here from Superior Court?

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, before we get started on all these, will these affect the kind of budget we're going to talk about today, so if we approve all these it's going to change all the numbers. Chairman Hair said, well, not necessarily because I don't think any of the budget proposals have all of the vacant positions as balancing –, for example, mine only has 96 of the 107 so there still would be a number of vacancies that could be used for this purpose, so –. Commissioner Rayno said, I know yours, but what if we went with another proposal. Chairman Hair asked, is there any proposal that eliminates all vacancies because I haven't seen that? I don't think yours eliminates all the vacant positions.

County Manager Abolt said, at least for the math, sir, we've taken all the positions. Chairman Hair asked, sir? County Manager Abolt said, for the math, sir, we've taken all the positions. Chairman Hair said, okay. Well, I personally don't –, I don't think that, you know, when you're talking 13.6 million I don't think one position is necessarily going to make that much difference. It's up to the Commission if you want to delay these or –. I think we owe it to the departments to at least vote on them. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I don't think we need to delay it. It's good to believe that through attrition that those designated positions will be the only ones to leave. That's not what happened in turnover. They're some essential positions that we have to lose and have to appeal, and Case Manager we've got two [inaudible] positions there. Last week we voted on the Sheriff's proposal because we understand that it's necessary to have people to guard criminals. That is a simple concept that we all agree to. Well, the Case Manager's position processes these positions for the judges. Each judge has a Case Manager and for those people who do not believe that our judges are over-worked, let me assure you I'm in court five days a week and we don't have a shortage of crime, and if there's anyone who believes that we have a shortage of crime, then I suggest that you leave your car open downtown with a large radio on the seat and come back three hours later. The Case Management positions are necessary to push the positions through.

Chairman Hair said, and I'd also concur with Commissioner Odell that, you know, I think that it's somewhat moot to relate this to the vacant positions because you're going to have, if you go back and look at the department, we have constant turnover and if we fill these, two weeks from now we're going to have five more positions vacant, so it's not –, you can't really say if you fill this it's going to throw the budget out of kilter. I don't really think that's true. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, also just to point out, it's my understanding that the Judicial Case Manager is a actual revenue-producing position also and without this we would actually love revenues. So in this instance I believe this is one that we need to fill, as far as the Case Manager.

Chairman Hair said, I think that's true. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, well, I don't think it's a revenue-producing position. The courts are not in the business of making money. No one put their capital in this thing other than the citizens of the –. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, well, wouldn't they lose money without this person? Commissioner Jackel said, I don't believe that's –, I don't believe that's the thing. If you look at the budget material, we've always supplemented Superior Court. I think what we need to do is we need to pass the budget first. We ought not put the cart before the horse. If my budget proposal is considered, it would be up

to each department and each elected official. They would have 10% less money than they had last year. They would then have to decide where they were going to make the cuts, whether it was going to be in personnel or other factors within their department. The responsibility would be on them to make that decision, so we do not know which budget is going to be selected at this time, and I think it's very important that we have a budget before we decide that this position's going to be filled rather than some other position or some something else down the road, and I think we need to keep this is the proper order. If we don't have a budget and know how we're going to get somewhere or who's going to make the decision about filling positions or not, I think we've got an improper procedure here.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve and simply say that –. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we've got a motion and a second. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, to approve both or the first one, the Case Manager? Commissioner Odell said, both Case Managers. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can we separate them, Mr. Abolt? Commissioner Odell said, we can. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. We'll just do –, let's do them one at a time. That's what we've done in the past. We're voting on the Judicial Case Manager, one position. Okay? We have a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked, did we have a second? Chairman Hair said, yes, Dr. Thomas seconded. The Clerk said, thank you. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion carried.

Commissioner Jackel said, I just want Mr. DeLoach to understand my position that if it was brought up in the proper sequence I might vote for it, but since it was brought up this way, I don't see how I can. Mr. Danny DeLoach said, I apologize for being late, Mr. Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, no, it's not –, not your.

Chairman Hair said, we've already approve the Case Manager position, Mr. DeLoach. The next one is Judicial Counter Clerk, one position. You might want to tell us the need for that.

Mr. DeLoach said, well, it's one position that deals with the public, the attorneys and everybody else in the courthouse that has to come through and get information on cases. It's right now vacant, there's nobody there. My supervisor's having to jump up and down to take care of the window. We had the window put in there to accommodate Mrs. Prouse when we divided the operation up there, and this –, when somebody walks up there, there's nobody there.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to waive the hiring freeze for the Superior Court Administrator - Judicial Case Manager (1 position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
2. Commissioner Odell moved to waive the hiring freeze for the Superior Court Administrator - Judicial Counter Clerk (1 position). Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of five to four.

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3. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF HIRING FREEZE:

- **STATE COURT: JUDICIAL CASE MANAGER (1 POSITION)**
- **BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS: PARKING GARAGE ATTENDANT 1 PART-TIME POSITION)**
- **JUVENILE COURT: JUVENILE COURT CLERK (1 POSITION AND RESULTING VACANCIES)**

State Court: Judicial Case Manager (1 position):

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes –.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'd just like to state for the record I have the same objection. It's just out of sequence. Chairman Hair said, okay, all those in favor vote yes –. Commissioner Jackel said, I can't vote for it right now. Chairman Hair said, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in

favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Building Maintenance and Operations: Parking Garage Attendant (1 part-time position):

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Lynch, I guess that's your department.

Mr. George Lynch said, yes sir. The parking garage at the Judicial Courthouse is operated for 13 hours a day. We use this part-time position to avoid having to pay overtime to provide that coverage. Chairman Hair asked, you use the revenue from the department to pay? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Juvenile Court: Juvenile Court Clerk (1 position and resulting vacancies):

Chairman Hair asked, anybody from Juvenile Court? Do y'all want to make a motion in the absence of that? If not, it stays on the table. Commissioner Odell said, I –.

Commissioner Murray said, I move we don't fill the position. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to deny. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion to deny vote yes, all those opposed to denying vote no. Somebody needs to vote. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion to deny. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to deny carried by a vote of five to four. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Jackel said, no, the motion fails. Chairman Hair said, yes, the motion passes to deny. Commissioner Jackel said, the motion passes to deny, okay. Chairman Hair said, yes, it passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to waive the hiring freeze for State Court - Judicial Case Manager (1 position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
2. Commissioner Odell moved to waive the hiring freeze for Building Maintenance and Operations - Parking Garage Attendant (1 position). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
3. Commissioner Murray moved to **deny** the request to waive the hiring freeze for Juvenile Court - Juvenile Court Clerk (1 position and resulting vacancies). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The **motion to deny** carried by a vote of five to four.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, B. Commissioner Murray said, A, B, C, F, I, J, M. Chairman Hair said, I, J. Commissioner Odell asked, Frank [Murray], are we making up for –? Commissioner Murray said, I just have a real problem of approving all this stuff when we don't have a budget in place. Chairman Hair asked, I, J, what? Commissioner Rayno asked, did you get M? Commissioner Murray said, I think I left that one out. Commissioner Rayno said, okay, I want M. Commissioner Murray said, no, I did have M. Chairman Hair said, okay, M. All right, anybody else? Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, I had B, but I was beat to the draw. Chairman Hair said, all right, Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno asked, did you get A? Chairman Hair said, he got A. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Chairman Hair asked, anything else?

Commissioner Rivers said, I move for approval of the rest of them. Commissioner Murray said, we still have items –. Okay. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of approving the balance of the Action Calendar vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that Items 1 through 6-N of the Action Calendar be approved with the exception of Items 6-A, 6-B, 6-C, 6-F, 6-I, 6-J and 6-M. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

[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 AUGUST 10, 2001, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 10, 2001, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. **CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 2 THROUGH AUGUST 15, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period August 2, 2001, through August 15, 2001, in the amount of \$4,504,394. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC STATE UNIVERSITY (AASU) TO FORMALIZE AN ACTION BY THE BOARD ON JUNE 8, 2001, FOR A COUNTY CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT UNIVERSITY DRIVE RELOCATION, PHASE I.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve an agreement with Armstrong Atlantic State University (AASU) to formalize an action by the Board on June 8, 2001, for a County contract to construct University Drive Relocation, Phase I. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. **REQUEST FROM ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, THOMAS & HUTTON, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR GEORGETOWN COMMERCIAL PARK LOTS 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, AND COMMON AREA.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from engineer for the developer, Thomas & Hutton, to record the subdivision plat for Georgetown Commercial Park Lots 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A, and Common Area. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS OF HENRY N. TANKSLEY REGARDING AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT THAT OCCURRED ON JANUARY 5, 2001.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the amount of \$10,000 in final settlement of claims of Henry N. Tanksley regarding an automobile accident involving Cpl. Bernard Smalls that occurred on January 5, 2001. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. One (1) model year 2002 Ford F-150 long bed pickup truck	Water and Sewer	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$19,065	Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund
B. One (1) model year 2002 Ford F-150 short bed pickup truck	Marine Patrol	J.C. Lewis Ford	\$18,827	CIP - Vehicle Replacement Fund
C. Annual maintenance agreement for the network infrastructure equipment	I.C.S.	Entré Computer Center (MBE) (sole source)	\$25,832.02	General Fund/M & O - I.C.S.
D. Annual software maintenance agreement	Assessor	ESRI, Inc. (sole source)	\$15,215	General Fund/M & O - Assessor
E. Deductive Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the construction of the Placentia Canal Drainage Project, Phase II for changes in the aggregate specifications	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	(\$60,255)	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage Placentia Canal - No Funding Required
F. Change Order No. 7 to the contract to design a widening project for Stephenson Avenue to survey and design a new drainage outfall route and to revise the construction plans	SPLOST	Moreland Altobelli Associates	\$37,164	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue Widening Project
G. Deductive Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Fawcett Canal Drainage improvement project for changes in aggregate specifications and the addition of a culvert near the lagoon spillway	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	(\$28,815.20)	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Fawcett Canal Drainage - No Funding Required
H. Service contract for the design/engineering of 2 nd source water connections	Water and Sewer	Jordan Jones & Goulding, Inc.	\$22,679	CIP - Water and Sewer
I. Seven (7) truck mounted ULV spray systems complete with a vehicle management system and GPS	Mosquito Control	Clarke Mosquito Control	\$66,200	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
J. Confirmation of purchase to provide and install an expansion joint between the two sections of the deck of the Bryan Square garage at the Trade Center	SPLOST	Metro Water-proofing (sole source)	\$14,875	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center
K. First renewal option to annual contract to provide bond counsel services	Finance	Oliver, Maner and Gray		Funding requirements will be defrayed from proceeds of each bond issue

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
L. One year renewal, with option to extend for a second one year term, for right of way acquisition services	Engineering	Moreland Altobelli Associates	•\$3,950 per parcel acquired •Appraisal review - \$250 •Additional services at fixed hourly rates	•SPLOST (1985-1993) (1993-1998) (1998-2003) •CIP - Road, Drainage and Other
M. Three (3) GPS navigation systems	Mosquito Control	AgNav, Inc.	\$44,246.25	General Fund/M & O - Mosquito Control
N. 60-day extension to the contract to provide Juvenile Court with assistance in locating victims and disbursing restitution	Juvenile Court	Allen Canady	Not to Exceed \$3,000	Multiple Grants Revenue Fund

As to Items 6-D through 6-N except 6-F, 6-I, 6-J and 6-M:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 6-D through 6-N with the exception of Items 6-F, 6-I, 6-J and 6-M. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

As to Item 6-A and 6-B:

- A. One (1) model year 2002 Ford F-10 long bed pickup truck; Water and Sewer; J. C. Lewis Ford; \$19,065; Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund.**
- B. One (1) model year 2002 Ford F-10 long bed pickup truck; Marine Patrol; J. C. Lewis Ford; \$18,827; CIP - Vehicle Replacement Fund.**

Chairman Hair asked, do you want these one at a time or do you want to them separately? Commissioner Murray said, we can take all the vehicles at one time. I just have a problem right now purchasing vehicles right now regardless of what fund it comes out of or anything else that we do that affects these budgets that we're dealing with.

Commissioner Jackel said, I move to table that to the next meeting. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion to table is not debatable. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion to table passes. Commissioner Murray asked, that's A, B and C, is that right? Chairman Hair said, well, I thought you said vehicles. C is not really a vehicle so –.

As to Item 6-C:

- C. Annual maintenance agreement for the network infrastructure equipment; I.C.S.; Entré Computer Center (MBE)(sole source); \$25,832.02; General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.**

Chairman Hair asked, annual maintenance network agreement, what are you going to do with that one? Commissioner Murray said, I just had that on there. Again, we –, I know the maintenance agreement, but again we're spending money before we have the budget in place.

Commissioner Jackel said, I move to table. Chairman Hair said, motion to table. Do we have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion to table vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of six to three. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

As to Item 6-F:

- F. Change Order No. 7 to the contract to design a widening project for Stephenson Avenue to survey and design a new drainage outfall route and to revise the construction plans; SPLOST; Moreland Altobelli Associates; \$37,164; SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue Widening Project.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, the reason I had this one, you know, we've been spending money on this project for years. When is something going to be done? County Manager Abolt said, George [Lynch] the issue here is working out a drainage agreement with the City of Savannah and it's probably the most protracted and most expensive project we've ever entered into. Commissioner Murray asked, and there's no way since that falls in the city limits for us just to pull out of it and just let them do it? County Manager Abolt said, they are insistent on solving some drainage problems, sir.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd also like to –, there's a thing in the background information on a traffic signal. Is that correct? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir, it's mainly in the drainage area getting that and recognizing particularly over this very protracted period that this thing has been worked, we have had development on both sides of Stephenson. So, yes, my recollection is that –, yes, signal plan revision also is included in that. Commissioner Rayno asked, they're going to put a traffic signal at Jackson Woods? Mr. Lynch said, I don't know that it's at Jackson Woods, sir. We can certainly ask the engineers to provide us the detail on that issue and get it for you. Commissioner Rayno said, because my point for asking that is the point of widening Stephenson was to streamline and speed of the traffic and then you're going to put a stop light in the middle of it, it doesn't make any sense whatsoever. Mr. Lynch said, I cannot discuss that detail with you, sir, but we will be glad to get you that answer.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, let me ask you a question on that streetlight. How long have we known that was going to go in? County Manager Abolt said, let's get Mr. Bungard here. Mr. Lynch said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, please, okay. Chairman Hair called upon Mr. Bungard.

Commissioner Rayno said, he's not here. Let's table it. County Manager Abolt said, until later on in the meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, I move to table it. Commissioner Murray said, until he gets back. Second. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a motion? Commissioner Murray asked, did you make a motion? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, the motion is to table until what time? Next meeting? Commissioner Murray said, until he gets here and we'll discuss it today. Commissioner Rayno said, next meeting is fine. Chairman Hair said, next meeting. Okay, all those in favor to table vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

* * *

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bungard's here if you'd like to take Stephenson Avenue. It's your pleasure. Chairman Hair asked, what did we do? I thought we tabled it to the next meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, let's just wait till the next meeting for it. The Clerk said, it was tabled to the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, it was tabled to the next meeting.

As to Items 6-I and 6-M:

- I. Seven (7) truck mounted ULV spray systems complete with a vehicle management system and GPS; Mosquito Control; Clarke Mosquito Control; \$66,200; General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control.**
- M. Three (3) GPS navigation systems; Mosquito Control; AgNav, Inc.; \$44,246.25; General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just please on this, on Item I or M in case there's anticipation of a motion to table, please understand the correlation between these two items and our strategy to combat the West Nile Virus.

Commissioner Murray said, you did not even know what my question was. County Manager Abolt said, no sir. I apologize. Commissioner Murray said, I think you jumped the gun a little bit. County Manager Abolt said, I apologize. Commissioner Murray said, the only reason I had this on there was the funding point. I thought we approved emergency funding for everything for Mosquito Control at the last meeting and yet this is coming out of General Funds/M&O. Mr. Lynch said, this is at the request of budget, sir, that until the budget is passed, carry it in M&O –. Commissioner Murray said, excuse me just a minute. That did not –, that was out of the emergency fund. It didn't have anything to do with this budget or a budget that we will approve. Commissioner Rayno said, it's a reserve fund. It's there. Commissioner Murray said, that's what we discussed at the last meeting and we've got several items that are listed this same way, and I'm asking why. Chairman Hair asked, is Mr. Persaud here? Commissioner Murray said, I mean, I don't want to table it. We agreed at the last meeting to move this thing forward. Mr. Lynch said, yes. Commissioner Murray said, but it was all out of emergency fund, not out of the M&O.

Commissioner Rayno said, if you pull it out of M&O, I'm going to vote no too.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Parson, do you have anything to add to this discussion? County Manager Abolt said, one second. Chairman Hair said, I don't think –. County Manager Abolt said, give me a second to get David [Persaud] here. I think we're just trying to run through the right account. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we need to table this. Commissioner Murray said, no, I don't think we need to table it either. Chairman Hair said, I think we need to –. Mr. Lynch said, it's temporary. It's certainly not intended to take it out of M&O a long time. We recognize it will be coming out of it for a technical reason which I cannot defend, but was know was made. We carried it in M&O at this point recognizing fully that funds would be transferred.

Chairman Hair said, we'll find --. Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to see the transfer before we authorize it. Chairman Hair said, well, we've already authorized it, it's just that this is a matter of --. County Manager Abolt said, accounting function. If I could just get Mr. Persaud here.

Commissioner Odell said, yes, but I don't think we need Mr. Persaud. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we do either. The concern is whether or not we're going to do this and, in addition, Frank's [Murray] concern is that it should come from the emergency fund. Commissioner Murray said, that's the only concern I have. Commissioner Odell said, and if we can do it, then [unintelligible comments made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time].

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Murray to make a motion. Commissioner Murray said, on Item I and M because it's the same thing for both of them --. Chairman Hair said, okay, I and M. Commissioner Murray said, I move that we approve them and that the monies will come out of the emergency funds. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

As to Item 6-J:

- J. Confirmation of purchase to provide an install an expansion joint between the two sections of the deck of the Bryan Square garage at the Trade Center; SPLOST; Metro Waterproofing (sole source); \$14,875; SPLOST (1993-1998) - Trade Center.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, the reason I pulled that one, why are we paying for it? Wasn't there some problems with that to begin with? That parking garage over there has leaked since it's been built. We've had problems with it since it's been over there. Why are we responsible for paying the bill? Mr. Lynch said, the —, yes, you are correct that we put down the spray material. The design called for the thing to be put across. Unfortunately, the specification from the design team was not effective. As a consequence, in order to make the thing hold, we're going in to put in the pipe of —, I want to all it insulation, that's a wrong term, that will keep the water from draining down. Commissioner Murray said, all right. Who's responsibility was it that dropped that and it did not get in where it was supposed to be? Mr. Lynch said, I would say it was the design team, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, well, why doesn't the design team pick up this \$14,000? We paid them big bucks for doing it. Mr. Lynch said, quite clearly, that's going to have to be looked at in the longer haul. What we're trying to do is to keep a bleeding wound and get it fixed.

Chairman Hair said, I think the —, I think I can enter the discussion here, and Mr. Hart also might. This is the whole reason we have asked and we approved Boykin and Associates to look at the whole concept over there in terms of who is liable for what, whether it's TBS or Beers or us or whatever, and that's part of the discussion is this particular design problem. I think it would be wise for us to go ahead and approve this —. Mr. Lynch said, fix it. Chairman Hair said, and then that's going to be part of the negotiated settlement in the last change order to close out that project, and we've already —, I think the figure was \$40,000 for the consultant to look at that —. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Chairman Hair said, and this is just one of the issues that they are looking at, so I just think that we ought to approve and we —, we're going to have to —, I think ultimately, exactly. I think ultimately if TBS is found to be liable, they're going to have to pay for it anyway.

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Rivers said, second. County Attorney Hart said, it's also an issue of revenue to the Trade Center because the garage is leaking. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Also, I know the motion's passed, but I want to make one other point about this. This also will allow —, this will solve that prove of the —, the Trade Center Authority has not be able to charge the hotel and generate revenue from that parking because of this, so I think it's important to the Trade Center Authority it generates revenue. Thank you, Mr. Lynch.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 6-D through 6-N with the exception of Items 6-F, 6-I, 6-J and 6-M. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Jackel moved to table to the next meeting Items 6-A and 6-B. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of six to three.
3. Commissioner Jackel moved to table to the next meeting Item 6-C. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of six to three.
4. Commissioner Rayno moved to table to the next meeting Item 6-F. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.
5. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 6-I and 6-M with the funds to be taken from emergency funds, as approved on August 10, 2001. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
6. Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 6-J. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD AMEND SECTION 11-3, ACTION TO BE TAKEN IF PLANS OF PROPERTY OWNER ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED WITHIN SPECIFIED TIME LIMITS, BY DELETING THIS PROVISION OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-010615-49894-1
[NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT - UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as the first reading.

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- 2. **PETITIONER, BOB RATCHFORD, AGENT (FOR MARY H. POLLARD, OWNER) IS REQUESTING THAT A 5.5 ACRE PARCEL LOCATED ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF CONCORD ROAD BE REZONED FROM AN R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) CLASSIFICATION TO A P-R-3-5 (PLANNED MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) CLASSIFICATION TO ALLOW SINGLE-FAMILY ATTACHED CONDOMINIUMS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-010705-40529-1
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as first reading.

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- 3. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ORDINANCE AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, ADDING IN THE ORDINANCE SECTION VI-7.1, DONATED LEAVE, AND IN THE PROCEDURES MANUAL ARTICLE IV-105.15; DONATED LEAVE POLICY.**

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, there's a difference between the two options we were given. In Attachment One it doesn't include maternity leave and then in the second one it does include maternity leave for donated time, but the main big difference between the two is in the eligibility requirements, and the first one it requires an employee to complete six consecutive months of employment, but in the second attachment, were it has the same eligibility, they ask for 12 consecutive months of employment. To me, what this does is provide a discriminatory clause towards women who might happen to get pregnant within that period of time, and this is going against what I was asking for at the last meeting. We should not be discriminating against women just because they decide to work and have families. Families are the best employees this County could ever have because they have a reason to go to work, they have a reason to get money to bring home to their families. They're not going out partying every night, coming in with hangovers.

Chairman Hair asked, what is your suggestion? Commissioner Rayno said, just make it six months like the other one, so you have a consistent policy and it's not [inaudible]. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Kaigler.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, that was an error, sir. Both should read 12 months.

Chairman Hair said, okay, that solves the problem. Okay, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Chairman Hair read this item into the record as first reading.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ORDINANCE CHAPTER 17, ARTICLE 1, SECTION 17-112, BAR CARDS BY STRIKING SECTION 17-112 IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ADOPTING A NEW SECTION 17-112 ENTITLED PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'll make the motion. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Chatham County Ordinance, Chapter 17, Article 1, Section 17-112, Bar Cards, by striking Section 17-112 in its entirety and adopting a new Section 17-112 entitled Photograph Identification of Employees. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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- 2. AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY PERSONNEL ORDINANCE AND PROCEDURES MANUAL, ADDING IN THE ORDINANCE, SECTION V-8.0, ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL) AND INTERNET USE POLICY AND IN THE PROCEDURES MANUAL, ARTICLE III - 111.0, ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-MAIL) AND INTERNET USE POLICY.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Jackel said, let's hear a little discussion on that. Chairman Hair said, well, let's get a motion on the floor first. Commissioner Odell said, I'll move for approval. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel asked, who drafted this policy? Can anyone give us an overview of it and what they're trying to attempt? County Attorney Hart said, sure. This is --, what we tried to do in the Internet Policy here was to set forth the uses of computer equipment, software services on behalf of the County. We don't have a clear Internet Policy. It does a couple of things. Number one, it clearly defines that work equipment is for work and not for personal items. We realize that anybody that has a computer is occasionally going to get some type of inadvertent advertisement or correspondence from someone, but we're saying if it's a work station with computer equipment, it ought to be used for County business and County business as much as possible only. The second thing that we're also stressing to our employees and have held within a number of conferences that we've had with administrative staff is that everything that is put on a computer in a public network system is essentially going to probably with few exceptions fall under the open records requirement, so it is a public record and, of course, people should be mindful of their comments and write appropriately within the E-mail system. And, thirdly, it points out to the employee that they really do not have any reasonable expectation of privacy in regard to their E-mail addresses from a public instrumentality or network, and the concept there was to make sure that the County had a policy that was fair to their employees, fair to the public so that they had access, and at the same time put the public employee on notice that this equipment is public equipment and should be treated as such. Commissioner Jackel said, well, let me ask you a few questions. Around the courthouse I see some of the people have their own personalized screensavers. Now a technical reading of this ordinance I think would prohibit that. County Attorney Hart said, well, we're not interested in worrying about screensavers as long as they have reasonably good taste. Commissioner Jackel said, I mean, most of them I've seen are like pictures of their grandchildren, you know, something like that, but that's what they've installed, and according to this they couldn't do that, and I --. County Attorney Hart asked, how so? Commissioner Jackel said, well, they're not to install or use unauthorized software. County Attorney Hart said, well, that's not a --. Commissioner Rayno said, [inaudible] unauthorized. County Attorney Hart said, yes, we're talking about unauthorized. What we're talking about is that the County's got a licensing agreement for Windows or whatever and we've got 300 license agreements. We don't need to have our employees taking it home. It's violating our license agreement, and that's really what that's designed as to protect the County from, you know, over use of our paid license requirements. Commissioner Jackel asked, so if they have that, no one's really going to be concerned about it? County Attorney Hart said, not as long as, you know --. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. Now suppose --, our County employees take breaks from time to time and, of course, they have a lunch hour. Suppose they wanted to go on line to order their Braves tickets or something like that and charge it to their personal credit card. Would that be a permissible use? County Attorney Hart said, the way the policy is written, the short answer to that is no. The reason for that is we expect the work place to be used for work place equipment. If they want to do that, they need to do that on their own time at home on their own equipment. Commissioner Jackel said, well, that's a distinction I was trying to make. This would be on their own time if it was on their --, if it was on their lunch hour or if it was during some sort of break period. It seems to me we ought to be just a little bit more flexible in that area. We offer computers around the courthouse for all kind of people to come in and use and we have a vast array in the lobby that I've never seen anybody use, but it seems to me maybe we ought to amend this so if they want to E-mail their husband that their boss is wanting them to work an hour late, they can

quickly send their spouse an E-mail that I'll be an hour late because I have to work overtime. There are various things. I mean, most of the things, like you say, no one would care, but if you had a supervisor that's looking for things to penalize you about, I don't want to create pitfalls where we don't need to. If it is during their non-work time or if an employee gets in early and wants to spend some time researching World War II prior to starting work or staying after work and those facilities are there, I don't see why we should limit our employees in that sort of effort.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Jackel, the intent of this whole thing is there's been a shift in the country to make sure that all businesses, governmental entities have Internet policies so that we can stave off any kind of litigation that might occur. Microsoft has been aggressively going after governments and businesses to make sure that employees are not using the software at home as well as at work. There's an 80/20 rule that they follow very specifically, but to sit here and micro manage the policy, I think, would be very tedious at this point. I asked for a couple of changes which would also stave off any kind of litigation that might occur which the Attorney and Lewis Leonard very graciously accepted, but to talk about E-mailing home when they could simply pick up the phone and leave a message on the answering machine or any of these things, we could sit here all day and micro manage it.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm not --, I'm just bringing up some things and maybe it is micro managing. I'm just trying to --, I don't want our employees to feel that every time they approach the computer, they'd better watch. Big brother's use it --, if they use it for what I think as appropriate reasons, like coming in early and doing some research on their own time, staying late and doing some research, maybe it is the appropriate way to leave an E-mail message at their husband's work because they can't reach him some other way or whatever. There ought to be the flexibility in this policy to allow for that and probably some other things I haven't even thought of, and that's all I --, those are the type of questions.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I agree in part with Mr. Jackel and Mr. Rayno, but I don't think there's a perfect policy. I think the policy needs to be set. I think our attorney has given us the recommendation. I'll make a motion to approve the policy as is with a recommendation that a year from now we take a look to see if there have been any recommended changes, either from a national standpoint or how the employees might be going to benefit. Chairman Hair said, motion. Do we have a second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor --. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with having a policy, but the policy I think as Commissioner Rayno spoke earlier, should be on the software and what you can put in there, what software you can use and that type thing with a government computer. I work with a Federal agency and we cannot put any software or bring any of our stuff there without getting prior approval through a certain group that monitors that. Now as far as E-mails and as far as the Internet, we can use E-mail or we can use Internet as long as you don't abuse it and go into it for any long length of time, and that's monitored pretty heavily, and I think we have the capability here of monitoring that. To me that sounds like it should be a manager's and a supervisor's job to oversee, not for us to limit that to where you just point blank can't do anything with it other than what pertains to County business. Now if I couldn't use E-mail, I couldn't communicate with the people I represent right now. County Attorney Hart said, the policy insofar as that says an employee shall limit personal use of the computer and related resources to the minimal extent possible.

Chairman Hair said, I think that covers your question. We already a motion and a second to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the proposed amendment to the Chatham County Personnel Ordinance and Procedures Manual, adding in the ordinance, Section V-8.0, Electronic Mail (E-Mail) and Internet Use Policy, and in the Procedures Manual, Article III - 111.0, Electronic Mail (E-Mail) and Internet Use Policy, with the recommendation that we come back in one year to review the policy. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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PERSONAL PRIVILEGE - COMMISSIONERS JACKEL AND MURRAY

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman, I had a client approach me as I was coming in the meeting this morning and he wanted to address us on Skidaway Road. I'd like to move that we allow him a minute or two to express his concerns about Skidaway Road.

Chairman Hair said, without objection I'm going to allow five minutes only. Commissioner Murray said, before we approve that, I also have a comment on another issue that I'd like to bring up that I didn't have time to get on the agenda. Chairman Hair said, I'll also allow five minutes that. Commissioner Murray said, well, I won't need five minutes. Okay.

Re: Skidaway Road

Mr. Herbert H. Bacon said, Commission, Chairman, we are guilty -. The Clerk said, state your name first please. State your name for the record. Chairman Hair said, state your name for the record, sir. Mr. Bacon said, my name is Herbert H. Bacon. I lives over there in the area of Skidaway. We have five to six major school operating off Skidaway, including Savannah State College, Bible Baptist. Skidaway has been delinquent. It's a jungle by Meyers High School, it's the worst road in the County. You talk about Stephenson, you talk about all these roads to be widened. Skidaway is one of the most busy and one of the worst and the most -, anybody can travel and it's a jungle. If you see Skidaway, why hasn't -, nothing has been done. They say that it's been in the plans for five or six or how many years to get Skidaway fix. They did a great job on Wheaton Street, they're doing a good job on Victory Drive. Here's a street that's traveled up and down. You've got Johnson feeds off there, and you've got Meyers. Behind Meyers that's a jungle. You go from Meyers you've got Savannah State, Bible Baptist, you've got Juliette Low feeds off there. Also you have Jenkins and that street has not been touched. You drive through there and you go through there, it's a sore eye. If you see Victory Drive, I don't think it belongs in Savannah it's so bad. How can we let that go and don't say nothing about it? Nobody is even thinking about it. They passed that one percent sales tax. They have still got it on a hold waiting on a meeting or they're waiting on somebody to come up and do some experimenting. It's going to be a hundred years before they get done. We need some urging to get that Skidaway fixed. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Commissioner Jackel said, sir, if you'll leave your name and address with the County Manager, we'll get you an update on what's going on with Skidaway Road.

County Manager Abolt said, just for y'all's benefit, it is on your status report on roads, it's item number seven, which I'll give a copy to the gentleman.

Re: Trade Center

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yesterday we received a memo in our packets. A never ending process to get the State to pay for their share of the Trade Center. I don't know whether the general public's aware of it or not, but before we built the Trade Center, the State had committed a little less than \$18 million funding to build that Trade Center. The Trade Center's been built and been in operation for over a year now. We still have not received the funding from the State. Now we talk about meeting with our Legislators, and that's fine, I think we should, but I think this should be a priority to try to get it paid. I know there's been some hangups, but they never should have committed to that kind of money if it's going to take this long to get it because they've never gone through a process like that before. The only reason I bring that up is because I don't think the general public's aware of it.

Chairman Hair said, just for information, Commissioner Murray, we have had a meeting, probably about a month ago, Russ [Abolt], over at the Trade Center with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman and the Treasurer. I think, Mr. Hart, you were there as well at this meeting that we had at the Trade Center addressing this very issue. We agreed that we would do everything to help the Trade Center recover this, and there are some avenues being explored right now, both political and nonpolitical, to solve this problem. I just wanted to make sure that the record's clear that we are doing something about this. It's not just out there hanging. Commissioner Murray said, no, I wasn't saying the County wasn't doing anything. Chairman Hair said, yes, but I mean, we are attempting to get -. If you want my personal opinion, I do believe ultimately this is going to have to be solved politically. I think -, ultimately I think we're going to have to visit the Governor and get his support on this and I believe he will help us, but it is an issue and there are some things being done, but I appreciate you bringing it to the attention of the public.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

1. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written reports received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Kicklighter, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 1:05 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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APPOINTMENTS

- 1. **DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES
YOUTH FUTURES AUTHORITY**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to appoint Commissioner Harris Odell, Jr., to serve on the Department of Family and Children Services Board to fill a vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Dr. Nell Veale on June 30, 2000, which term will expire June 30, 2005, and Wayne E. Murphy to serve on the Youth Futures Authority to fill a vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Dr. Joseph Morrison on June 30, 2000, which term will expire June 30, 2004. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.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