

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 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, September 7, 2001.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Joe Murray Rivers gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

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
----------	--

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

=====

YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair said, I'd first like to introduce the Youth Commissioners who are with us today. We have ZaDonna Slay. ZaDonna is Chairperson, she's a Senior at Jenkins High School. She's been with us before several times. We have Sumati Gupta, also been with us before, Vice Chairperson, a Senior at Jenkins High School. She represents the Indian Association Youth Group; and we have Kelie O'Connor --, Kelie Connor, I'm sorry, Secretary --, I was making you Irish there, okay? We're allowed to do that in Savannah. Kelie Connor, who is Secretary. She's a Senior at St. Vincent's Academy. Again, we're glad you're here and as we go through the process, if you'd like to --, as always, if you'd like to ask any questions or make any comments, raise your hand and I'll recognize you. Okay?

=====

V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. YOUTH COMMISSION SWEARING IN CEREMONY.

Chairman Hair said, the first thing on our agenda this morning is we're going to swear in our new Youth Commissioners. I'm going to ask them –, Van, do you want them all join us at the front first? Okay. I'll ask all the Youth Commissioners to join us down front.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, we have to admit that we are quite excited and my years of service as a Chatham County employee and my daily dealings with hundreds of County employees, this certainly rates among the best of my responsibilities. I submit to you that no matter how grand and how elegant the structures we build and no matter how many services we provide, your substantial investment in the youth of this community is by far your greatest accomplishment. It is with that in mind and with great pleasure that I introduce to you the 2001-2002 Chatham County Youth Commission. These 45 outstanding students are from all over Chatham County and in this year's case, from all over the world. Some of these faces are quite familiar to you. You've seen them, you know their names, you've watched them grow and mature. The rest of these faces you will quickly get to know and love as we have. As our County Manager spoke to them on Wednesday and reminded them that the Youth Commission is not just another extracurricular activity, but it is an opportunity. An opportunity to be challenged, an opportunity to grow, an opportunity to lead, and an opportunity to vocalize the views of youth in this community. In the past you have looked to them and sought their counsel and they have been there. You praised them as Chatham County's finest jewels and they have lived up to your expectations. We expect them to be the best, we expect them to be excellent students, we expect them to be outstanding athletes for those that are, and we expect them to be leaders in this community. Most importantly, we expect them to work together because only together can we reach the highest heights. This can only be possible with your continuing encouragement and support, the vision of Dr. Thomas, the support of Mr. Abolt, Mr. Kaigler, the elected officials and department heads who have adopted these young people as their own, and those ageless cast of characters who grow younger by the day in their dealings with these young people: Mrs. Debra Allen, Mrs. Jill Growe, Mrs. Louise Copeland and Mr. Pete Nichols. Most importantly, we thank and would like to acknowledge what we will call our "partners in prosperity," the parents of these wonderful young people, who have allowed us the opportunity to share in their development. Will all the parents of these Youth Commissioners please stand at this time. Let's give them a round of applause. [Applause.] I would now like to introduce Ms. ZaDonna Slay, who will serve as Chairperson of this year's Youth Commission, for a couple of remarks.

Youth Commissioner Slay said, thank you, Mr. Johnson. Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, members of the Commission. I thank you for the opportunity to serve this community as Chairperson of the Chatham County Youth Commission. We love Dr. Thomas and the County staff that take the time out to make a difference in our lives. I'm excited to work with such a great group of teens from all over the County. I am confident that this will be the best Youth Commission year that we have ever had. I just wish that the news media will take time out this year to aggressively highlight the positive things youth are doing in the community instead of just the negative. On behalf of the officers, members and parents, I thank you for your support.

Mr. Johnson said, the 2001-2002 Chatham County Youth Commission. We're going to ask as we call their name, they stand and then sit until which time we swear them in:

Chair: Ms. ZaDonna Slay, Herschel V. Jenkins High School Senior. This is her third year on the Youth Commission. Ms. Sumati Gupta, Indian Association Youth Group, serving as Vice Chair. She's a Senior. This is her third year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Kelie Connor, St. Vincent's Academy, a Senior. This is her third year on the Youth Commission.

Mr. Carvell Allen, Savannah Arts Academy, Senior. He's a granddaddy of this Youth Commission, this is his fourth year on the Youth Commission.

Mr. Carey Jackson, Beach High School, Junior. This is his second year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Te'Erica Johnson, serving as an executive member, representing Summer Bonanza Partnership, a Junior at Groves High School. This is her second year on the Youth Commission.

Mr. Dwayne Allen, serving as Parliamentarian, he's a Senior. This is his third year on the Youth Commission, and he is from Savannah Arts Academy.

Mr. Todd Allmond, a Junior from Groves High School. This is his first year on the Commission.

Ms. Renee Bellino, Savannah County Day. She's a Senior and one of our legacy members, and this is her third year on our Youth Commission.

Ms. Kathryn Bernard, Savannah Arts Academy, a Junior. This is her first year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Shantell Boyd, Beach High School. She's a Junior. This is her second year on the Youth Commission.

Mr. Patrick Callahan, Windsor Forest High School, a Sophomore. This is his first year on the Commission.

Ms. Ciarra Callis, Savannah High School, a Sophomore. This is her first year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Hanna Carter, Calvary Baptist, Senior. Third year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Rebecca Childs, Savannah Country Day, a Sophomore. Her first year on the Commission.

Ms. Rachel Cohen, representing the Jewish Educational Alliance, she is a Junior at H. V. Jenkins, and this is her first year on the Commission.

Ns. Niavona Daniels, Upward Bound, a student at Beach High School, where she's a Junior, and this is her second year on the Youth Commission.

Mr. Frank Frazier, Upward Bound, representing Sol C. Johnson High School. He's a Senior and this is his second year on the Youth Commission.

Ms. Alecia Green, Savannah Arts Academy, a Sophomore, her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Matthew Greenberg, Jewish Educational Alliance, representing St. Andrew's. He's a Junior and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Nivea Gregory, she's representing the Youth Futures Authority. She is a student at Beach High School, and she's the baby of the group, she's a Freshman and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Jonathan Helmken, St. Andrew's. He's a Sophomore and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Amro Idris, Windsor Forest, a Senior, this is his second year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Shane Johnson, Bible Baptist, he's a Junior and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Nelson Lewis, Savannah Christian, a Senior and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Yartundra Mallory, Beach High School, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Nolan Mell, Benedictine Military, he's a Sophomore and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Renekia Mewborn, Jenkins High School, he's a Senior –, she's a Senior, excuse me, and this is her second year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Ashley Moore, Providence Christian, she's a Junior, and this is her first year on the Commission.
 Ms. Valerie Moore, Bible Baptist, she's a Junior, and this is also her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Kathleen Nelson, St. Andrew's, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Rizza Palmares, Calvary Baptist, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Celeste Ratcliffe, St. Vincent's Academy, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Haley Stone, Johnson High School, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Shrinidhi Subramaniam, another one of our legacy members, Indian Association Youth Group, she's a Sophomore at H. V. Jenkins High School, and this is her first [sic] year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Keenan Summerlin, Benedictine Military Academy, he's a Junior and this is his first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Aminata Traore', who is studying in France this semester so her mom came to sit in for her, and Aminata is a Senior and this is her fourth year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Crystal Tyson, Johnson High School, a Sophomore, and this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 We are very pleased this year to be international as we welcome Mr. Akira Watanabe from the country of Japan, and he is here studying for this –, this school year. He is a Sophomore. He is studying at Sol C. Johnson and this would not have been possible without the 4-H Club and the Cooperative Extension Service.
 Ms. Rebecca Warnock, Providence Christian, Junior, this is her first year on the Youth Commission.
 Ms. Christian Watts, Beach High School, she's a Senior, and this is her second year on the Youth Commission.
 Mr. Ernest Webb, Memorial Day School. He's a Junior and this is his first year on the Commission.
 Ms. Jazlyn Williams, Savannah Arts Academy, she's a Junior and this is her first year on the Youth Commission. And
 Ms. Krystal Wise, Savannah High, she's a Junior and this is her second year on the Youth Commission.
 Did I call everyone's name? Okay, I did. Ladies and gentlemen, the 2001-2002 Chatham County Youth Commission.
 [Applause.]

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to ask Dr. Thomas to come down and join me as we swear the new members in. As Van [Johnson] mentioned in his presentation, the Youth Commission was the brainchild of Dr. Thomas and this program has helped so many young people. It's certainly helped us as Commissioners as well and to be able to work with them, and it also has become a model for the country. This model's been picked up by NACo, the National Association of Counties, and now we've been asked for advice on a regular basis on how to set up Youth Commissions, and it all started with Dr. Thomas and her idea, so we all owe her a great deal of gratitude. Let's give her a hand. [Applause.] I'm going to ask all the Youth Commissioners to stand and raise your right hand. I (and state your name), a citizen of the State of Georgia and of the United States and a member of the Chatham County Youth Commission do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the+ Constitution of the State of Georgia that I will honestly and faithfully perform the duties assigned to me and that I will at all times abide by and conform to the laws, ordinances and rules and regulations approved by the Chatham County Commissioners. So help me God. Congratulations.

Commissioner Jackel said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to recognize two people in –, not recognize, and others, I hope I don't offend anybody. I'd like Ms. Virgie Mell to stand. She's a former employee of Chatham County and she has two grandsons on the Youth Commission, and I just wanted to recognize her for that, that she has worked for us, and then the others, I'd like Mr. Walter Lewis to stand for a moment. I think everybody knows Mr. Walter Lewis and his dad, who is a former Mayor of the City of Savannah, and his son is on there and I'm glad to see the Lewis' strong tradition of serving this City and County is continuing. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Jackel. I'm going to –, since a lot of us might want to talk to individuals, I'm going to declare a five-minute recess while the Youth Commissioners and their parents exist in the hall and give us time to speak to them individually. So, a five-minute recess.

The Chairman declared a recess at 9:22 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 9:33 a.m.

=====

~~2. JUDGE HARRIS LEWIS REGARDING BUDGET.~~

This item was deleted from the agenda.

=====

3. PRESENTATION BY ASSESSOR'S BOARD CHAIRMAN HOGAN ON PERFORMANCE REVIEW BOARD REPORT.

Chairman Hair said, the next thing on our agenda is a presentation by Assessors' Board Chairman, Mr. Hogan, on the Performance Review Board's report. I'll ask Mr. Hogan to come forward and make his presentation.

Mr. Jerry Hogan said, good morning. How y'all doing? I guess this is a presentation. It's a request by you and the Commission also, Dr. Hair, and what we want to do is try to give a positive impression of what the Board of Assessors have done. I think y'all have gotten this handout that I gave, so I'm not going to completely through. I'd like to comment on some of the things that we have done and through the 12 -, I mean, through the consequence of -, I think we've got 12 or 30 others and then we'll get into the PBR, and that don't mean Pabst Blue Ribbon beer either. We've got to get -, get started. The -, down here on the Stephens-Day Homestead Exemption, I don't think that a lot of people knew what the board has done there. When the Stephens-Day Bill came into effect, there was a lot of loose ends, grey matters, and trying to stick to what I had said is that any grey matter will go toward the taxpayers benefit, and I think you will -, there's a couple of things that we have sewed up those loose ends. One would be up to a 50% improvements before your base year values change. Five acres of land is now for homestead exemption and if you have more, the staff is there to help you to divide the land in the taxpayer's benefit. On that five acres there's three dwelling units on the five acres. It used to be one. If there's more than three dwelling units on the five acres, then we will -, the staff will help -, again help the taxpayer to improve their status by helping them with the other than the three. Things that I'd like to bring out is the fuller implementation of the taxpayer -, tax bill - taxpayer's bill of rights, which includes the rollback of rate -, millage rate calculations. Reason for the assessments added to the assessment notices, reasons added to [inaudible] letters, all of these are in favor of the taxpayer, which that's what we are there for. Now of the eleven, the field appraiser staff is better trained than at any other time in the past ten years. All field -, all field appraisers, except the ones -, except one have an Appraiser II designation or higher and we have two additional field appraisers achieve the highest designation, Appraiser IV, given by the State of Georgia. If there's any questions on the accomplishments, I'll guess we'll get into where the matter is on the -, on the Performance Review Board. Any -.

Chairman Hair said, I'll recognize Commissioner Rayno and then Commissioner Jackel. Mr. Hogan said, yes sir.

Commissioner Rayno said, good morning. How you doing today? Mr. Hogan said, a little uptight. Commissioner Rayno said, I saw the letter from Larry Griggers -. Mr. Hogan said, I'm relaxed, but uptight. Commissioner Rayno said, I saw the letter from Larry Griggers, which stated that you thought about the possibility of having Tracy Thomas come down and -. Mr. Hogan said, if you will wait a minute, those are the -, I have -, I can address -, I mean, if these are questions on the twelve -, on the accomplishments of the -. Commissioner Rayno asked, why don't we yield the questions -?

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Hogan, why don't you finish your total presentation -? Mr. Hogan said, that's what I was saying. Chairman Hair said, do everything and then we'll take questions at the end. Mr. Hogan said, that'll be fine, that'll be fine. Chairman Hair said, you totally complete it and then I'll recognize Commissioner Rayno again and then Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Rayno said, thank you.

Mr. Hogan said, okay, that'll be fine. Yes sir, that's what I'd like to try to do. In the Performance Review Board's findings, and I broke them down into, I think -, well, I didn't. The staff and myself and the board members have broken them down into about six basic complaints that the DOR had with us, and it is a -, one about the meetings are going to be last. Inconsistent field appraisal methodology, what we've done is we've sent a letter to the Department of Revenue on this, but we're also working diligently to keep up with what -, what they requested why we have written these -, why we have written this letter that Mr. Rayno had just mentioned. We haven't gotten a response on this particular part of it, the methodology of appraisal. The measuring the quality of appraiser's work, as of July 18, 2000, every property in County -, in Chatham County has specifically -, has specifically appraiser assigned to it. Some of our appraisers have been designated to certain special property types as in large acreage, waterfront property, shopping centers, malls and hotels, and we were getting experts in there. Land valuation -, excuse me -, methodology, that's number three, current status is appraiser experts have been designated and will be attending DOR training class in the near future, which I just found out this morning from Mr. Udinsky that Corky and Vicky -, Corky will be going and also Vicky McCuen will be going to training next week, and this is for -, to help us with the experts that they have asked us to -, to develop and we've asked for -, a request on on-site assistance from the DOR on this. I've gotten a letter back. This was done through Kathy Wilkes, the letter to Tracy Thomas. Tracy Thomas said, that he -, yes, he would be coming and that he wouldn't be here until October, the middle of October at the earliest. We're still working on the improvements. The appeal process -, on August 3, 2001, again, the board adopted a policy to assist -, to assist in the address of the issue raised in this finding. Also on this date, the BOA requested an input from the -, from the DOR regarding additional language. On this we have adopted a new policy, and I think that we are, as a board, there's one section in there that is not taxpayer friendly, but this is what the DOR has directed us to do and so we're working through that, but I would think that most of the board feels like that it kind of ties the hands of our appraiser when new information comes to -, comes to -, when they get the new information, their hands are kind of tied at the Board of Equalization. I've never -, I've never thought that -, you know, that was always tying the hands, but now that the -, the board feels the same so we've got a policy there that we're all still working on in trying to get a policy to go along with what the DOR, the Department of Revenue wants and what the -, to help our staff in testifying at these BOE, Board of Equalization hearings. Computer support, and again it depends on -, it depends on staffing, and I know

y'all don't have any budgetary problems so I know we'll get them right quick, but that's some of the problems that we have is due to the staffing and the budgetary problems that we have. The BOA meetings, the consensus on October 3rd, the board requested additional assistance and guidance from the DOR in developing, implementing and monitoring the best possible practices. The only thing that I can say about the —, the BOA meetings is exactly what they put in there, and I'm going to be upfront and truthful about it, and there's nothing —, that's not a way you can do, and I'm going to read what the BOA —, I mean the PBR [sic] put on —, that's the Performance Review Board. I'd like to read the first sentence and it kind of sums up the true fact of what we do there. "The PBR [sic] found compelling the statements made by several witnesses that the meetings of the presently constituted BOA have been less than harmonious. In the judgment of the PBR [sic], the divisiveness of the BOA finds its roots in the distrust and disrespect of the individual members of each other and certain members of the appraisal staff. The meetings have often taken on the air of open hostility, with shouting and verbal threats and have thus attracted the attention of the media and brought general public scorn on the credibility of this board and its ability to carry out the business of the Assessors' Office." Well, I tried to get some words to kind of make that a little bit better, but I couldn't come up with one. I could come up with embarrassing, you know, I could come up with vocal and several other ones, but that kind of hits the nail on the head with the way that the board is being run right now. But with this —, with this and the board, and I mean, I'm part of that board and I'm being very critical of what's happening, on how it's being done there. The meetings, you know, like I said, are vocal, but —, and they're ugly. I mean, I've said this up here before, they are ugly, but the County business gets done. It does —, it gets done, okay. The staff's work is not ugly. They're professional, they do their best job and they've come out and been very positive toward this Performance Review Board. So you've got to kind of separate the bosses from the employees and —, and that —, I feel like the staff is doing their best job and that it's gotten a little bit of —, of bad publicity due to the Board of Assessors. That's —, that's basically about what I've got to say on what the board's response is.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Rayno to ask questions and then Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Mr. Hogan said, now, Mr. Rayno, may I —, if it gets too technical, I would like to —, I've got some of the staff here. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Mr. Hogan asked, is that okay? Because I've got Mr. —. Chairman Hair said, certainly you have the opportunity to call on anyone you'd like to answer questions. Mr. Hogan said, all right. I've got Mr. Udinsky —. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Mr. Hogan said, and Ms. —, Ms. Vicky and —. Chairman Hair said, that's fine, whoever you need to help you answer the questions. Mr. Hogan said, all right, sir. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm glad you're going to take some of the advice from Tracy Thomas because I've met him before two years ago. He's an extremely intelligent man. He knows the State computer system forward and backwards. He also, I believe, is committed to fairness in property taxation and I think you'll find that the information he has will be very valuable to your organization. Secondly, I'm still curious as to whether or not you're going to have a second person that's going to be able to run the computer system that will provide a check and balance to what Gary [Udinsky] does on the computer system. That was in the PRB report. Mr. Hogan asked, can I answer that? Commissioner Rayno asked, can you identify specifically who that person would be? Mr. Hogan said, I believe I —, number five on your list is computer support. When you give us the person, when y'all select a person, I don't think it makes any difference who does. The staffing and the budgetary issues are standing in my way right now. Commissioner Rayno asked, would you mind if it was somebody from Internal Audit? Mr. Hogan said, I don't think that Gary [Udinsky] would mind. I don't want to answer on a day-to-day process, but I think that the checks and balances would be —, would be accepted. I don't want to —, I don't want to —, let me ask you. I don't want to answer for somebody else, okay. I'll pass this one on to Gary [Udinsky].

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Udinsky, do you want to answer that question? Mr. Hogan said, but due to the deal with the board, I don't think it's any problem. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Udinsky, do you want to answer that?

Mr. Gary Udinsky said, we'll take any resources we've got that have the training and expertise. Not all [inaudible] can do the job.

Commissioner Rayno said, okay, thank you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to let Mr. Rivers just ask a couple of question piggybacking on what I said, and then come back to me after he's done. If that's okay. Chairman Hair said, that's fine.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to —, one thing for clarification, Gary [Udinsky]. Mr. Hogan said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, Gary [Udinsky]. Mr. Hogan said, Gary —, oh, I'm sorry. You did the last time —. Chairman Hair said, Gary and Jerry sound alike, Joe [Rivers]. Commissioner Rivers asked, can't you cross-train your assistants and your deputy in order that there will be somebody with the capabilities in that office? You can't cross-train deputies? Udinsky said, I've explained this before. If we're talking about the day-to-day operation of the computer system, the —, they do that. That's already being done. The way I understand, this Performance Review Board finding is they want someone with more data processing experience who could solve problems, do more advanced data processing kind of things, the stuff that I'm capable of doing that I can do because of my training and education, and the answer to your question is no, there's nobody on the staff —. Commissioner Rivers asked, you don't have anybody on the staff with that capability —. Mr. Udinsky said, no sir. Commissioner Rivers said, of doing what you're doing? Mr. Udinsky said, no sir.

Commissioner Rayno said, and the other thing, Mr. Rivers, is the fact that the report asks for somebody to provide a check and balance, someone to look over Gary's [Udinsky] shoulder and just make sure that everything is up to par, and that's is to Gary's [Udinsky] benefit to have someone there in that position because no one can say that Gary [Udinsky] is doing something wrong because he's got the check and balance from Internal Audit saying Gary [Udinsky] is doing everything correctly. Mr. Hogan said, give us the money and give us the person and you've got it, sir. Chairman Hair asked, okay? Commissioner Rayno said, the other thing was we keep coming back to the hostility of the meetings, and I suggested

before about the possibility of televising the meetings, and I know that Mr. Nichols and Mr. Thompson got together and put together a brief proposal about televising the meetings and the possibility of having them here in this room. Again, I think it would be to everyone's benefit for the public to see what goes on in the meetings so that if you feel like you're being misrepresented, you know, people can at least see and judge for themselves. Mr. Hogan said, I don't think that people are going to —, on that board are going to change. They could be waiting in the White House and I don't think their attitudes and their argumentativeness is always going to be there. Commissioner Rayno said, that's fine, but don't you think the public should judge for themselves CNN style what's really going on in that room so you don't have to constantly explain that there's something going wrong in that room. Mr. Hogan said, no problem. We've got the press there 90% of the time. I've got no problem of opening up to the televisions and recordings. All we need is the money. We've been —, we've been keeping an eye on what —, we've done what y'all wanted us to do financially. We've cut back everything that y'all wanted us to cut back with no —, we're not arguing, we're not trying to say that y'all right or we right [sic]. We've cut back everything. Mr. Rayno, everything that you want we will do. You just give us the money and we'll be glad to have it done. Commissioner Rayno said, I have one more question, and this is in regard to the open records request that was filed by Jackie Sommers, and one of the E-mails that was obtained, it said that Gary [Udinsky] had requested a private number for the Records Room, and it's my understanding that it's County policy not to have a private phone number in any agency whatsoever. Mr. Hogan said, I think that this was last —, this was answered last time, but I'll Gary [Udinsky] answer it once again about the Records Room [inaudible] because it comes into —. Mr. Udinsky said, I'm not sure I understand —, I'm not sure I understand your question. Commissioner Rayno said, I have a copy of an E-mail where you had requested a private number for the Records Room, which I will be happy to provide to you. County Attorney Hart said, to have a separate number so y'all could get through. Mr. Udinsky said, oh, okay. Okay, I just couldn't remember. There is a public access number to the Record Room. That number stays busy the vast majority of the day. We may have asked for another number to be installed so that within the Board of Assessor's office if one of the staff members wanted to reach the Record Room, we would have a way to do that without having to wait for that public line to become vacant. I really don't remember the E-mail, but that would be the only explanation I have without seeing the E-mail. Commissioner Rayno said, well, it's my understanding that all phones in the County should be public phones, everyone should have access to those numbers. Mr. Udinsky said, well, I don't think that's the case. I think there's lots of individuals that have unpublished numbers. They have published numbers and unpublished numbers so that you can reach them in the case of an emergency. Chairman Hair said, it might be possible to have an extension to that and the extension would not necessarily be public, but the main number would be. Mr. Udinsky said, and I'll give you another example. We actually have a phone that we do allow the public to use, but we don't publish that number because we don't want incoming calls on that phone because there's nobody to answer it, but we allow the public to use it for outgoing calls.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Jackel and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Jackel said, I noticed in your report that you say you met all State requirements. You want to comment on that further? Mr. Hogan said, yes sir. There are a couple of letters that are —, and these are —, these are the things that we do that the public doesn't find out. Let's go back to number four where you've got the —, the Georgia Department of Revenue unconditional approval of the digest. Right here —, and this is where I get kind of confused on how bad we are, and this is comes from the Commission itself, and I want to read aloud one letter —, I mean, one sentence out of it, out of the first paragraph: It has been found to be —, the digest has been —, I'll read the whole thing: Your 2000 tax digest has been received by this department as required as required by law. It has been found to be in proper form and accompanied by all necessary documents. I mean, what else can you get that you do in your job from the Commission itself? Commissioner Jackel said, at a prior meeting the report that was somewhat critical, I tended to criticize that report because it didn't site any specific standards that you violated. It didn't say under Chapter 13, paragraph 7, subparagraph c(3) or anything. This —, he just stated that. Has there been any followup where he stated any specific standards that you were in violation of? Mr. Hogan said, none except the letter that I sent to him, to Mr. Griggers requesting Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Thomas to come to meet with us. I do have a problem with that because of the way that the letter came back and, what is it, in the report itself is kind of —, I guess you can read —, read it either way, but one says that we didn't do certain things correctly and the other letter says that, yes, we're going to send somebody down there, but whatever the officials in that County sees fit, that's what's going to be done. To get back a little bit that the —, the way that I see it, Mr. Jackel, is that —, and I've been taught that —, in these classes I've gone to is that all of the rules and regulations and laws stop at the County line, so what's good for Chatham County may not be good for Bryan, what's good for Effingham may not be good for Chatham, so it's a —, I think that the letter that I got back, which is in there, from Mr. Griggers is a letter to say, oh, my, they asked us for our help, now what are we going to do? And I think that covers the letter that, yes, we're going to come down, but, you know, whatever y'all do is going to be fine with us until we come back down to officially inspect you. I think —, I think, Mr. Jackel, and I don't want to get controversial here, but I think that a lot of departments in a lot of other counties that have gotten under the scrutiny that we've been under, yes, they would —, anybody can find something wrong if they dig deep enough, and what —, what the people that we have here, the tax people that are looking out to try to keep taxes down, that's absolutely great. I talked to a good friend last night, okay. We talked for an hour. Said that —, and I think that some of the things that they want are fine, but I think that what the —, what the Board of Assessors, the guns that they've got aimed at us, we're only doing what's done by law. That's the way our government is set up is by taxes. That's fundamental, but then they need to take those guns and maybe aim them at y'all or aim them at both of us, but what I'm trying to say is that in November the Stephens-Day Bill was great. We gave back \$280 million. That's why we're short, and in the freeport \$250 million. That's \$5.3 million that y'all didn't get and that's great for the taxpayer, and that's exactly what we did. When somebody votes 80-something percent to accept something in Chatham County, you go along with what they say, and that's what I think this Board of Assessors have done. I've tried to change. I think this board has changed, the atmosphere there. I think that we are very taxpayer friendly, we're very courteous, we're trying to run it like a business now. I'm in several service businesses. I think that it should be done, yes sir, no sir, and explain what the problems are, explain what you —, what your problems are. Just don't come in and say, hey, this is —, this is the law, and I've asked that and I think it's being done by the staff, and it's

just not –, I say I. I'm talking for most of the board. Now is the 12 months that preceded this now. We've got a new member on here that –, Mr. McGraw's just gotten started, so I'm talking about the board before this.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Jackel, do you have any other questions?

Commissioner Jackel said, yes, I want to –, these are more comments than really questions. In looking over the analysis of the growth, I noticed that there's \$6.2 million worth of improvements in the historic district, and that's a 37.5% change since the previous year. That's just staggering, and freeport there was a \$10 million change, which was over 6,000% –. Mr. Hogan said, and that goes back to the 200 –, that goes back to the millions, that \$5.3 million that I just said. Commissioner Jackel said, and overall in the County it was 10.6% addition, which is a tremendous amount of growth. I wish my investments had done that well. Just the raw figures when you see them just show how much this County has moved forward and how much people are putting their money in the County and improving their homes and residence and business and had a freeport that's working for us. Even though it's reducing the revenue, it is bringing in more business. Mr. Hogan said, and it is –, freeport will zero out. That Stephens-Day bill will not zero out. It'll keep –, it'll keep saving the taxpayers money and making the financial burdens on y'all a little bit tighter. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so you have requested from the State, based upon their review, that they send some people down here to work with you to help you improve and you're willing to work with them. Mr. Hogan said, yes sir. Yes sir, we are and that's what we've done. There is –, there are on this –, I'll be upfront with you like I have been, there are –, there's been a request through the Governor's office to check into this PBR [sic], there's been several –, I've talked to a person that's been on there, I don't want to say anything about it, but –, specifically his name, is that he doesn't feel like that that was the report that was –, that he would have written. He –, what he –, he thought he was going to put some –, have some input in it. He didn't have any input in it. He was just told to sign this report. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, now when I read the report, and as I stated before, I was somewhat –, I thought they could have been more specific, but as I read the report, there was never any statement in there. Let me state that again. There was never any statement in there that any of this was done by evil intent or anything. Mr. Hogan said, no. And at the end of the report it finally says there's no criminal actions need to be taken and –, I mean, I don't know, you know, where a report like this is saying. I mean, it's saying one thing in the body of it and then it comes up there's another thing at the end –, end of it. There's no criminal action and that we're doing what we're supposed to do by law, and that's what we're there –, that's what we're there to do. Commissioner Jackel said, that –, thank you, sir.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rayno. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, have we –? Mr. Hogan said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, some of the questions I had and some of the comments have already been made by others. One was on the computer cross-training. Gary [Udinsky], I think you'll remember about two years standing right there where Jerry [Hogan] is standing now any my discussion with you about cross-training and you walked out the door and got killed, who's going to run the system. Has that been done and are you doing it? I heard you say that you don't have anybody capable of doing that. I can't believe that. I mean, I would think that out of all the people you've got over there that some of them would be capable of –, maybe time-wise they don't have the time, but I would think that some are capable of cross-training and learning that system. Mr. Udinsky said, they are, they have been. In terms of running reports and so forth, they all –, many. I don't want to say all, many of them know how to run the report writer, many of them know how to do things in the computer system that even I don't know how to do, but what I understood this finding to be is that –, they wanted –, the finding suggested that there are certain annual types of things that I do to prepare the digest that take a higher level of understanding maybe of what's there than a person who doesn't have any data processing background. I understood that that's what they were suggesting that be done. On a day-to-day basis, frankly, the appraisal staff, the people who use the system, they know it better than I do. Commissioner Murray said, the other part was, and I think Commissioner Rayno brought it up about the televised meetings. I know that we can't dictate what y'all do from the County Commission standpoint, but this room's available and it's been offered. The funding has already been discussed. I don't know what the total funding would be to do it, but I think Pete Nichols is willing to work with y'all any way he can to come in this room and do it, which to me has a lot of benefits to it, so I would strongly suggest y'all look into it. I can't say you've got to do that, and –. Mr. Hogan said, well –. Commissioner Murray said, let me finish what I've got. Mr. Hogan said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray said, and the reason I say that, you've got much more room out here in this audience for people to sit, it's a much more comfortable room, you aren't squashed into places, you've got much more room up here for your members to move on, you've got seats out there for your staff if they need to be here for whatever reasons, and I do think that the general public deserves, just as they deserve to see what we're doing and how we conduct ourselves, exactly what goes on in those meetings other than to rely on the news media, which is not always accurate. They try, but they're not always accurate in their comments –. Mr. Hogan said, no comment. Commissioner Murray said, and I say that from experience, but –, so I would highly suggest that y'all consider having your meetings here and having them taped so they can be shown back on the government channel. The other thing –. Mr. Hogan asked, may I answer that? Commissioner Murray said, yes, you want to answer that first, okay. Mr. Hogan said, yes sir, we'd be glad to do it. If the funding's there, yes sir, we'll be right here television. Even if the television funding doesn't happen, we could still come here. Yes sir, it's no problem.

Commissioner Rayno asked, can we direct staff to make a date for the next meeting a presentation and we vote on it? County Manager Abolt said, I don't –. Chairman Hair said, we can't –, we can't mandate, Mr. Rayno. We can certainly strongly suggest that they do it. We cannot –, we do not have the power to mandate. Commissioner Rayno said, well, they say they have no problem –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, what Commissioner Rayno's talking about, I'll make a motion that we would provide the coverage. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and the room. Commissioner Rayno said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, well, I don't even know if we need a motion for that. If they're

willing to do it, you know, we've already offered that and I don't think it takes a motion. I mean, could have a motion, but I don't think that would be necessary. If they're willing to do it, you know, with Pete [Nichols] —. Commissioner Rayno said, well, let's say we're going to do it. Chairman Hair said, well, they have to say that, that's what I'm saying. Commissioner Murray said, we can't say it. Chairman Hair said, we can't say it. Mr. Hogan said, I don't it'll be a problem, Mr. Rayno. No, I don't think it'll be a problem. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray has the floor. Mr. Hogan said, but I can only answer for one.

Commissioner Murray said, I'm still not through. Mr. Hogan said, yes sir, go ahead. Commissioner Murray said, if I'm not mistaken, and I would really have to defer to the County Attorney on this one, and I don't think he's in here right now, is he? Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Murray said, okay, well, I'll ask it anyway. If I'm not mistaken, y'all operate —, y'all's board operates the same as this Commission operates. I cannot go out —, if I don't like or have a complaint about a County employee or a County problem here, I cannot go to them direct and say something to them about it. I go through the County Manager to do that. The County Manager then can allow me to talk to them or he can bring them in the office and we can all sit down and discuss it together or he can discuss it with them, but I cannot go, by the way we're set up on a County Manager form of government, go in to a department head or to a County employee and say something to them about their job performance or anything else like that without going through the County Manager first. I believe that y'all are set the same way. We're supposed to set the policy and make sure that policy is carried out by the Manager. The five members of your board are supposed to set policy and make sure that policy is carried out by y'all's department head, which happens to be Gary [Udinsky]. That is the way I see that happening and that's the way I think it should happen and, yes, y'all will have differences just as we have differences, but at the same time I think y'all can work through those differences as long as you're working towards satisfying those people that we all represent, and we all get paid with their tax dollars and our tax dollars along with it, and that's where the funding comes from for all this and that's who we're supposing to be servicing. The main thing that I wanted to talk about is something that came up several years ago, I don't remember the exact date. Russ [Abolt], you might, and it's not to point a finger at anyone to fault, but I thought the problem had been taken care of, and it's obvious it has not been taken care of. I had a friend of mine that's in real estate call me one day and I went out to his office and looked on his microfiche screen and there were properties not in one particular area all through Chatham County where the assessments were not being paid on the finished product of a new home that people were living in and it was still being taxed as a vacant lot or it hadn't been upgraded in many, many years or improvements been done and those changes had not been notated. Then the County Manager and Inspections —, the Inspections Director came out and sat down with this same individual and went through all that. Gary [Udinsky], I think you were also contacted. I don't know whether you actually went out and sat down with them or not. There's got to be something put in place and, Russ [Abolt], I thought this had been taken care of until recently a couple of properties that happen to be at The Landings are popping up now. The same type thing, being carried on the tax rolls for like some real low amount of money, and it's being advertised and sold, and just sold for quite a bit more than that, and it's still being taxed for a vacant lot and the people have been living in the house for two and a half years, if I'm not mistaken. I thought there was some things put in place at that time, and I know it has to be in conjunction —, not just the Tax Assessor's office, it has to be with Inspections and other County departments. I don't know who all would be involved and what could be done in there to safeguard that this doesn't happen, but it still happens and it's all over Chatham County and I'd like to hear some recommendations to correct it. Mr. Hogan said, you're right, you're right, Mr. Murray, it's still happening. The tax —, the amount of work that we have to do, we're going to make a lot of mistakes. There's 99,000 parcels of —, and I'm going to let Gary [Udinsky] get into this, and we just had this the other day. Twice it's come up, like three or four meetings ago a person called me on a piece of property. We looked it up. There was a house there for a couple of years. Just the other —, at the last meeting. When we do find these they are corrected, and I'm going to let Gary [Udinsky] handle the workings of how we're trying —. Commissioner Murray said, well, let me ask you a question on that, and I'm just using this one property as an example because there are many of them throughout the County. If a person that happens to be in the development business or real estate business happens to be the one that owns that property and living on that property for two and a half years and they pay taxes on a vacant lot, certainly they know what they're doing. Mr. Hogan said, correct. Commissioner Murray said, and the —, by the State law we can go back and charge them the back taxes on that and also get a percentage late fee on that also if I'm not mistaken, and if that's the case, then why are we not doing it? Mr. Hogan said, I'm going to let Gary [Udinsky] answer the technical part of that.

Mr. Udinsky said, a couple of compound questions and, in fact, I'll do the first part first. Commissioner Murray said, take your time, I've got plenty of time to stay. Mr. Udinsky said, there is a procedure in place with all the permitting agencies, not just Chatham County because we have to get permits from everybody, they're supposed to send us the permits and, in fact, from some permitting agencies, Chatham County being one of them, we also get occupancy permits. The property that you're talking about, The Landings, and I've spoken with Gregori [Anderson] about it, he can't confirm that he sent me that permit and, frankly, we can't confirm that we got it and lost it. Commissioner Murray said, well, does the —, do the people that are living in the house have the certificate of occupancy? Mr. Udinsky said, yes, they do and they have a permit because after we brought it to Gregori's [Anderson] attention, he did the research and he had the permit and it was all permitted fine, it's just that we had no record of getting it, so it was lost. Without a permit we generally don't know there's construction going on except we are now into a tri-annual inspection. We're going to be inspecting the entire County a third every year so that every three years you're going to look at the full County. So if you don't get a permit and if you don't know there's construction going on, you're going to know because you're going to be out there inspecting, and can the appraisal staff miss a house? I guess they could. Things happen I guess, but the long and short of it is, between getting the permits and being on this tri-annual inspection process, we shouldn't have these problems occurring in the future. Do they exist right now? You're probably right, they probably do, but we're hoping that we're going to correct it because this year we'll be finishing our first tri-annual inspection. That's —, that's the short answer to your first part of the question. The second part of the question, and I'm going to have to defer this to the County Attorney, but there was a recent Georgia Supreme Court case I believe by the Fulton County —, I'm not sure about that, but essentially that Georgia Supreme Court said that

for real property you can't go back; if you miss it, you missed it, and the logic behind that was that real property, land and buildings, is discoverable, it's viewable, and it's the County's responsibility to find it. Now we had a discussion on this just the other day in the Board of Assessor's office and --, meeting, and there is a statute that says that if you don't return your property that you could be assessed a 10% penalty, but this court case essentially said that that notwithstanding, it's still the County's responsibility to discover the property or once an assessment for a particular year becomes final --, and becoming final has been defined; I won't go into that now --, you can't go back and change the assessment for that particular year for real property. Now personal property is different. Machinery, equipment and so forth, that's different, but we're talking land and buildings this court case said you can't go back. But, again, I'd have to ask Jon [Hart] to get you the legal cite of that. County Attorney Hart said, I'd be glad to look at it. One of the questions revolves around the --.

Commissioner Murray said, if you'll look it up and find out, and I'll get you the paperwork. I thought I had it with me, but I didn't bring it this morning, but I'll show you what I'm talking about. County Attorney Hart said, a lot of times it turns on whether the property's been returned and there's some trigger mechanisms that if the taxpayer actually returns the property, it cuts off our rights to go back on the property, and without getting into --, I'll get with Gary [Udinsky] to find out what the facts are. Commissioner Murray said, so if I understand it correctly, when somebody goes out and starts building their new home, they go to Inspections Department and Engineering and all that and get the permitting process in place, they build the house, Inspections checks it on a periodic basis to make sure everything's supposed to be done properly, and then before these people are supposedly allowed to move in, they're supposed to have a C-O. Is that right? Mr. Udinsky said, yes, that's my understanding. Commissioner Murray said, and then once that is done then they are supposed to send a copy of that last inspection and a copy of the C-O to your office where you can then upgrade the files. Mr. Udinsky said, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, so --. Mr. Udinsky said, and --. Commissioner Murray said, so that --, so I would also recommend then and, Russ [Abolt], this will include your input since you were involved in it at one point also, that these --, all these people that are supposed to be going through that process get together and find some way --, I know we're still going to have mistakes, we all make them, but there's got to be a better way of doing it where we can check and double check to make sure this is happening. I mean, just --. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, and this is still not --, this one piece of property we've been talking about is an example of what's still happening throughout the community. Mr. Udinsky said, and, Commissioner Murray, I'll --, let me say that our Inspections Department is probably the best Inspections Department that we have to deal with in terms of getting us those permits. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not pointing fingers or criticizing any one department on this. That was not my intent. My intent was to try to do something to correct the problem that's still out there that I thought had been corrected, and I'm not saying who should or shouldn't. I'm just --, I just wanted clarification of whose responsibility it is all the way through that loop so if it continues to happen, then we, as a Commission, know who to go to, which I assume would have to be you, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you through? Commissioner Murray said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, Commissioner Odell, then Commissioner Rayno and Rivers.

Commissioner Odell said, Pat [Stringer], Ms. Stringer. You were raising your hand? Ms. Pat Stringer said, yes. Could I make a comment to that particular issue? I would like to --. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do you want to yield? Commissioner Odell said, I'll yield.

Ms. Stringer said, I would like to be afforded the opportunity at the end of this to make just a short statement, but on this particular issue, in addition to --, just as an answer to your question, Mr. Murray, the --, our staff has processed two documents that had transfers of property this year that had on them indications that there was a house on that building [sic], and it still was not put on the digest. Now I don't know why that was, but there was more to the story. We're saying this permit didn't come in. There are other ways of finding this. You could be inspecting, okay. The other way is that there are documents, sale documents and transfer documents that our staff is putting into our computer. There are two documents that were on the property record card that indicated there was a house on the property, and it still didn't get onto the digest.

Commissioner Rivers asked, can I respond to that, Odell? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I sit up here and I get things coming at me, and I wonder why we've got such poor coordination, and then as we appoint people to your board, that's a policy issue. That's something that you people are responsible for. It's not my doing to sit up here and make sure that it's enforced. It's up to you guys to look at it and say, hey, if this is not happening, these procedures should be put in place. Now, hey, get rid of the problem. Sit down and figure out how you can best make this office efficiency [sic] and run. I don't want to be hearing all of this. I --, you know, I don't know about my colleagues, but I don't want to be hearing all these thing that could be settled by a board that we appoint to set the policy to take care of all this.

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

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Hogan, I'll start off on a different note. Mr. Hogan said, I hope so. I've been observing the Board of Assessors for the last 20 years and during that 20 year period we've had some excellent people on the board, citizens who are good folk, concerned about this community, and furthermore concerned about doing the right thing, and yours is a thankless job. It is impossible to believe that you will ever receive 100% satisfaction from the 99,000 parcels in Chatham County. It's an impossibility, it will not happen. I think the board to me has answered the question, and that is are you all doing everything possible to address the deficiencies listed in the report by the Performance Review Board? Mr. Hogan said, yes sir. With the --, how we broke it up in the outline that I gave you, that takes care --, that's taking in every negative thing that the DOR came up with to help us improve. These are the improvements that we are suggestion --, are

suggesting to get –, to get the best board that you have. Commissioner Odell said, and I guess my second point is an aside to what Commissioner Rayno said and that is having a meeting room that's large enough to accommodate the general public, and Jon Hart can probably verify it, he probably is familiar with the case, as a dictum or an aside, the Court of Appeals looked at an issue, it was in a small community, and they said to this county we need a room large enough to –, so that if all of the public decided to come to a hearing that there'd be space. The Court of Appeals said, no, that's not the law and that's not reasonable and you don't, but you have to make reasonable accommodation, so if the issue is one of whether or not, based upon what reasonable people will do, the room that you're currently holding your meetings is insufficient, then I urge the board to consider using this room, and I think that that would defeat perhaps any potential legal challenges that you're not meeting the requirements of the Open Meeting Act. And beyond that anytime that your community is based upon attracting those who have retired and are coming to our community to retire, there will always be those who believe that there should be no taxes. So your board will until that changes always be under attack and under review. You're like us, and when I say like us, there are those who believe that we make a small bag of money for the large amount of time that we spend not just sitting here, but in the multitude of committees and boards that we serve on, that we have some ulterior motive other than we live here and we want this to be a good place to live. I believe the board wants this to be a good place to live and I think you are trying to do a fair and equitable job, and I appreciate your efforts. I know you haven't heard that before, but I'm certain there are other Commissioners who join me in saying that yours is not an easy job. I appreciate what you're doing.

Mr. Hogan said, thank you, and if I could just go back to Mr. Rivers' comment. We don't want to be here, Mr. Rivers, any more than you want us to be here, and as I said earlier, we know that we know that we're the board that makes the decisions, but it's been so –, we've had so many negative things happen to the board and the staff. I think that Mr. –, Dr. Hair and I talked about it, and we just need something positive. I'm not going to go to the paper and I haven't, and I'm not going to, and I'm not going to tell them about the accomplishments that we've done in the last 12 months. This is –, you're the people that we –, I report to as Chairman, and this is what I'm doing. I'm here to give –, hoping that the County will see in a positive fashion that we are doing our work and get the personalities out of it. They are being –, the work is being done and there are a lot of bureaucracy that's left in the Assessor's office, as Mr. Odell said. So, yes, you know, and we are trying to get the –, and today, yes, this is a positive step towards the Board of Assessors to report to the County Commissioners who appointed us.

Commissioner Rivers said, I think everything –. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno first. Commissioner Rivers asked, can I answer him, he spoke to me? Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, and I have a right to reply. Everything that you have written in your report I think I read it, I understood it. I don't really have to ask you any questions about it. Now if the public needs to know anything about it, that's fine and we'll release it to the public so that John Q. Public will know what's going on, but as far as I'm concerned, I appoint you, I measure out when it comes time to be reappointed, if you haven't done the job, then I'm ready to exercise my vote again. That's the way I handle it. I'm not going to interfere with what you've got to do or dictate to you what you've got to do or try. It's your job. I expect you to run that office efficiently or that place efficiently so that we can get a good digest and we can do the kind of things that we need to do. One last thing, Mr. Chairman, Gary [Udinsky], let me say this, and I don't believe, like Frank [Murray], for one moment that there isn't somebody up there capable of learning what you have in your computer. You have to teach, you've been taught how to do it, or you just came up with that methodology. Is that something that you came up with? Mr. Udinsky said, no, I'm a –, my education and background is in data processing. Commissioner Rivers said, but you were taught that, so anything basically there's got to be somebody that you can teach. Okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Rayno. I think that is –, Commissioner Rayno, I think that's everybody.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you, Mr. Chair, and with the full understanding we cannot dictate to them what needs to be done, is it possible, Russ [Abolt], to set up a meeting with Internal Audit and the Assessor's office to look at the possibility of cross-training? That's a yes or no. County Manager Abolt said, yes. Commissioner Rayno said, and then also since Pete [Nichols] is here and we're all in agreement that a bigger room and TV would be a good thing, Pete Nichols, can we put this on TV within your budget? Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Nichols? Is he still in the room? He –, he sent us a memo and I think basically he said that he could if I remember his memo correctly. It's been a few weeks since I've looked at it. Commissioner Rayno said, since we're all here today, why don't we agree to do it right now. Commissioner Murray said, you don't have this board do it. Chairman Hair said, I think –, I think the way –. Mr. Hogan said, I can answer for the Chairman, yes, but I can't answer for the other persons –. Chairman Hair said, what I would suggest the process we follow is this, Mr. Hogan. If you would –, if your board would send me a letter requesting that your meetings be televised and that you'd like to use this room, then I will respond back to you that certainly the room's available to you and we will televise it. Okay? I mean, I think that's the proper way to have an official request from the Board of Assessors asking us and that we respond back –. Mr. Hogan asked, and this is not coming out of our cutback budget? This is extra. Chairman Hair said, well, the tele –, the room of course is available. The only difference would be –, and I believe I'm correct and we did receive a memo from Mr. Nichols, I'll double check it, that we could do it within the existing budget. So, all right.

Commissioner Odell asked, do we need Gary [Udinsky] and Jerry [Hogan] [inaudible]? Mr. Hogan said, no problem, sir. Commissioner Odell said, rather than have you send Billy [Hair] a memo and Billy [Hair] responding to you and then the Commissioners having to vote on it, can we simply give Billy [Hair] the authority to do that? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, that'd be fine. Commissioner Odell said, a lot of running back and forth. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, so the unanimous consent is that I would have the authorization to do that, to respond back to Mr. Hogan's request. Mr. Hogan said, all right, and then after I do that I want to take a poll of the –, of my board and if the board votes –, the poll I take comes up positive, I will send you the letter tomorrow –. I mean –. Chairman Hair said, okay. In the next

few days. Mr. Hogan said, Monday. Monday anyway. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, one of the few things you all agree on. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Hogan, we appreciate it. I believe the questions are up. Ms. Stringer, what else?

Ms. Stringer said, County Commission, I'm Pat Stringer. I'm a member of the Board of Assessors. May I speak for about three minutes? Chairman Hair said, sure. Ms. Stringer said, okay, good. On the issue. I appreciate your letting me do this very quickly. I want to make just five points. The Board of Assessors as a board was not informed about this presentation today at all. We had a meeting on Wednesday, that was two days ago, and we were not told, the board as a whole nor was any kind of action made to prepare this statement. So Mr. Hogan is acting as his own BOA membership. He does not have the board's authority behind him in this report. Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you a question, Ms. Stringer? Ms. Stringer said, because we were not –, we were not informed of it. Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you a question? Even though you weren't informed, don't you think it was a positive thing? Ms. Stringer asked, don't I think what? Chairman Hair asked, don't you think it was a positive thing and was to the point? Ms. Stringer said, well, yes, it was positive, but let me say that I don't share a lot of the opinions that he gave. He's speaking for himself, and as a board member I may also speak for myself, but he did not represent the sentiments of the board. That's my first point. All –, the second point is that all the Board of Assessors members do not share the opinions that were put forth today by Chairman Hogan. There are two points that I would like to make as far as whether particular things were said. I'd like to quote from the Performance Review Board. The Performance Review Board believes that the BOA has become too comfortable with this high level analysis and has not focused on the lack of uniformity that exists among many individual properties appearing on the digest. That –, that is an answer. It's not specific. It's true Mr. Jackel's question is not answered there as far as which specific statute was not being complied with, but it very definitely says the County has a lack of uniformity among properties. The second that the PRB said that I think is really a very –, something we really need to think about, the appraisal staff we observed appear to be technically competent. Technically competent although there are several serious deficiencies in their current office procedures and appraisal methods that need the immediate attention of the Board of Assessors. So on the one hand we have serious deficiencies –, I mean, excuse me, technical competence on the part of the staff and on the other hand we have serious deficiencies, and so I think a question that we all ought to be asking is if we're technically competent, if we know how to do the right things, but we're not doing the right things, then why is that? If we know how to do the right thing, that's technically competent, but we're not doing it. We've got serious deficiencies that they say are resulting in lack of uniformity. Those are very important questions.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, may I ask –, may I ask what the answer is to that? You serve on that board. I mean, you posed a question that they –. Ms. Stringer said, yes, well –. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, well, what's the answer? Ms. Stringer said, we would like to, but the Board of Assessors probably has discussed very briefly this PRB report. We have not been afforded the time to go into detail. We quickly invited the DOR to come in. I think that if we're technically competent, but we're not doing the right thing, I'm wondering is somebody telling us not to do the right thing.

Chairman Hair asked, Ms. Stringer, what you're pointing out though are things you have control over, your board –. Ms. Stringer said, you're right. Chairman Hair said, you're just pointing out deficiencies within your own board. Ms. Stringer said, we can't help you there.

Ms. Stringer said, I understand that. Chairman Hair asked, well, then what's the purpose of the –. Ms. Stringer said, well, there seem to be some elements on the board that have made great strides in keeping down debate and in attempting to deflect issues away from this particular –, this particular report, which time and time again there have been assessors in our board meetings ever since this has been brought up where we have started to mention the Performance Review Board and we've been gavelled down by the chairman or outspoken. Okay, so that –, that's for us to decide. I understand that. Chairman Hair said, that's your problem. Ms. Stringer said, that's exactly right and I understand that, but I'm just letting you know that we're not all over there sitting and writing this report that came up to you today. That is not going to happen. We still need a lot of changes in our operation.

Commissioner Odell said, Dr. Stringer, you had asked for three minutes. How many more will you need? Commissioner Jackel said, let's –, we have time. Let's hear her –. Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask her, Martin [Jackel]? Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate for me to ask her. How much more time do you need, Ms. Stringer? You asked for three. Ms. Stringer said, one minute. Chairman Hair said, one minute. Okay, that's fine.

Ms. Stringer said, we still need many changes in the Board of Assessors despite what you heard today. I personally don't want our appraisal staff to police its own corrections, and I'd like for you to know, I think it might be interesting for you to know that just as an aside the Performance Review Board had no mandates to put in their report whether we should let people go or not. Their mandate was just looking for procedures and policies. So I think if we did put undue weight on that, that we –, if they said we shouldn't that would be unfortunate. They did not have a mandate to tell us what to do and nobody has ever told the Board of Assessors what to do. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Stringer. I appreciate you coming.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman. Can I make just a statement on the whole thing? Chairman Hair said, yes, briefly. Commissioner Kicklighter said, quick. Brief. The only thing that bothers me about this whole thing is I in a way agree with Commissioner Rivers down there. We've spent all this time listening to something that we have zero authority over. The only authority we have is to appoint the board members and it's rough to sit here and be presented with a bunch of problems that we by law cannot give the answer to and, you know, I definitely hope that some how or other the problems are worked out, but by us listening to these problems it simulates to the public that we have the authority to solve the

problems, which we do not. And, you know, I just want to point that out to the public that all these problems have to be solved within that board. Unfortunately, we don't have the authority to do anything about it but listen, but I do admire the fact that we requested Mr. Hogan and the staff and everyone to come up and they came and explained to the public what the problems are and hopefully we helped the public by allowing them to view it on television where we can watch it and see what happens, but I just wanted to point out that we have no authority.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Kicklighter. All right, we'll go to the next –. Ms. Stringer asked, can I say one more thing. Chairman Hair said, Ms. Stringer, please just make it very brief. We've discussed this, okay. I mean, enough I think.

Ms. Stringer said, there are four laws, there are four statutes on the books that have to do with removal of Board of Assessor members. Three of them have to do with the County Commission, the County governing authority, ability to remove BOA members.

Chairman Hair said, and it also states malfeasance is the requirement and this report did not address that.

=====

VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. COUNTY CONTRACT FOR ROAD IN CROSSROADS BUSINESS PARK SERVING GEORGIA TECH FACILITY.

Chairman Hair said, this is basically a formality, but we just want to make sure the Board's aware, we've been requested by SEDA and the Department of Transportation to do a County contract. We do these all the time. Basically the way a County contract works is the State funds the money, they just want us to manage the project. This is a road into the Georgia Tech campus. The Commissioners have been briefed on it, but we just wanted to make sure, basically just authorize us to enter into a County contract for the Crossroads Business Park road. I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter 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. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter made a motion to authorize staff to request a County Contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to construct roads for the Technology and Engineering Campus at the Crossroads Business Center for the Georgia Institute of Technology, and authorize the appropriate County officials to sign all the forms necessary to implement the project, which includes the GDOT Form 532, a Utility Agreement, the Right-of-Way Certification, and the County Contract. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. RECONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION DEMANDS OF CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS – ~~TAX COMMISSIONER, SHERIFF, CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT AND JUVENILE COURT.~~

Chairman Hair said, the next item under my section is the reconsideration and discussion demands. I don't think that's written quite right. I didn't write that, but basically what this is, and I'll need to explain to the Commission several things here. First of all, if a constitutional officer is not satisfied with their budget, they can pursue the legal process, which four of them at this point have done. The first step in that legal process is they have to write us a demand letter, what's called a legal demand letter, demanding restoration of their budget. That demand letter is submitted to me. The County Attorney has to rule that the demand letter is legally sufficient as a demand letter. That meets the first legal test, and then if we deny the demand letter, then they take the next step in court. But we have to –, they have to officially ask us through this demand letter to restore the money. You have four listed; however, the Tax Commissioner's letter and the Clerk of Superior Court's letter does not meet the legal test according to the County Attorney as a demand letter. It's not in sufficient form. So the only two we need to deal with this morning is the demand letter from the Sheriff and the demand letter from Juvenile Court. Those do meet the legal test, the legal requirements of a demand letter, and we have to either vote to restore the money or to deny each one. I would suggest we do them separately and let's do the Sheriff's demand letter first, and basically it's a letter to restore their funding. We have discussion if you want discussion. The Sheriff's here, his attorney's here, if

you want to discuss it, but basically I can tell you that it's a demand letter that asks for restoration of funds back to his budget. So if you want to have questions, we have ample opportunity for that. If you want to go ahead and make a motion –. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, what is the amount of restoration? Are we talking about –, about \$2 million? Chairman Hair said, it's –, the letter states restoration to the former budget, which I think is in excess of \$2 million. Sheriff, is that not correct?

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, yes, let me –, very basically, we had a submitted budget, we had last year's budget that we actually operated on and just managed to break even in the Jail, for instance, on the enforcement side. You have cut that figure drastically, last year's budget. On top of that in this Jail alone you have mandated \$1.6 million in additional costs, \$741,000 in a medical contract, \$351,000 in the law enforcement pay increase, and the health insurance costs, which you mandated, at \$1,430-some per employee of the County's portion, which was another \$491,000. I just can't live on these budgets. I have submitted a budget. I want to work with you as best I can. I just don't know how we can do it with the mandated costs that have been placed on us and still you cut us below last year's level, and we just broke even.

Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], I guess my question is whether or not the cuts that you sustained by our action will ultimately compromise your ability to operate the Jail? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. Last year for the year 2000, the average daily population was 1,333. The average daily population for the first seven months of this year is 1,420. That's an increase of 87 inmates per day in average daily population, and in addition to that with the cuts that you made, Col. Holmes is here. We have estimated, because most of our costs are fixed, your medical contract, your food service contract, and so forth and so on, your insurance costs and all, we can lay off 61 people and close two housing units. Now let me remind you that we have been working on jail population. We probably have 2% misdemeanants; 98% are my felons. The judges are not going to turn them loose and I'm going to have to wind up having to shop them out, and if I shop out two housing units to other counties, it's going to cost you \$7.6 million at a minimum for the next year. I'm just telling you what the facts are. I don't know what else to do but to tell you that I can't live with what you did. Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], and one additional thing is that I guess with closing of Tidelands in part we have a fair number of people who have psychological overloads and the demand for psychotropic drugs as Major Holmes –, not Major, he's a Colonel now. You shouldn't have brought this crew behind you, Al [St. Lawrence]. You'd have won other than for the fact this crew behind you. I know that's increased substantially. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's the State there in that area, we've talked about it before, Commissioner, the State's not taking care of their responsibility as far as mental health's concerned. There are people in that jail that don't belong there. Let me just say one more thing and I'm going to shut up. When we went through this budget process two weeks ago and then on Monday attended a meeting, I had my staff attend the meeting that the Manager had and we saw the summary, and I heard up here we're going to treat everybody the same, we're going to cut everybody. I wasn't treated the same. I was cut much more severely than anybody else and I can't handle the amount of money that y'all approved for me and do my job. Commissioner Odell said, well, I think it's an issue of public safety. There are those who are openly in support of a safe community, but once the Police Department has caught the accused, and 98% of the people in your place are felons, you don't have an obligation but to keep them and I would dread to think that we would put you in a position where either there could be an escape or (b) there could be loss of life either by employees of this County or a per–, citizen who is accused of a crime because we made you understaffed. I'm sympathetic to your position. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand and I appreciate your comments. You know, that's another very important thing. I've got all I can do right now with over 300 overcrowded to worry about the safety of my staff and other inmates who don't want trouble, but I've got some troublemakers in there, and if you could –, one Commissioner once said, well, you ought to get rid of some of them inmates. Well, if I've got 98% felons and I turn out 500 of them, they're going to go out and commit more crimes so I'm endangering the community then. But I can't do it anyway. You know, the judges have the all say-so about felons. You know, I mean, I can work with them with misdemeanants, which we've been doing trying to hold the cost down, but that's the most I can do.

Chairman Hair said, I appreciate Commissioner –, before I call on Commissioner Kicklighter, I appreciate Commissioner Odell's remarks, but I would remind him that I would –, I said two weeks ago that this budget could not, if it passed, was going to be catastrophic and now we're hearing some of the catastrophic things I talked about, and now we've gotten ourselves in a real pickle now because we've already set the millage rate, which we can't change and so now if we have to restore the funds, whether if you do it today by vote or if you do it in court when the judge tells you to do, then it's going to be very difficult to raise this kind of money without making severe cuts in other departments. This is exactly what I said two weeks ago when the vote was eight to one for this budget. I said the budget was catastrophic, it could not survive the test and now it's coming to –, as we say in the country, the chickens come home to roost. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Odell said, let me just respond before Dean [Kicklighter] –. May I add just one thing. I don't think it's too late, and when I say too late, if we restore to you then we're going to have to cut elsewhere. My impression is that there's a resolution to this matter and I think if we as a Commission understand the simple principle that you've got to know when to hold them, you've got to know when to fold them. This is a folding situation because it's one of public safety, and I think that there is a resolution which I will discuss with my fellow Commissioners in Executive Session.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I'd be happy to hear that. I do want to point out though as we discuss this that we are required by law to have a balanced budget, so any restoration would require a like cut in some –, some other area. We cannot just restore without cutting some other area. We have to balance it out. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, that –, my question I guess was to the Manager, and maybe you just answered it. On our final budget approval, did we have a budget –, what was the total of the budget deficit that we had? Was there –? County Manager Abolt said, you're balanced, sir. Commissioner Kicklighter okay. County Manager Abolt said, you're balanced. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is there no way to restore, put a budget deficit in that matched the Chairman's budget deficit in his proposal? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. You cannot adopt a budget that's not balanced. To deal with the issue before you today, I was just looking at the numbers, you're talking about reinstating approximately \$2.7 million. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, but I know on the bottom of his proposal he had like a \$1.3 million budget deficit.

Commissioner Murray said, what happened is there was also one on the budget that was approved. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Commissioner Murray said, instead of –, since by law we can't approve a budget that's not balanced, we took a cut somewhere else with the understanding we'd try to find those funds to put back in there another time, but the budget we actually adopted was a balanced budget. County Manager Abolt said, but –. Commissioner Murray said, when it was being proposed it had about a million dollar deficit, but then we had to do some things –. County Manager Abolt said, but you did –. Commissioner Murray said, and a motion was made so it would be balanced when we adopted it. County Manager Abolt said, what you did, you assumed the sale of the Fulton property \$1.3 million and you were balanced. You cannot adopt a budget that shows any balance.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter, are you finished? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I want to –, I want to get some of the figures straight. What's your –, what's your total? What –, you're asking for an additional \$2.7 million? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no. I submitted a budget and I, you know, I'll be willing to work with you. Commissioner Odell said he had something. I'd appreciate you discussing it with Mr. Scheer because I am involved and I don't want to be. I wish this would all go away, but it's not going to go away because I can't do what y'all want me to do, so –. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I understand that. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, he's pretty much up to date on –, on the figures and if y'all come up with something, I'd be glad to [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, I'd like to –, I'd like to get these figures down in rough numbers. What is your –, what was your submittal budget? How much money was that? What was it you originally requested? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I originally requested \$20,388,994 in the Jail/Detention Center area. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so 20-point, 20.4 for the –. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, that's correct. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, and –. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, and on the enforcement side I originally submitted \$5,650,180. Commissioner Jackel said, so \$5.6 on the enforcement side. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, and then I have a –, of course, I have a maintenance budget as well –. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, which wasn't as –, that was at \$490,814. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so that's about \$400,000. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Jackel said, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray asked, did you say 498? On the maintenance. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, on the maintenance \$490,814. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so that's about .5. Commissioner Rayno said, 26.5. Commissioner Jackel said, all right. And you want –, and we left you \$2.7 million short? Mr. Steve Scheer said, 2.9. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, a little more than that, sir. Commissioner Jackel asked, three short? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, here's –.

County Manager Abolt said, if I can help you please on this. Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, the Sheriff has every right to submit directly to you this budget request, which he did do. The budget that I submitted to you, you referenced the use of what I refer to as the plateau budget, which was looking at what was done in the previous year and giving a fair estimate of what costs would be for the next 12 months. That was the motion upon which cuts were made. Not based on that budget, but the previous budget. But I was trying to follow as the Sheriff was testifying and not –, not reflect on what he's asked for over and above what I've given you, you have a minimum of \$2.7 million and then whatever the difference is in the budget he's submitted to you. Those are the numbers you're seeing a difference in. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so you're saying –. County Manager Abolt said, the budget right now for the Sheriff, the Detention Center and Jail Maintenance is \$2.7 million less than the plateau budget, but please understand the Sheriff does have a right to go around me and submit to you a budget that he feels necessary. So the figures he's given you are larger than the numbers I given.

Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so they're saying \$3 million less and you're saying \$2.7 million less out of a total budget that's about \$26.5. Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure –, Mr. Scheer, do you want to –, I think it would best –. Mr. Scheer's the attorney, so –. Mr. Scheer said, basically I think we'll –, Mr. Abolt's got the figures correct and we submitted, as he said, a proposed budget which the Sheriff said would take care of all of his needs, and that y'all submitted a plateau budget, which they call the plateau budget, which was eventually cut after a hearing two weeks ago. So our fig–, our position is we have submitted a proposed budget, which the law requires us to do. We're willing, if you have any suggestions on how to, you know, house the prisoners or feed them, since our cost per meal is 78¢ a meal per person. You can't cut that any lower, and if you've got any suggestions on how to do that, we'll be happy to listen to it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Jackel said, I'm not –, I'm not through. Chairman Hair said, oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm sorry, Martin [Jackel]. Commissioner Jackel said, so we're talking about a total budget of \$26.5 and in that you need an additional \$2.7 is what the figures are, so you're asking for about 10% –. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I think you're working from the plateau budget and I don't know –, I hope you'll change that. You know, we have a submitted budget, we have a last year's budget. I don't know where this idea about a plateau budget come up. I wasn't consulted about what was cut or anything. You know, just work with last year's budget and you submit a budget and just say you're going to cut

it so much, everybody can understand it. This is totally confusing. I don't know where this plateau budget come from. [NOTE: Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair said, one at a time please. Commissioner Jackel said, that's why I'm trying to work this through so -, y'all are looking for an additional \$2.7 million. Okay, how much money you're -, how much money is it you're looking for? If I'm going to look to cut or if I'm going to look to take it from somewhere else, I'd like a figure. That's not unreasonable. Chairman Hair said, I think the figure was given. Chairman Hair said, well, let's hear it. Maybe you heard it, I didn't hear it. Commissioner Murray said, based on what Russ [Abolt] said they should have a figure. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Scheer will give you a figure. Mr. Scheer said, it's approximately \$3 million. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, so y'all are looking for \$3 million. Mr. Scheer said, it's something that we are prepared to try and work with. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so you -. Mr. Scheer said, we can't guarantee that'll work, but we're prepared to try. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, so if I could pull it out of a hat somewhere, \$3 million that would -. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Commissioner, now that's not just the Jail/Detention Center, that's across the board -. Commissioner Jackel said, that's across the board, the whole thing. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, and the maintenance budget. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. All right, so y'all are looking for an additional \$3 million and your total budget so far is \$26.5. Is that correct? I took \$20.4 for the jail, \$5.6 for enforcement, \$.5 for maintenance and added that up and I got \$26.5. Commissioner Murray said, I think that was his proposed budget. Mr. Scheer said, no, I think -. That was the proposed budget. Commissioner Jackel said, okay. Mr. Scheer said, the budget that was approved, for instance, at the jail I think was \$17,789,230. That was the jail budget, and if I could -, and just go over some of the facts with you. The increase in the medical contract increased -, approved by this Commission was \$741,000. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that. Mr. Scheer said, and those are mandated costs, already approved costs, and we have -, the Sheriff has no control over it. Commissioner Jackel said, I understand that. I'm sympathetic to you and -, and that was part of the reason in the original proposal that I proposed I called for a .44 mill increase, but the votes were not there for that. The votes were not there for any mill increase and so we were struggling with our total obligation to balance the budget and that's why we went across the board and we came up with the figures. Now my problem and the rest of our problem is is if we're not going to raise the millage, which apparently we can't do at this time and we decided not to do then, is how we can get \$3 million from somewhere else in the budget to do it, and I had the unfortunate experience one time earlier on of running in -, well, that -, the first part was the good part, I ran in the Peachtree Road Race in Atlanta. It was like the second Peachtree Road Race they had, 1972, and they weren't prepared for the number of people they had and they were only going to give T-shirts for the first 500 winners, and when you got through they had two lines to go through and I went in one line. If I had gone in the other line, I'd have been 499, but I went in the other line and wound up literally being 501 and I was complaining that if I'd chose the other line, I'd have qualified for a T-shirt, and the guy said, well, I'd love to give you a T-shirt, just tell me whose I should take away. And that's what I'm trying to do here, and I don't know what I can do and also I'm very concerned that if I do take money away from other departments, we've also got the Juvenile Court and the we've got the others to deal with. What we built is going to come completely tumbling down. Now, I'm willing to look at it all again and if there's anyway, you know, I can do anything to help you, I've always supported the Sheriff and I'm sorry he's in this predicament, but I'm trying to keep all these balls we're juggling in the air. So we will certainly discuss it and see what we can do to work out some sort of compromise. An unidentified gentleman said, I've got one of those T-shirts, I'll bring it to you. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, thank you. Mr. Scheer said, it'll cost you \$3 million. Commissioner Jackel said, the next year I won a T-shirt, the next year I won one. [Unintelligible comments were made when several Commissioners were speaking at the same time.]

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno said, I'll pass. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just wanted to know, Sheriff or Russ [Abolt] or whoever, on this how much money less are we -, like you were talking about the plateau budget, this, that and the other, how much less are you receiving in this one than the last year's? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, if you take last year's budget, which if you look at the records, the money was all spent, and then you add \$1.6 million on top of that in mandated costs, plus other things. You know, I don't know what the -, what to tell you except that the action that you took is not something that I can survive on. I can't even come close. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, well, what is that number? Sheriff, what is the last year's budget? How much less is this approved budget than last year's? An unidentified gentleman said, it's 6.83. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, 6.83% -. The unidentified gentleman said, that's just in enforcement. Mr. Scheer said, 6.83%. Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right. Can we put that in numbers? County Manager Abolt said, please under-. You know, my evaluation is \$2.7 million, but please understand the Sheriff -. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, less than last year's budget? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir, yes sir. That's approximate. We made an -, we made an evaluation of what it would take to run the jail and all the other Sheriff's areas of responsibility this fiscal year. It's what we called the plateau budget, and if you look at the reductions that you made, the Sheriff could require \$2.7, but he has the right to come to you regardless of what I submit and submit his own budget. That's where I think the numbers differ, and he has that right, which he's exercising now. I can iden-. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just didn't know the number. County Manager Abolt said, I can identify, based on what you all did as of last meeting, that there was four of the cuts that were made that would require \$2.7, but that is a continuation of what amounts to our evaluation as status quo. He may appeal differently.

Commissioner Murray asked, can I ask Dean [Kicklighter] a question? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, did you ask them what the Sheriff's budget was last year and what his submitted budget to us was for this year? Is that the question you're asking? Because if it is, that's not the answer we got. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no. What his last year's budget was and what we actually approved this year, what the difference was. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Commissioner Rayno said, our cut was 11% off of \$26.5 million, wasn't it? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, you cut -, what you did is you took that amount of money and deducted it, 11½% from last year's budget, and then you took that amount of

money and deducted it from the plateau budget, whatever that is, and that's how we came out short. Commissioner Rayno asked, couldn't we agree that it's roughly \$3 million? County Manager Abolt said, sure. Commissioner Rayno said, right. So what you --, what you're approved budget this year is not \$17 million, but it's actually \$23.5 million and what you got last year was \$23.3. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, there's no 23. The budget that I submitted this year for the Detention Center was \$20,388,000. I don't know where you're getting this 21, 22. Commissioner Rayno said, but going back to the plateau budget again, that's what you got cut from, and if you take \$3 million off that, you're at \$23.5 and what you got last year according --. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, if you give me \$23.5 I'll walk out of here now [inaudible] jail. Commissioner Rayno said, this is according to what Russ [Abolt] has told me. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I --. Commissioner Rayno said, from the plateau budget, his numbers and your numbers are different, and what I'm telling you is you're getting about the same amount what you got last year when you subtract 11% off of \$26.5 million. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's not correct. Col. Holmes said, the process was that they took last year's budget, they decreased it by 11.5%, that difference they subtracted it from the plateau budget, and that's how our 2001-2002 budget came about. Commissioner Rayno asked, is that what you did, Russ [Abolt] said, that's correct and that's consistent with what your action. What you --, we're looking at lump sum figures. The amended budget that we have for the Sheriff's total operation on our composite, and those are the numbers I gave you, \$4.6 million for the Sheriff's operation, \$18 million and change for Detention, and \$300,000 for jail maintenance. That was what we know as of now, realizing the audit's not complete, would reflect the cost for last year when it's recognized pay plan adjustments and the other costs the Sheriff can attest to must be annualized. That's from where we developed the plateau budget, which was just an appreciation of what we thought it would require for him to maintain the status quo. From that then derives the need that I gave you of the \$2.7 million. We're, like you said, a few hundred thousand dollars shy, but I heard the Sheriff testifying to he would request over all those three budgets what would amount to an increase of \$3 million. Commissioner Rayno said, okay.

Mr. Scheer said, maybe I can answer Mr. Rayno's question. Last year I think we got \$18,329,095 --. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Mr. Scheer said, in the jail budget. The approved --, apparently that you approved this last time is \$17,789,000, so we're getting --, my math is not that good --, approximately \$500,000 less than we got last year, and in the jail cost alone we got a 1-point mill --, approximately a \$1.6 million in increased costs that the County commissioned as approved, and that would be the new medical services contract, which is going to cost \$741,000 more than last year, and when you couple that with the inmate population rising approximately 87 inmates per date, you can see the dilemma that the Sheriff's in.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman's there's obviously confusion in the numbers here, and I think if we take a vote today, there's not going to be a clarity that there should be. I'd really like to table until I see an actual analysis. Commissioner Odell asked, may I [inaudible] please?

Chairman Hair said, before we table --, we don't have a second yet so we still can discuss it. If we had a second, we couldn't discuss it, but, you know, we can table it if you want to. All we're doing is delaying the tough decision because we know that at some point there's going to be some number that we're going to have to either vote to restore or not to restore, and whether it's \$2.7, \$3, \$2.1, you know, I don't know that that's going to be that critical. Certainly if it's the wish of this board to table, a five vote for it, it's done, but, you know, it's not going to solve the problem and all you're going to do is come back here either in a special called meeting, and I would point out that one reason that I would caution us against not tabling is this. The longer we go into the budget and spend --, keep spending money, the harder it's going to be to restore any amount of money down the road because we've already spent another month or another, you know, two weeks of funds. It's going to make it much more difficult for us to come up with whatever, if the Board wants to come up with any at all, if we delay it beyond that. So I'd ask you to think about in your motion to table.

Commissioner Jackel said, and I --, I would like to second it until I see very specific figures and also until I know where the money's coming from.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a --, we already have a second now. We have a motion and second to table. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion to table failed by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Murray were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion --, everybody --, the motion fails. Okay, so we will continue. Okay, Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Gellatly said, okay. I just want to make a few comments. I think at the last Commission meeting we passed a very controversial budget that we're now having to live with. I would point out that the budget that was passed was not my first choice of budgets; however, I think that we're going to revisit this every year unless we do something different with the budget process. I think that we pass a multi, multi-million dollar budget, and for all practical purposes have one very quick workshop. I would point out I pass out to my fellow Commissioners that the City of Savannah has three full days for a budget workshop at which point in time every item on the budget is examined and the department heads have the opportunity to come in and present and justify their budget needs, and I think if that had occurred we would have reached a different conclusion. I think that we made a serious mistake when we did an across the board cut. I feel like the Sheriff is in an impossible position. He has 1,400-plus prisoners there and if he has to lay people off, the cost is going to be much greater if he has --, these are felons that can't just be turned loose and shouldn't be turned loose that will have to be taken to other county jails at a far greater expense, and I think that we made a decision that we're going to have to live with right now, and the only thing that I'd like to say is, Sheriff, if I was the Sheriff of Chatham County, I'd be taking us to court too.

Chairman Hair said, I --, after Commissioner Odell makes his comment, I'm going to suggest to my fellow Commissioners since the item's still on the table that we go into a brief Executive Session to hear from the County Attorney about what

options we may now have since it's still on discussion, and I'm going to recognize Commissioner Odell and then I'm going to suggest that someone make a motion to go into Executive Session for the sole purpose of this item, and then we will come back out after that's over. So, Commissioner Odell –.

Commissioner Odell said, just in closing, to Jeff [Rayno] and Martin [Jackel]. I understand your need to have exact numbers, but it's somewhere between two and a half to three million dollars, but the ultimate question is not whether or not it's two and a half or three million dollars, if it's more than \$50 we don't have it, and where would it come from –. Commissioner Jackel asked, where would it come from? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, the other side, I said where's it going to come from. Commissioner Odell said, and –, and here's the dilemma, the dilemma is that we have competing needs. This man was elected to do a job and it is prescribed how that job is to done –, to be done. When I say prescribed, he has to have so many, based on his system, so many guards per inmate, he has to provide them food, clothing, medicals, yada, yada, yada [phonetic]. Those numbers are driven, and when I say driven, if you look at 1,300 inmates on an average, then you can come up with what it's going to cost him to operate this facility, the impact of which is that we cut him about two and a half million dollars, maybe three million dollars, so we've got AI [St. Lawrence] who can't do what he is constitutionally obligated to do and on the other side we've got, if we take two and a half million dollars from Russ Abolt, we may as well take the parks and close them, we may as well take all other activities, maybe put Inspections in the County jail because we won't have the money otherwise.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. I'll entertain a motion to go into Executive Session. Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, for the purpose of litigation. County Manager Abolt said, pending litigation. Chairman Hair said, pending litigation. Okay, 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.

Commissioner Odell asked, could we have Mr. Scheer stand around if there's a question?

* * *

Chairman Hair said, okay, first of all before I take a motion, I need to state to the public and press that no action was taken in Executive session. Secondly, I'm going to call on Dr. Thomas to make a motion.

Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we table the matter until the next –, was it –, the next meeting. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of tabling it to the next Board meeting vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion is tabled.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to table to the next meeting reconsideration of budget demands of constitutional officers — Sheriff and Juvenile Court. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present.]

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rayno, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:05 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:50 a.m.

=====

VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF PORT WENTWORTH'S APPLICATION TO DCA BETTER HOMETOWN PROGRAM (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to adopt a resolution in support for the City of Port Wentworth's application. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Jackel were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board adopt a resolution in support for City of Port Wentworth's application to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Better Hometown Program. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Jackel were not present.]

=====

2. MS. FAIRCLOTH MATTER (COMMISSIONER JACKEL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I received communications from the County Manager about Ms. Faircloth. If she'll come forward, please ma'am. Some how this came to Commissioner Kicklighter and then it got to me since she's in my district. She had some illness and because of that illness -. Chairman Hair said, Ms. Faircloth, you need to come up there, ma'am, at the podium please. Commissioner Jackel said, because of the illness she was unable to make her appeal in a -, in a timely manner, and I'll let her explain that to you.

Ms. Beatrice Faircloth said, okay, at the time of the appeal I had gone down to Florida -. Chairman Hair said, first, Ms. Faircloth, I need you to state your name for the record please. Ms. Faircloth said, I had gone down to Florida for a vacation with my daughter, and the next morning after I got there I fell in the tub and I broke some ribs and I wasn't able to come back home for a while so I couldn't appeal at the time I was supposed to appeal. Chairman Hair asked, what appeal is this for? Ms. Faircloth said, evaluation, the new evaluation for my property. I sent in an appeal when I got home, but they said it was too late so they did not honor it, so then I called Mr. Jackel and Mr. Kicklighter and gave them my problem, so they set me up for this morning. They said they would hear me.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Hart, do we legally -, can we legally do this? Mr. Hart said, no sir, I already rendered an opinion that you could not extend the 30-day filing notice. The statute's very clear about that, and there are no exceptions to it. I missed it myself several years ago and, you know, the law's written so that the date of mailing from the Assessor's office starts the 30 days. It's not date of receipt, for example, and 30 days is 30 days and it's been consistently construed as being that way. Chairman Hair said, Ms. Faircloth, what you're asking us to do, we legally cannot do. State law says we cannot do that. Ms. Faircloth said, wonder what I [inaudible].

Commissioner Jackel said, I disagree with that. I think there's always got to be a reasonableness in the statute. Chairman Hair asked, well, if you'd like to make a motion -. Commissioner Jackel said, I would like to make a motion, this lady's come here and spent half the day here because she claims she was injured in Florida and it was because of her injury and health condition, was unable to make that. I always believe that there is time for out-of-time appeal based upon extraordinary circumstances. Chairman Hair said, the law doesn't state that. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I -.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Ms. Faircloth.

Commissioner Jackel said, you will be allowed to proceed with your appeal. Ms. Faircloth said, okay, I have a hospital bill showing that I was in the hospital. Okay, what I was appealing is, my property, the change in value -. Chairman Hair said, ma'am, you've already won, okay. You can't appeal now. You don't need to sell us anymore. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you don't appeal to us. Chairman Hair said, you appeal to the Board of Assessors. You don't appeal to us. Ms. Faircloth said, oh, okay, so what -. Chairman Hair said, Board of Equalization. Just go ahead and follow your normal-, what you-, your normal appeal. Okay? Ms. Faircloth said, okay. All right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, ma'am.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved that Ms. Beatrice Faircloth be allowed to pursue her appeal on two properties identified by PIN 2-0058-18-001 and PIN 2-0058-22-003, which she did not timely file due to her physical condition. Commissioner

Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Thomas were not present.]

=====

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 11:55 a.m., and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

The Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 12:05 p.m.

=====

VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled for consideration by the Commissioners.

=====

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.

=====

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

Chairman Hair said, you have a letter from the lawyer in there. I'll first take a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll so move. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, now I'll entertain a motion to deny. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to deny. Chairman Hair asked, second? Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes –.

Commissioner Murray said, we –. Chairman Hair said, the lawyer has ruled that we have to –, we cannot do this, but again we voted on something earlier we couldn't do either. Commissioner Murray said, let's discuss it a little bit. Chairman Hair said, okay, discuss it. Commissioner Murray said, you –, where's the attorney? County Manager Abolt said, he's coming. Chairman Hair asked, do you have a question for the lawyer or other questions and comments? Why don't you make the other comments first. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I want to find out if there's any way that we can refund any portion of this or –. Maybe –, did we cut his budget and he's not getting paid for this meeting or something? Chairman Hair said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, I'll start out only –. Chairman Hair said, he's time is up. County Manager Abolt said, only as a historian, Commissioner Murray, because I know we've all lived through these before. There is a prohibition in State law on how far one might go back and that prohibition is drawn at three tax years in the past, and that's –. Commissioner Murray asked, and he has been refunded for the first three years, is that correct? Chairman Hair said, yes, he's been refunded three years. His request is beyond the three years. County Attorney Hart said, he's been refunded –, and at one point in time several years ago we had sort of a similar situation, somewhat similar I guess I should say, and there's a question about whether we could refund the interest, and at that time there was no law on that and the Board elected to do that. I think Commissioner Rivers raised that issue. Commissioner Murray said, yes, I remember voting on that. County Attorney Hart said, yes, and since that time there's been a case out of Atlanta where that same thing came up and the court said you couldn't do it, and not this last term of the Legislature but the term of the Legislature before that, there was actually legislation introduced to change this statute to go back and allow it to be rolled back for seven years, and it was voted down by the Legislature about three to one. So I think there's a clear legislative intent that they meant three years to be three years.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second to deny. 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:

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

=====

*** 4. PURCHASING ITEMS A, B, C AND F WERE TABLED AT THE MEETING OF AUGUST 24, 2001.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
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 network infrastructure equipment	I.C.S.	Entré Computer Center (MBE) (sole source)	\$25,832.02	General Fund/M&O - I.C.S.
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 said, Purchasing Items A, B, C and F were tabled at the last meeting. I'll entertain a motion to take them off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to take them off the table. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

Chairman Hair said, now we'll entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Rayno said, well, I still have a question about the signal and I understand that Al [Bungard] is out of town on personal reasons and –. County Manager Abolt said, we can answer it. Chairman Hair said, well, let's go ahead and do the other three anyway. County Manager Abolt said, we can answer all of them. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Mr. George Lynch said, I can respond to that. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm very troubled by the fact of putting an additional signal on Stephenson Avenue. Mr. Lynch said, they are not, sir. Commissioner Rayno asked, they're not? Mr. Lynch said, no. What this is is a really small portion of the change order. The way it was initially designed the stop lights which were going in, and are not being changed, were being suspended from cables between poles. This gets you into a situation where when you get a high wind you start setting up a great deal of swinging. What this does is to mast mount them so that they are rigidly mounted. In other words, pole go out over the street to the proper place, hang light, and that was what the reference to signal involved. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, it's not an additional one. Chairman Hair said, it's just the mounting's changing. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Rayno said, they clumped it together with the drainage of Jackson Woods and that's why I had assumed that there was a traffic light going in at Jackson Woods. Mr. Lynch said, sir, I can see exactly why you would. I have to admit I thought that too, and I found out I was wrong. Commissioner Rayno said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Rayno said, well, the only other thing is we've got this budget with big cuts and we've got two more trucks coming in. Is there any other concerns of the other Commissioners about those, we're purchasing those? Chairman Hair said, I can tell you with the budget deficit we've got this is a drop in the bucket. County Manager Abolt said, remember also your first truck allows your contractor, Public Works, to maintain your water and sewer system, and that was part of your approval of part of that. Mr. Lynch said, it's paid out of that.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what about B? Mr. Lynch said, okay, sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, how necessary is it right now? Mr. Lynch said, very essential, sir. The Marine Patrol has got a dead vehicle. They need it to be able to tow the various boats around. Of course, it's a lot easier and quicker than trying to sail them around. As a consequence, my answer is that is an essential law enforcement requirement and their vehicle is plum dead.

Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Murray asked, are we approving all four? Chairman Hair said, yes, all four together. Commissioner Rayno said, reset that. Something –, there you go. The Clerk asked, who seconded that? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I did. The Clerk said, thank you. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Items A, B, C and F. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present.]

=====

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. HEALTH PLAN MODIFICATIONS.

Chairman Hair said, recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hair, gentlemen, this is very important that we get through this today. This is a culmination of your action in adoption of the budget where there will be modifications to the health plan afforded our employees. You've already targeted a figure that we're balanced to. It is now necessary because we have a defined benefits plan to modify those benefits commensurate with the budget figure to which we used to balance the budget. Mr. Garrison is here. He is our plan administrator. We have a variety of options from which you can choose. Staff will be keeping a running total of your different choices. We're looking at a figure that would show an 80/20 split between M&O and SSD of costs that would be borne from the first of October on by the County employees, and we'll be keeping track of that. It will be implemental, like I said, the first of the month so we do need your direction today as to where those modifications would take place. I would ask you to give Mr. Garrison the time to take you through options and give you recommendations.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Mr. James Garrison.

Mr. Garrison said, my name is James Garrison. Madam Chairman, Commissioners, we were asked in May and June, during this –, beginning this process of reviewing the plan over the past six or seven years and really going back into the '80s and looked at utilization. This is something we do at the end of each year, and we've come up with recommendations on plan changes to modernize the plan, to make the plan whole, if you will, in economic dollars and this is a process that we do every year. This year obviously is very, very critical that we're looking at these issues that we were asked by staff to review the plan and come up with a list of recommendations, which you have in your packet, I believe, and what I did is to come up with a shopping list, if you will, and various items under each of those items that we judge to be priority items, items that beg for attention and the proper plan management. And we have those listed there with the price tags out by each one of them. I have –, have recommendations and these are, as the Chair says, these are opinions, recommendations by each one. This is naturally up to you to decide which one you want to do within your budget. A couple of –, couple of comments about how these –, these were developed. Again, we're –, in developing projections for the future the only thing we have to go on is utilization patterns and prices and so on and so forth from the past, and we –, we study those and analyze those and project those into the future. The guarantee is that the numbers are going to be close, but not exactly right. We can predict utilization patterns for the future, but we can't guarantee what those will be next year, but they are good estimates and –, and based on our experience and drawing from a lot of sources really to come up with these numbers that you have in your packet. I'm prepared to discuss any of these items. We can go through them line by line. I will, as a part of the preface, these items that –, one through ten or one through eleven, to getting on –, in your packet, if you have any questions I can lead you to those, are roughly in order of what we judge to be from the highest priority item cost-wise down to some of the –, some of the lower priority items, and you notice item one is in the prescription drug payments. This –, the prescription drug area within a health benefit plan is the single most inflationary, if you will, over the past five or six years we've been –, been in an environment where the drugs are going up 16 to 20% per year for the past five or six years. For example, just in the last six months –, in the first six months, calendar year months, January through June 30, in your plan the health benefits, that is, the medical benefits not including prescription drugs through the first six months of this year, January through June, the medical paid claims not including drugs were down 16% in your plan. You have solid contracts, the utilization possibilities, some of the physician services have been standard and they turn out to be down 16%. In contrast, during this same period of time the prescription drug benefits are up 32%, and this –, this is for several reasons. One is the increasing price of the drugs and also a greater utilization of higher priced drugs. So, again, through the first six months overall when you put those together, the plan costs through the first six months, calendar months of this year, are down a little bit, down about \$150,000, so the overall cost has been relatively flat. Medical costs are down from prior periods. Medical costs –, I mean, drug costs are up dramatically. That's, for example, why I would list prescription drugs, and the Chatham County plan is not unique in this. All plans are facing, you know, these crises and what to do about delivering medical care benefits to the employees. The one –, just –, well, two, two examples of prescription drugs, you have a \$4 generic and a \$7 brand name co-pay on the drug expenses. What this –, and this has been in effect for seven or eight years, and the value of those dollars, those co-pays that an employee makes have been eroded severely through the years with this inflation that I mentioned. Here's the point that we're at now. A Chatham County employee can, if they have a cold or whatever, they can buy Clariton through the drug plan for a \$7 co-pay, that is a \$7 payment out of their pocket. Clariton for a course of treatment, 30-day supply, you're talking about \$100 cost to the plan, but it costs the employee \$7. The employee is better off economically to do that and to buy this drug through this drug plan than they are to go buy an over-the-counter packet of Alka-seltzer Plus or Contact, over-the-counter pills or something like that. That's just an –, a simple example. That's a problem. Another similar example is it's cheaper for the employee through this drug plan to get a prescription for Vioxx or Celebryx [phonetic], this are [inaudible] inhibitors, the newest thing in arthritis or pain medication. Those again for a 30-day supply are over \$100 cost to the plan, but the employee pays \$7 for those. The alternative to that is for the employee to buy a bottle Ibuprofen, 500 pills for about \$10, but that would cost \$10 if it were over-the-counter. It'd cost only \$7 by getting the more expensive drugs. Those are just two –, two examples, antidotes of things that are going on in the drug plan. Now, I have not –, I've mentioned drugs, but there are a lot of other items here too. I want to preface those –, my remarks by pointing out some of the problems. I'm willing to discuss any of these items. I'll take your leadership about whether, as the Manager said, whether to go through items one by one and discuss them and pick one of the –, one of the items from the Chinese menu, if you will.

County Manager Abolt said, I'd ask you please to do that. Our target figure is \$2.8 million.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification. You've shown us by changing certain parts of the plan what we will save. Mr. Garrison said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, I guess the flip side of that is in your comparison, what would it cost the average employee, what additional cost would this be? If we approved everything that you have listed here, to the average employee. Mr. Garrison said, uh huh. I can –, I can estimate those one by one as a whole. It would be a pretty big project to try to –, try to do that. For example, on –, if you change a co-pay on a drug from \$7 to \$12, for example, then that –, that family –, your –, I know the average –, average number of prescriptions that are billed for each Chatham County employee per year or per month and we can calculate that. I don't have that at my fingers here to testify. Commissioner Odell said, here's my only concern, and really not a question but it's a –, it's a statement. We were so fearful of raising our millage by a cost of less than \$5 a month, but the impact of this plan is that we have increased the cost out of pocket to employees substantially. It's like if you take a \$30,000 employee, my rough computations look like this is a three to four percent decrease in their actual take-home pay, assuming everything to be equal as to last year. So in a year in which we were fearful to raise the millage \$4, we have said to our employees we're not giving you a raise, but what we are giving you, we're giving you –, if you've got a prescription and you've been paying seven bucks, congratulations, it's going to cost X-dollars now. If you add all of those things up, it's going to be about a three to five percent decrease in actual real spendable dollars that our employees have, and I'd like to address that to the County Manager. Am I off base here, Russ [Abolt], and when I say off base let me clarify that. I am often off base, but –. County Manager Abolt said, I'd never say that,

never say that, never say that. Chairman Hair said, I wonder why you looked at me, I wasn't going to say that. County Manager Abolt said, you just broke [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, no, but my concern, Russ [Abolt], is that in a year we're not giving our employees a penny increase, and we're asking them to do more, if you look at all these totals, what is it --, what is it costing like the average employee? County Manager Abolt said, about two percent I believe. Commissioner Odell said, about two percent. County Manager Abolt said, [inaudible] inflation. Commissioner Odell asked, and what that work out to, just a rough dollar amount per month? If you come up and you said about two percent, then at some point you've come up with a determination as to the gross amount, and what I'm trying to do is break that down either by month or by year. County Manager Abolt said, that would be a net. Commissioner Odell said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, with a five percent COLA there would be approximately a two percent take back of a five percent COLA they receive the first of January. Commissioner Rayno said, he wants an actual dollar amount. County Manager Abolt said, I --, we didn't have time for that, sir. Commissioner Odell said, oh, I'm sorry, and I know you don't. County Manager Abolt said, over 50% of our employees at \$30,000 or less in annual income. Commissioner Odell asked, so this would have a net impact of about two and a half percent? County Manager Abolt said, two to two and a half percent. Commissioner Odell said, decrease. And should that there be --. County Manager Abolt said, shift in cost, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, shift in funds downward. Is that true? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. And that --, I want to mention too the Chairman asked me a question as to your preference as I understood, we can go you through --, we can go each line item on the shopping list or we can ask Mr. Garrison to make his recommendation to get the 2.8 figure. It's your preference. Commissioner Odell said, I know that we need to raise this money --, and I'm not finished, Mr. Chairman, and I'll be brief --. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, let Commissioner Odell finish and then --. Commissioner Rayno said, yes sir, thank you. Commissioner Odell said, my sincere concern is in, again, in a year in which we do not give employees an increase, we are decreasing their net pay by adding to the cost of health insurance. While I agree that our plan may have been more generous in certain areas, it's very difficult once you give something for many, many years and now seek to take it back, especially in a year in which you give them no increase. I have a substantial problem and I know that you've simply crunched the numbers based upon the instructions from here. I have a substantial problem with our doing that to start with and that's my first concern, and, secondly, is that we are service providers and we provide services through people and I think that this plan doesn't say to our employees that we appreciate you. I think what it says is that what we want to do to you, Mr. Employee, we want you to pay more and we're going to cost you about two and a half percent on a gross five percent and we're doing all this because we're afraid on a \$100,000 house to tell people they're going to have to pay \$4.50 more per month and you're going to have to pay several times that. I think it's an indictment upon what we consider to be of value, and I consider employees to be of value and this does not value our employees. Yield.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Odell asked, you like that last bit?

Commissioner Rayno said, yes, I do like that. I know that Commissioner Kicklighter could attest to this and I know that I personally experience it, but being self-employed when you go out to buy insurance to get the kind of plan that we've got right now, it would cost my family a full \$400 a month. \$400 a month at a minimum or more, \$500 --. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Rayno. Commissioner Rayno asked, and what are we paying for the County, like 80 bucks a month, I mean, when you increase it. Come on. You trying paying \$500 a month and try making your budget meet.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I go off of yours, Mr. Rayno? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, my parents pay \$895 a month for hospitalization only. No prescription coverage, no doctors visits, nothing. It's horrible out there in the real world. One thing is to the employees here, I hate that we're doing this to you. I hate it. I absolutely hate it, but we're not doing it to you now. We did it to you when we passed that budget with no mill increase. It's absolutely unheard of in the working world anywhere --, anybody can go compare this --, to get coverage for an individual for zero. The insurance is so good, and I'm sure everybody's done this, I did it. I took --, my wife has State merit insurance. Hey, this is so inexpensive, I jumped on board. I've got it too. I mean, it's next to nothing to get it, and a little bit --, the only way I can justify doing this at all, period, is I believe by making these tough decisions here, we're saving your jobs out there. I mean, you take the million and something out, you know, take --, take this money out, that's a lot more people without jobs, and, I mean, I hate that we're doing this. I mean, I absolutely do, but it's saving people's jobs there, and I believe to come up after this budget is passed and after we knew that this is what was going to happen and say how bad it is and all, I think we all agree up here on the Commission, but we've already done it and now we have to sit down and face the facts that we've got to do the cuts, implement the cuts that were made, and I believe we all agree with Commissioner Odell there, this is terrible. It's awful, but the only way I can justify it is that it would be worse to raise taxes and take it out of their pocket that way. You're taking money out of people's pockets, but not near as many as the couple hundred thousand or so that the taxes would have increased in the area. So one way or another the numbers game that we must play in life, it's terrible that it's coming down on the employees on this, but by far the big majority's been helped by not raising the taxes and, yes, I'm sorry because we realize --, I realize that y'all are all underpaid, all the employees here could use raises, more money, and I realize this is what keeps you here is the good benefits, but you price a \$20 a month fee for yourself in the rest of the world anywhere, and you've still got awesome insurance than --, than --, it's not compared. My wife teaches school, we pay \$150 a month for a 80/20 policy which I thought was great after being self-employed, putting her through college, paying what I had to on private insurance until I ran into this. This is just unbelievable, and as sad as it is to do it, it would be sadder to raise your taxes, and that's you people that work here for us too. Your taxes would go up, and it's terrible and I apologize, but I think we need to stop, you know, acting like it's not going to happen. We passed this at the last meeting and we've got to sit here now and make the tough cuts and face reality. We did this in the past and let's try to do something here that affects our employees, who are underpaid, underappreciated, whatever, everything, try to pass something that affects them in the least way possible but accomplishes what we passed in our previous meeting and cut from the budget.

Chairman Hair asked, anybody else? Commissioner Jackel said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair said, oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Murray –, I had it down, and then Commissioner Jackel. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Murray said, go ahead, go ahead.

Commissioner Jackel said, our medical plan now is roughly costing 11% of our budget. The norm for the industry is 6 to 7.5. Even with these cutbacks, we'll be over that 7.5 figure. We just –, you know, it's a question of letting people go, raising the millage, and some of these things that we need to change, item nine, the COBRA rates. That's what –, that's when an employee leaves us. It doesn't affect other employees other just when employees leave, and then everywhere else you pay the full cost, so I think that's reasonable. The –, some of the other things is out-of-the-plan doctors. Well, any employee can control that if we change that by using an in-plan doctor. And the thing with the emergency room, I want to change that slightly. Unfortunately, we –, some employees rather than paying a \$10 co-pay and going to see their doctor, go to the emergency room where there is no co-pay currently and it winds up costing us somewhere between four to seven hundred dollars when someone just has the sniffles. I would like to see that changed to \$75 emergency co-pay unless –. Commissioner Odell asked, which item, Martin [Jackel]? Commissioner Jackel said, item eight. Unless they're admitted to the hospital, then it would be waived or if it's the result of an accident. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I like the accident part. Commissioner Jackel said, because if you're involved in an automobile accident and you don't know whether it's a slight bruise to the head and you have a serious injury, and that's not the time to say, well, I'll go to see a doctor and pay the \$10 co-pay. You need to get it checked out right then. So I think with those provisos. Now, I'll be glad to go ahead and put a motion down for all these items and –, and see where –, whether that comes up and works or whether we want to do them one by one.

Chairman Hair said, it doesn't make any difference to me, but I just –, I expressed a concern to the Manager. We could be here till –, for a long time if we go by and pass each one of these individually and they don't add us to 2.8 and then you've got to go back and adjust them all because what we've got to do in the ultimate before we leave today we've got to come up with 2.8, so if we start taking them one by one, you know, we could try that if you want to do that, but then when we get it back we're going to modify it because it's not going to add up to 2.8, so anyway you want to do it's fine with me. I was trying to put together sort of a package that would –, I haven't gotten there yet, I'm close, \$200,000 of 2.8, but it might be better, and I would suggest to my fellow Commissioners if you could –, maybe if you could put a package together of each one of these and come up with 2.8 and offer that as a motion together because otherwise, I mean, I think we'd just be making motions and making motions and redoing motions and rescinding motions. County Manager Abolt said, he can give you a recommendation too, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, may I ask –, I like your idea. Could –, would this prolong things if we asked the Manager to put the package together that would have the least amount of impact –? Chairman Hair said, we've got one and let's –, why don't we, why don't we do this, why don't we listen to his recommendation and see if we've got five votes for his recommendation. That may be the easiest way. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, all right, how about Mr. Jackel's proposal, can that possibly be addressed about the accident? Chairman Hair said, well, let's go ahead –, again, let's go ahead and pass the big one first and if you want to modify it, you know, I think, you know, if you want to start tweaking it, we can, but tweaking it's going to, you know, if you take away, you've got to add back so let's listen to the administrator's recommendation.

Mr. Garrison said, I addressed the drugs. Let me go in there, there's a couple of pertinent comments and some of them you just mentioned. Commissioner Kicklighter brings up a salient point –, point here in that the Chatham County plan due to it's very, very high level of benefits, and it is one of the finest, probably the strongest benefit plans in this region, and at a low cost or no cost for employees. Now with that dynamic put together, the Chatham County plan ends up with participants in its plan and there's a very, very significant number of participants in the plan that have access to other plans. For example, our employees. There's not –, we have a fine plan, it costs close to \$200 a month per family, but there's no reason for one of my –, our employees to participate in our plan as an employee, which is I think \$80 a month, when –, if their spouse works at Chatham County, with the low drug card. You know, if you've got two drug cards in the family, which one are you going to use? You're going to use –, the Chatham County plan's going to get hit. If there's other coverage available, you end up covering our employees and everybody else's employees because your plan is a target because of the low cost and the very, very high benefits. Several of these proposals in here, certainly two, three and four address –, address those areas. Now, two and three are simply increasing the cost of contribution by employees for their single coverage and dependent coverage. Number two, let me address that just –, you have no employee contributions to the plan right now, which means that 100% of your employees are covered by this plan and your plan is the primary insurer, that is, it pays those claims first on those employees whether or not that employee has access to other coverage or not. Some employees may –, maybe covered under other retirement plans, Champus, these other types of things, but because they're primarily insured by their employer, Chatham County, the Chatham County plan is responsible for paying this claim first. If you install an employee contribution requirement via an employee under the plan, even if it's a very minimal amount, such as \$25 per month, people who don't need the plan or have some other means of coverage will not be on your plan anymore, so you'll lose that liability at no cost to the employee because they've got their claims covered anyway. That's one example. The dependent coverage, you know, that's –, that has a similar –, a similar –, even at a \$20 or \$30 increase per month, and I'm not –, I'm not minimizing the impact of these dollars on the employee's paycheck, and I agree with –, I don't disagree with anything that was said here, but that somewhat has the same effect, but it puts more income into the plan, and even at these two levels, the contributions required to be a participant either as a single employee or a family unit in the Chatham County plan is still very, very low, in the lowest quartile of plans in this region and nationally, calls for participating in plan. Going on to plan item number four. This –, if you increased items number two and three, and let me just pull numbers at two, \$80 per month and then 100 –, \$200 per month for family and \$80 or \$90 for family, you'd be at parity with most other plans, so your plan would probably no longer be a target as far as a working spouse being on your

plan, but to give you all a minimal amount which items two or three, your plan is still going to be in one of the lowest cost plans for a really high benefit plan in the region, so item number four addresses, and a number of employers in this area have this where they have a low contribution requirement by their employees and their dependents, you modify the plan by requiring another employer to take their responsibility in taking care of their employee, and that is if you have a working spouse that is work at a —, at a employer that has a health and welfare sponsored benefit plan, your plan requires that employer's plan to be primary on that person. That is, that allows the Chatham County plan to be secondary, and that's the requirement. As you can see, the dollar out —, the dollars out by \$650,000. That's a lot of dollars and that —, that's an estimate because in order to really nail that number down, you have to survey your employees and find out how many are working, but we can extrapolate that, but I can guarantee you that that number will take some fine tuning, but it's a large number. Items five and six are very simple. The co-pay has —, your \$10 co-pay has eroded. Remember that the value of this whole plan over the past eight or nine years has gone on. There have been some improvements made in the plan, but not any decreases over the past nine or ten years. But it's gone up anywhere from —, arguably from 10 to 18% per year. The value is just like a raise of that portion of one's compensation has gone up every year, and that's what's gotten the plan to the point it is now. Number six has already been done. That's —, that is similar to those I just spoke of. Retirees. Some of them did not take Medicare Part B. Your plan, as most plans —, any government sponsored, such as a Medicare plan, your plan should be secondary to that on behalf of the retiree. Medicare on a working employee, your plan is still primary. Number —, items number seven and number ten are somewhat similar in that you have about 22% of your plan participants utilize out-of-network, that is, non-contracted providers, so they're being treated by non-contracted providers, is 22%. That's employee choice. If they choose to be —, to partake of health care from a provider that has agreed to give you a very strongly discounted price, then that's going to cost the plan less and it's going to cost —, actually cost the employee less in the long run. The average discount for your PPO contracts overall is 46% on the hospital and 28% on physicians because that's off of gross charges. So you can see by shifting more care into the contracted providers, you save the numbers that I've got there. Commissioner Jackel mentioned the ER co-pay, and I think that's fairly —, fairly common sense and obvious to we've, the number one cause of ER visits for Chatham County employees is otitis media, that's an ear infection. Now, that's —, I don't minimize. I've had three children with those all the time so it can be a serious situation, but it's better treated in a physician's office rather than in the emergency room in general.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, on that one, sir, on that would it be possible to get back to the drawing board and come up with some type of reduction there that would include kind of what Commissioner Jackel said where if you had any emergency accident type situation versus a non-accident type situation on this deductible because I understand the abuse that can take place? Mr. Garrison said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, it's got that in there. Mr. Garrison said, well, I don't address accidents, but in number eight in the formation of the contract language accidents would be —, it would be waived for accidents and if admitted to the hospital. Chairman Hair said, right. It's already there, waive for accident and admissions. Mr. Garrison said, and that's not there, but that —, that is a common situation. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, so that is in there, waiver for accidents. Okay. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Odell asked, under eight? Chairman Hair said, yes, it's waived for accidents.

Mr. Garrison said, now you saw my recommendations and, you know —. County Manager Abolt said, Jim [Garrison], would you —. Mr. Garrison said, I can take numbers. County Manager Abolt said, please. Please let's go —, make the recommendation.

Chairman Hair said, let me —, I think I can summarize. You've given the narrative part of it. If I could get all the Commissioners to look at page nine and ten. I've tried to make it real easy for us to —, rather than reading the letter, I'll just quickly summarize by the numbers. What he's recommending in item number one is D, okay, 3-tier co-pay - \$7 generic / \$10 formulary / \$25 non-formulary; on number two he's recommending \$25 a month contribution; item number three is B, \$61 monthly; item four is to do that totally; item five is A, increase to \$15 co-pay; item six is the total —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, could you slow down, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, what's that? Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, item five what? Chairman Hair said, item five is A, the smallest one; six is the 40, that's the whole thing; seven is C, the 50%, and remember that's out-of-network now. They can avoid that totally if they stay —. Commissioner Jackel asked, and what did you say on seven? Chairman Hair said, it's 50, C, 50%, but remember it's out-of-network. As long as they stay in network it wouldn't be affected by that. Eight is B, and he gave the reasons for that; nine is the full amount, which again as somebody pointed out, that's people that's already left you; and ten is A, 121 and, of course, eleven's there. I personally think that's, you know, that's a good recommendation. I mean, I think that —, and I certainly can support that —, that recommendation.

Commissioner Jackel said, I would just ask —, my recommendation would be on number five that we increase it to \$20 because we're not doing this just for today. We don't want to be here six months or year from now and say we've got to go up to 20. 20's a —, I mean, I hate doing it, but I think that's a realistic figure. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that gives us negotiating in the future when they try to go up on us.

Chairman Hair said, well, one thing, although, you know, you're going above —, you're already balanced —. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I just think that's necessary. I also think if you go out of —, B, you had —, you had B on seven. Chairman Hair said, no, C. Commissioner Jackel asked, C on seven? Chairman Hair said, it's not me, it's the administrator's recommendation. Commissioner Jackel said, well, I understand, I understand. All right. Chairman Hair said, it's not my recommendation. Commissioner Jackel said, he has C, okay. All right.

Commissioner Murray asked, what's that total? Chairman Hair said, it totals the 2.8. Commissioner Jackel said, with my change it'd be 2.9. Chairman Hair said, well, it —, I'll certainly entertain a motion to approve it with five going from A to B. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what now? Chairman Hair said, five would

just go –, what he wants to do is increase it to 20. Commissioner Jackel said, all right, what I want to do is I want –, I make a motion that –, let's go through this so everybody's clear. Chairman Hair said, 1 - D. Commissioner Jackel said, 1 - D. Chairman Hair said, 2 - B. Commissioner Jackel said, 2 - B. Chairman Hair said, 3 - B. Commissioner Jackel said, 3 - B. Chairman Hair said, 4. Commissioner Jackel said, as is. Chairman Hair said, 5 - B. Commissioner Jackel said, 5 - B. Chairman Hair said, 6 as is. Commissioner Jackel said, 6 as is. Chairman Hair said, 7 - C. Commissioner Jackel said, 7 - C. Chairman Hair said, 8 - B. Commissioner Jackel said, 8 - B. Chairman Hair said, 9 as is and 10 - A and 11. Commissioner Jackel said, okay, and I want to modify the emergency room visit that as a result of an accident –. Chairman Hair said, that's there. He just said that's there. Commissioner Jackel asked, that's there? Chairman Hair said, yes, that's there. Mr. Garrison said, in the document wording that –, that would be there and it would –, it's not in here, but it would be our intention to put –, it would waive accidents also. Commissioner Jackel asked, okay, would there be any co-pay as a result of an accident? Mr. Garrison said, there is a co-insurance in –, in the emergency room in the network. I think it's a 90% co-insurance, so there's a 10% requirement from the employee. Always has been. Chairman Hair said, but wouldn't be affected by this. Mr. Garrison said, not if it was an accident. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Jackel said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll entertain a motion to approve based on the changes that Commissioner Jackel recommended.

County Manager Abolt said, just to comment, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, on Commissioner Jackel's modification from 15 to 20, and I realize for some folks that addition isn't that much, but we had the experience a number of years ago that people, particularly at the end of their pay period, were not going to the doctor when they should, and I would ask you to reconsider. I know \$5 to most of us is not a lot, but to some people if they're at the end of their pay period and they choose not to go to the doctor and get sicker as a result of it, as long as the consultant would recommend \$15, I –.

Chairman Hair asked, will you withdraw that, Commissioner Jackel? Commissioner Jackel said, I'll withdraw that. Chairman Hair said, withdraw and it goes back to A. Okay, just it would be as he's recommending. It will be as he's recommending. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Thomas asked, as recommended? Chairman Hair said, yes, as recommended. Let's get a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, second, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, and this would be implemented when if it's approved. County Manager Abolt said, first of October, sir. Commissioner Murray said, first of October. Mr. Garrison said, there is a –. I need to comment on that. Chairman Hair said, let him –.

Mr. Garrison said, not –, I disagree with the Manager. These numbers, as you understand, were developed, these annualized numbers and this type thing, and they're on-going. Next year's budget and all this, you know – Chairman Hair said, right. Mr. Garrison said, the savings carry over. The implementation, some of these things can be implemented October 1st. There are some that, such as think about item number four. Chairman Hair said, it takes –. Mr. Garrison said, it's necessary to –. Chairman Hair said, you start implementing it, but it wouldn't be total. Mr. Garrison said, first of the year effective date. Chairman Hair said, yes, that's what we're talking about, beginning of implementation October 1st. Commissioner Thomas said, beginning of implementation.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion and second. Any further questions of Mr. Garrison? Commissioner Murray said, no, but there's –, there's no way other than this to phase any other –, any portion of that in that other than what he's going to do? Chairman Hair said, not [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, no sir, not because –, and also it's compounded by the fact of when we're starting in the fiscal year. Commissioner Murray said, okay, and that –, that's fine then and I'll support it, but I just wanted everybody to understand too, and you probably already do, there's been a lot of comments made about why it's happening and all that. We also have been concerned about what the employees will be paying out of their pay checks for the changes that we've made in this health plan. Those are going to be small amounts considering what they're going to be paying out of their pocket when they go to the pharmacy or the hospital and the doctor, so it's not –, I don't think it's the amount coming out of the check for the plan itself, it's what they'll be paying otherwise.

Chairman Hair said, all right, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to authorize staff to begin implementation of the following modifications to the County's health plan on October 1, 2001: (1) Modify prescription drug co-pay amounts from current \$4 generic / \$7 brand name to 3-tier co-pay - \$7 generic / \$12 formulary / \$25 non-formulary; (2) Install a required \$25 monthly contribution for employee coverage; Increase required contribution for dependent coverage from approximately \$41 per month to \$61 monthly; (4) Modify the plan to require working spouses to be covered under their own employers health plan if one is available, thereby Chatham County's plan would cover the spouses only as a secondary payer; (5) Increase primary care office visit co-pay from \$10 per visit to \$15 per visit; (6) Require all Medicare eligible retirees covered under the plan to purchase Medicare Part B, and the County's plan would pay secondary to full Medicare; (7) Reduce the coinsurance available under the plan for out-of-network utilization from the current 80% level to 50%; (8) Install a \$75 emergency room co-pay

requirement in the plan (waived if admitted to the hospital); (9) Adjust required COBRA rates for former employees continuing on the Chatham County plan from \$92.31 single/\$176.82 family to \$346.99 single/\$639.38 family; (10) Increase the calendar year deductible from the current \$250 for specialty care, out of network hospital and other expenses to \$400; and (11) Proceed with investigation of the design and implementation of a Health Advocacy model program wherein high risk/high chronic plan users are involved in an intense, multi-disciplinary management program with implementation of the program to begin on 7/1/2002 at the earliest. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT.

Chairman Hair said, I will now open a public hearing on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, and I declare the hearing open. Do we have anyone that wants to speak to the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant in the audience? [No response.] Chairman Hair said, hearing none I declare the hearing closed on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant.

County Manager Abolt said, the important thing here, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, Odell recommended this a number of months ago, it was actually a couple of years ago. We will now use this —, these funds to fully equip all of our marked units with video capability.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This was a public hearing called for discussion on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. Therefore, no action by the Board of Commissioners was required.

=====

3. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF THE EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS FROM SOUTHSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT/MERCY AMBULANCE, MEMORIAL MEDSTAR ONE AND CHATHAM COUNTY EMS TO PROVIDE EMS SERVICES TO CHATHAM COUNTY ZONES 3 AND 4.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to suggest how we proceed with this is that we have a brief staff presentation first, and I emphasize brief, Mr. Lynch. Mr. George Lynch said, very good, sir. Chairman Hair said, and then we will allow Southside and Memorial to come up and make whatever comments they want to make and answer any questions from any of us. Okay? So we're going to have three presentations. First, Mr. Lynch and then whatever order, it doesn't make any difference to me, Memorial first, Southside first, it doesn't make any —, everybody will get a chance to say what you want to say. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Lynch.

Mr. Lynch said, very briefly, sir, we are not recommending a selection. We gathered fact. There is no question in the mind of any member of the committee that any one of these three organizations could do the job professionally and well. We're blessed to have all three of them. There's also evidence, however, that there is a significant difference in costs, and we list those on page three of your document, which takes a base figure, and I would like to make this point. The RFP said here are your basic requirements that apply to all, you must do 90% of the cases, arrive at the scene in 12 minutes, you must at a minimum have one paramedic and one EMT in each crew. We did not deliberately tell people what management techniques they would use, we gave them instead performance criteria. Our goal very simply was not to mimic, no matter how good it is, the way Chatham County is doing it now, but to get the best thinking of very successful firms as to how to do this at a cost that would be acceptable to you. And with that, gentlemen, I yield.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Lynch. I'm going to call on Mr. Meadows first, just a roll of the dice here. Mr. Meadows from Southside/Mercy and have them comment first and then we'll call on Memorial/Medstar.

Mr. Meadows said, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to speak on such an important issue. Public safety has been a part of my life for 30 plus years and Tim's for a little over 22 to 23 years. Southside's been around since 1961. I'd like to bring you up to date as to why we're here. Of course, the County's request was an attempt to reduce a budget shortfall with no reduction in the current level of service. Now the current level of service is five fixed sites throughout the unincorporated areas of Chatham County: Tybee, Wilmington Island, and three on the Westside. We're not here because Chatham County asked us to deliver a —, the cheapest service. If you want the cheapest service, then the best bet would be to just close Chatham County's doors and let us go fight it out in the unincorporated area. I'm not advocating that by any means, but what we're here is to offer you a cheaper service at a better value without jeopardizing your present program that you have out there by delivering to the citizens in the unincorporated area this same level of coverage. An RFP, it's our understanding, is a financial proposal for an established level of service. Your established level was five fixed sites to the citizens: Tybee, Wilmington and the Westside. If you wanted something different, such as lawn maintenance, it is my understanding that you would go out and you can bid several ways. You can

say we want the grass cut every two weeks, we want it cut every 30 days, or we want it to be maintained in four inches of height all the time, and I think with your EMS something this important you should dictate the type delivery that you would like for it to me. Not left to the private sector. Well, we are private, nonprofit. We don't think we should dictate to you the service. We tried to meet what you are presently meeting. Zoning began as you aware in January 1999. At that time there were four zones set up. Chatham was given the Zones 3 and 4. There was a reason for that because it would not —, there's not enough call volume to substantially support private enterprise without form of subsidy at this time. Ten years from now as the growth continues, maybe. That was the reason the zones were given as 3 and 4. Southside since that time is the only service in Chatham County that has provided 100% and met the response times throughout Chatham and the incorporated portion of Savannah; 100% of the time we've met those responses. The only service. We're more experienced in delivering these services to rural, suburban and urban areas. We cover from Morgan's Bridge all the way over to Skidaway Island from Eisenhower Drive all the way south to the marsh. We're experienced at that. We do fixed sites and we find that it works very good to meet the —, the 100% response that we've done. Roving sites, while great in condensed and dense populations, it is not —, it has limited applications in large geographical areas with a sparsely populated location, such as Tybee, Bloomingdale or Port Wentworth. Therefore, we feel that sometimes while the roving trucks may be okay, they do jeopardize sometime —, make a threat to public safety. History —, Southside has a history of working with Chatham County on a public/private basis and whether you get rid of Chatham County EMS or not, we will continue to work with that. I think there are other ways of delivering it, and I would like to be able to deliver it as Chatham is delivering it now with five fixed sites, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate that. Tim, is there anything you want —?

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody —. I think it would probably be better if we could hold our questions until we hear all the presentations and then we can call anybody back up for questions, so we may call you back up, Mr. Meadows, and I'm sure —, I didn't mean to leave Dr. Victor out. I know he's going to —, he's opposed to this, but we'll give him a chance to speak later. Mr. Colvin, are you going to be the speaker?

Mr. Bob Colvin said, yes I will, Mr. Chairman. I'm the —, I'm Bob Colvin, the President of Memorial Health, and I think as most of you know, Memorial Medstar One is a —, one of the major components of Memorial Health. Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, we're also very excited to be able to share with you some of our thoughts today about how we can help you address some of the needs for EMS in Chatham County. I think most of you are aware that Medstar One has had a long history of serving a significant part of this population. Since 1999 the territory we've covered has been primarily the City of Savannah, covering about 60% of all the runs, the 911 runs in the geography we've been serving, and certainly as you would also note, given that geography we've also had the single largest area of indigent care, primary care, caring for that population, and we've done that without question and those totals have amounted to over \$3 million a year in charity subsidy we're providing serving that piece of the population. I think we've done that extremely well. Certainly I think our track record stands for itself. We had with us earlier today, but he had to leave, Dr. Chris Senkowski, one of our trauma surgeons who was involved in the building collapse last week. I think the work that our Medstar One team did along with Dr. Senkowski as the trauma surgeon is exemplary, the kind of quality care you'll find nowhere else in Southern Georgia, and the coordination of the team that these absolutely topnotch professionals making that happen, so I think there's no question that we're going to do quality care and quality service. I think our reputation stands on its own. You know, as Memorial Health we, in fact, provide the highest level of hospital care in Southern Georgia, I think we with our trauma center, our neonatal center, our new cancer institutes and those kinds of things, we're receiving referrals from all over the country, all over the Southern Georgia country and South Carolina, and I think in terms of our ability to say what is quality care I think that goes without question. And so I'd like to put that —, put that out here and put that on the table. Mr. Lynch cited the fact the proposals came in and there was a low cost provider. Certainly I entered this discussion with a preface talking about quality to let you know while we may provide we may provide a lower cost proposal to you, it in no way implies lower quality. We're going to do outstanding care, we're going to meet the standards that are out there. Our track record speaks for itself. We're putting a \$2 million performance bond on the table to say we will perform. That's your guarantee that we're going to do what we say we'll do and in fact we will. Our reputation stands for itself. I think most of you also know that over the last five years in particular Memorial Health has been one of the outstanding community citizens throughout Chatham County in terms of our provision in not only the indigent care, but other community services that we've been actively involved in, and I think again there is no question that we're going to serve the needs of this population. Our total indigent and charity and bad debt write-offs at Memorial Health right now will exceed this year \$50 million. Roughly, 20 to 25 million of it in pure charity indigent care. I say that because I know that there are folks who would allege that if you privatize this, there is some risk of the private ambulance agencies walking away from patients most in need. Certainly our last two and a half year's track record serving downtown Savannah area should speak for itself, but if it doesn't certainly our \$25 million of indigent charity care we're providing every year through our hospital system should add support for the fact that we're going to take care of the people who need the service, period. I've added our commitment to you. Our proposal, if you look at your plateau budget that was recently presented, as well as we understand your numbers and certainly sitting here for the last couple of hours I'm still trying to understand some of the pieces as it appears you all are trying to work through —. Chairman Hair said, so are we. Mr. Colvin said, as well as we understand it. The plateau budget, if you take what we're proposing in terms of a subsidy versus your plateau budget, the savings to you in our proposal is actually over a million dollars a year. The —, with your decisions two weeks ago to reduce by 11 or 11½%, that takes the savings —, when you pull those savings out of what we're proposing, we're still saving you, we believe, between \$750,000 and \$850,000 depending on the scenarios that you opt for, staff would opt for. The issue of roving stations versus —, roving ambulances versus fixed stations is certainly on our part one of those options that you can make a call on. We can serve it either way. Right now the service we're doing on 60% of the runs, we have a very sophisticated computer system, a CAD system, that tells us using GPS technology where each of our ambulances is at any given time. We then track all of those calls that we get over a certain period of time and we know, for example, on Friday night at nine o'clock where the ambulances should be based based on the historical utilization in that market, that area. We know that other times, for

example during the industrial day, industrial areas may have higher need for ambulances, and we can distribute those ambulances closer to the needs based on that historical finding and based on that computer model. We spent over \$200,000 on that system. We believe it's state of the art. Quite frankly, our belief is that most ambulance services in the future will use similar technology to make maximum utilization and efficiency of their units as well as reducing response time down to the lowest times possible. We –, as I mentioned, we do have some alternate scenarios in our –, in our proposal, and certainly staff has made some indications of how those would be preferred to go. We are –, we are flexible. Again, that would take our range somewhere between \$750,000 to \$850,000 based on your reduced budget that you passed two weeks ago, and given the discussion earlier this morning, it appears you could use \$750,000 or \$850,000. What we're also doing to try to mitigate the impact, certainly we heard discussion on the employee health plan. I understand those issues you're going through. As an employer of over 4,000 people in this area, I go through those same sort of deliberations with our senior staff and our board as well. What we're proposing for the staff of Chatham County EMS is that we would hire the existing staff. We're assuming that they're all capable folks and would meet our standards of hiring that they would all pass. We basically offer those folks all jobs and bring them on board. Our early analysis of their current salaries versus the salaries we are paying our existing staff, and this would need some confirmation, but we believe that approximately 85% of the Chatham County EMS employees would actually get a salary bump, a positive increase moving over to our salary scales. We would not be able to obviously continue your present insurance plan or your current medical plan. Quite frankly, we think that at Memorial we have the preferred medical plan, but we would give them full credit for seniority. For example, if someone's been 10 years with the County, we would give them credit for 10 years of seniority within the Memorial system and give them credit in terms of benefits, vacation accruals and what have you based on that time and service. We also, and it was not outlined in detail in the proposal, but we did in fact mention to staff as we did the presentations that we would also agree to buy the existing ambulance and equipment at market value if that was helpful to the Commission as well. That's not factored into the numbers as I understand it, so we would add that to the equation. We'd be glad to liquidate those ambulances and bring those over into our shop as well. There was a question about doing two paramedics versus one paramedic and an EMT per ambulance. Just to get an idea of where that's at right now, we don't think you have to mandate two paramedics. With our helicopter backup and our roving support, we staff many of ambulances with two, many of our ambulances with one paramedic and one EMT because we have the support. To give you an idea of the differences, as we understand it, the Chatham County EMS number is that 89% of the time from what we've been able to see in the documents, 89% of the time there were two paramedics on each ambulance. We right now, while we're not mandating two, we're providing two on each ambulance 79% of the time. So, in essence, not a significant difference. The reality is if we take all of your existing staff and bring them over, we probably would be running two paramedics on our units roughly equivalent to the percentage that the County's doing now. So I don't think that's a significant issue. Another thing you need to keep in mind, and this was raised to me by our own team here, some of whom I'll introduce in a minute, you basically have one set of lifesaving equipment per ambulance. One person has to drive and even in the best ambulance you have one set of lifesaving equipment. So if you have two paramedics, one of them is still doing less than full lifesaving techniques most of the time. So we think again as being a high quality service with a great track record that we can provide high quality care that's not going to be disputed by folks out there in the market.

Mr. Colvin said, let me also mention a couple of other things. Because we have 22 ambulances right now, before we would acquire any from the County, we have major backup capabilities for whatever's out there. I know there's been some discussion about us doing non-emergency transports in some of those markets, in some of those areas with some of those ambulances. We have 22 ambulances, we're running 16 at any given time right now. I think the fact of the matter is we can provide those non-emergency transports very capably without ever disturbing the 911 service we're talking about here. We are guaranteeing those response times with our performance bond. So we're putting our money where our mouth is in terms of what we're going to save here. It's also been discussed in terms of how much experience we have in rural areas given the expansion out to the, particularly the west side of Chatham County. Commissioner J. C. Warren, the Chairman of the Screven County Commission, is here today. I'll introduce him. We would ask him to make just a couple of comments here after I finish about what we're doing in serving Screven County, which I think has some similar issues in terms of geography and how well we're serving that geography. The Commissioner also has experience with us taking over an existing County service with the same reservations that I think are being talked about in Chatham County about are we going to live up to what we say we're going to do. I think he can comment a little bit about that and what we've done in the last six years in Screven County. Let me introduce a couple of other folks before the Commissioner says a few words. We do have with us our –, basically our administrative leadership of Medstar One, Alan Helberg [phonetic] and Rick Shores. We've got a number of our very interested Medstar One folks, our Medstar team. Would you all stand? Thank you. I think demonstrating the interest we've got here and the fact that we've got a pretty capable group of folks to meet the needs out there, and I think times are changing and I think obviously you're looking at financial pressures and a number of issues you've got to face. We recognize that, but I would emphasize I think there's an opportunity for you to –, to save some money and I think that certainly is a piece of this, but I guarantee you in terms of quality of service, we will provide high quality service. We will be able to do this and get you out of the ambulance service, EMS service if you choose to. I think the understanding is that you would keep your license and you would keep at least one ambulance in service so that if for whatever reason down the road you felt that we had not lived up to our end of the bargain, you would have the capability of getting back in. Certainly, at that time if you decide to get back in and cover some territories, there would certainly be staff available that we wouldn't need. So I think the issue of staff transfers back and forth, that could take place if it needed to happen. We don't propose to give a great deal of thought to that other than reserving your right to do that because I think that you'll hear from the Commissioner in just a second we've got a good track record of doing what we saying, a good track record of meeting community needs, a good track record of providing absolutely the highest level of care anywhere in Southern Georgia. So we can meet your needs and I think we can address your issues with a minimum of pain to the employees you've got within Chatham EMS. We recognize they've done a good job in the past, they've done a good job for a number of years. You've got some very well experienced folks we'd like to have on our team. We have

great respect for what Southside's doing and we think they're a capable group as well, but we beat them in the bid and we think we certainly can provide good service at a good price. Commissioner, would you like to comment please?

Commissioner J. C. Warren said, yes sir. First, I'd like to say good morning. Chairman Hair said, good morning. My name is J. C. Warren. I'm the Chairman of the Screven County Commission, Screven County, Sylvania. I would like to say it's a very different experience here today. It's a lot different than what it is in Screven County. But I'd just like to say a few words on behalf of Medstar for what they have done in Sylvania, Screven County. Some six years ago at the Board of Commission we ran our own EMS service in Sylvania, but it was a cost factor there so we had to decide to go another route on what we were going to do, how to save money in Screven County and give efficient service for all the citizens in Screven County, so six years ago we contracted with Medstar in Sylvania to try to run our EMS Service Center. We had one concern that we had on this by coming in because you know that Screven County is the tenth largest county in the State, not in population but in land size, so we had a concern there the fact that they had to run 600 and some dirt roads and 300 and some paved roads in the County, and the EMS we had then that passed, they said, well, it probably will won't last but six months because it will be back where it was. That's been six years ago and we're still working with Medstar at this time. My concern was then was because they had to go all in the rural area and rural county for response time, and the reason why I can speak on this today probably a little better than any other Commissioner on our staff is the fact that I am a volunteer fireman. I'm a volunteer fireman in Screven County, and every fire that we go to, we have a Medstar unit respond there, and most of the Medstar units that come, they don't know that I'm a Commissioner. I'm in a [inaudible] gear and all that, and I watch the service that they provide, and if they weren't doing professional care, professional service, then we wouldn't renew that contract year after year with them. We're in a one-year contract for a certain number of years, so we renew that contract. I have had Medstar come and pick up some of my family members and I observed them and how they work and how they operate. If they didn't operate the way I think they ought to operate, I would go and recommend to the Commission that we do something else, but they've been very professional in Screven County. We've been very proud to have Medstar in Screven County. They have done a wonderful job. I don't know what Chatham County is looking for, but they were the ideal thing for Screven County and we really enjoy having Medstar in Screven County. I'm going to have to leave and I know, Mr. Hair, you said that you might call back up for questions, but I came down this morning because I didn't know it was going to be this long, but I have to be to work. Chairman Hair asked, you mean the Screven County's shorter than ours? Commissioner Warren said, a whole lot shorter, and we don't have the media here, we don't have the, you know, the TV cameras and all that. Commissioner Murray said, you don't know what you're missing. Commissioner Warren said, yes, I know. Chairman Hair said, well, I appreciate -, I know the fact that you have to leave, but I really appreciate you being here today. Commissioner Warren said, and I really enjoyed being here and I enjoyed, you know, speaking in behalf of, you know, Medstar, and I think -, I tell you what I really enjoyed being here because, and I learned from all you guys sitting here. I'm going to tell you what, it's something, you know, you have to deal with -, I know y'all are under all types of scrutiny, a whole lot than what we have to do in Screven County, but we all look at the same. I might be a little smaller, but we go through the same things that y'all go through, and I definitely appreciate that and I definitely am going to have to go because I have to be to work on a real job at four o'clock, so that's what pays the bills, and I'm going to have to go. So, again, it's a pleasure on behalf of the Screven County Commission I would like to say thank you for allowing me to be here today to speak. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. We appreciate you being here.

Mr. Colvin said, Mr. Chairman, that really summarizes our comments and we'll be receptive to questions when -.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Does anyone in the audience want to speak to the issue? Dr. Victor, come forward please.

Dr. Irving Victor said, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission. You know, they say there's strength in numbers, and I'm out-manned. However, there's another adage. They say they save the best for last, and that's Chatham County EMS. This is the sixth time I've appeared before the County Commission in defense of Chatham County EMS and each time I've won, and I'm hoping that I'll win again. We've been in business for 28 years, and it charted with Chairman McCorkle, and when I approached the County Commission to -, to be the fiscal agent for this organization, he asked me a specific question: How much do you think it takes to save a life?, and I said, Mr. McCorkle, if you can tell me what your life is worth, I'll tell you how much it would cost to save it, and with that the County Commission put their stamp of approval on Chatham County EMS, and for the last 28 years it has done an incredible job. Now it's the only service that's not a taxi service as well. We're dedicated emergency, and the reason they talk about two paramedics on a vehicle is the fact that if we were transporting a non-emergent case and one of your family happens to have a heart attack or drowning or poisoning or whatever, that vehicle would be out of service and they'd have one, and while it's true that Medstar has 22 roving vehicles, our five do a wonderful job. I had the good fortune of talking to Mayor Parker and to the City Manager of Tybee, Mr. Cannon, and both were highly complimentary of Chatham County EMS and said they'd like to keep it just as is. I will tell you one other thing. If this system were put out of business and we kept our license, and down the road we thought we ought to go back in, it's going to be terribly difficult because, first of all, the personnel would not be available, the vehicles would not be available, and the start-up costs would be prohibitive. I think that the job has been done, I know you're in a terrible budget crunch, I've listened with sympathy to all of the discussion today. As a matter of fact, I'm surely glad I was here so I could hear personally what your soul-searching is to get this budget in shape, but I would commend to you keep things as they are. I would ask one question: Who would want what Chatham County EMS -, what is the added value to any other for private service? Keep it like it is and let's keep the gold standard where it was. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Victor. I appreciate your comments. Chairman Hair recognized Chief Sprague.

Chief Tom Sprague said, I'd just like to say there was a lot of dollar figures thrown around today and with regard to the Chatham County EMS budget that was submitted on the RFP was \$1,595,000 to continue the top level services that we provide now at the five sites. When you -, when you take the budget that was passed, with the 11½% cuts on it, it came

to 2.4 million, but that 2.4 million does not consider the subtraction, the backing out of \$680,000 in collections last year, which brings us down in to the \$1.8 million figure, and we have in that 2.4 million budget also \$200,000 in EMS labor pool costs, which we don't use. The budget we submitted under RFP, \$1,595,000, we can make it and continue with that budget. When you compare that to the next, the lowest bid, which was Medstar's, when you go apples to apples, their bid is \$1,255,000, and I believe that's about a \$340,000 per year difference, not a million. We've got 39 dedicated employees who've been with Chatham County, many of them for over 15 and 20 years. We have two paramedics on the ambulance because that one time in an accident where two people need paramedic advance cardiac care, the two paramedics can administer immediately. That's why we do it. It is a higher level and it costs more. It's a public safety service that operates only on 911 calls. We do not and we do not intend to get involved in private transports for profit as the other two private services do. If we did, we could bring the cost down further, but we do not want to compete with private enterprise, private business on that level. We're a public safety, government operated unit. That's what they've done for 28 years, that's what they're doing today, and that's what they should be doing tomorrow.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Chief. I'll start the comments off from the Commission side, I guess. I'd first like to say I think the Chatham County EMS has done a good job for, Dr. Victor said, 28 years now. I stipulate that, Dr. Victor. I think that EMS has done an outstanding job, but I also think that times change and I think that we can save a substantial sum of money, which will go up each year not down, and I think we provide the same or higher level service. It's in no way to be a detriment to EMS, and I do think that --, that we should select the low bid in this case, and I will certainly vote to support that. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to just ask my fellow Commissioners and possibly for myself and possibly for the Tybee area, everything out in that area, for my district as well as Frank's, Commissioner Murray, please if you --. I'm happy with the service Chatham County EMS provides to the Westside and I'm sure Commissioner Murray is happy with the service they receive in that area, so I will not support a change because I'm happy with the way it is. They do a fine job for us out there, but please if you are going to make a motion to approve something different, please make your motion to approve the one that says that services will not change, the one that Medstar has proposed for \$1.255 million. That's not as large a savings for Chatham County, but that's \$385,000 less, but it's saying that they're not going to waiver from the level of service, and please out of respect for our districts, don't lower the amount of service, the care that our residents receive in our district for money. I mean, let's at all cost keep it no matter what at the same level of service if you're going to decide to go that way, and if I had my preference we'd leave it like it is because I know that it's a level of service that works. But please if someone is going to make a motion to approve something, don't go with the low number, go with the --, please at least leave it at the same level of service that we're receiving right now.

Chairman Hair asked, any other Commissioner want --. Commissioner Rayno and then Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Rayno said, we've received testimony from somebody from Screven County, and I'm sure you've driven around Screven County. The roads are very challenging and the amount of square miles that they have to cover, and they're completely satisfied with the level of service there, and I'm fully confident with computerized models and the GPS technology that they can be where they need to be whenever anything happens. I would suggest when it comes time to make a motion that we go with the system with the GPS for a trial period, and if we feel like that level of coverage is not adequate, then we could go to the five-point fixed system at that point.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. --. Commissioner Odell said, I will yield. Mr. Kicklighter said, if that's the general thoughts of the majority here, could you please consider at least adding the two paramedics at \$100,000 additional cost where we're not jeopardizing the safety factor. If we have a major accident and we have just one --, we're going to need two paramedics on the scene. Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Colvin has already testified that if he takes all the Chatham EMS people the chances are you're going to have two anyhow. Commissioner Jackel said, and they have them 80% of the time anyhow, which may increase from 80.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I've met with Memorial and I've also talked with Southside. They both know my feelings on this, why I'm not going to support privatizing the EMS for Chatham County, and the main reason I won't is because I know what kind of service we've been receiving in the unincorporated area that I represent from EMS. They have done a great job and they continue to do that. Yes, our cost is up, but this is one of the areas, safety and welfare of our citizens, that we have to provide as a government. We've been listening to proposals back and forth, we've also heard that this would help us in our budget negotiations and stuff. To me this is not a budget negotiation item. It's a public safety item. It's not saying that Memorial or Southside could do the job, I'm sure they can do the job. I am not willing to give up what we have for the people that I represent in the Fourth District, and the majority of the Fourth District uses EMS, I'm not willing to give up a permanent ambulance sitting on Tybee Island, which neither one of these proposals give us a permanent ambulance on Tybee. You say you're going to put one permanent? That's still not going to change my mind. Mr. Meadows said, we do propose that at a million two, a million two five five. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, both proposals have them on Tybee. Commissioner Murray said, but I can tell you right now I don't think we need to vote today. I think we need to wait until our next meeting to vote to have some discussion on it because we've got these proposals. I don't think any of them, EMS for Chatham County, Memorial or Southside are all talking apples to apples on it. It's obvious to me it's not. I would like to look at something else. The difference right now, based on what Chief Sprague just said, is we're only about \$339,000-\$340,000 off, so where are we really seeing a savings based on what we're trying to do? I don't see it there right now. So, you know, and I know y'all want to do something today because right now it sounds like the votes are going with

Memorial, and if they go that way I'm not going to bring it up anymore because I don't believe in doing it. If the votes are there to do something, we do it and we move on whether I agree or disagree. I happen to disagree with this one and I happen to disagree that we should vote today. I think we should wait until our next meeting so we can look into these proposals more and do some discussions among ourselves and some other people before we made the final determination. I would also like to see all nine Commissioners in the meeting when we vote. I have no idea how Commissioner Rivers is going to vote. I haven't talked to any of them about how they're going to vote. I don't think it's up to me to go to each one and try to convince them to vote for what I like and what I don't like, but I just would hope that we will not make —, take a vote today on this and we would table it after all the discussion until our next meeting, and then at that meeting vote on it if it's necessary.

Mr. Colvin said, Commissioner Murray, if I might just follow on that and, Commissioner Kicklighter, I know you both expressed concerns about maintaining the levels of service in your area and I think our commitment to both of you was that we would do whatever we need to to assure you that we would maintain those levels of service. Certainly if we get this vote, we will sit down with you and do whatever that is if it's necessary to do that, including some contractual language that helps you have that confidence level on both of those cases. That's our intent. Commissioner Murray said, and in fact if the votes are there and that's what happens, I'll be more than happy to sit down and talk with y'all. The other problem I have with this is, you know, we have always lost money with it, but we have recouped more money in the past than we have —, I mean, in the early past than we have later back, but —, and we put some things in place to try to do better collections on it and I think we're doing that and that has offset some of this, but my feeling is, and I know the RFP out, that if Southside or Memorial wants it or if the two of y'all want the Chatham County's area together, so be it, but we don't pay a subsidy to do that. I don't see the savings in place and I don't see that we're going to have a savings long term on this, and you can put any kind of numbers you want to on the paper, I don't think it's going to work out that way. That's my personal opinion. The eight others up here have probably got one totally different than that, which is okay too. That's why there are nine of us up here. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Odell said, Bob [Colvin], you did introduce —, Mr. Colvin, you did not introduce an additional member of your staff. The fellow seated next to you, who is that? Mr. Colvin said, Dr. Bill Wessinger, our Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs. Commissioner Murray asked, well, who's running the hospital and the EM —, I mean, the ambulance service while y'all are all down here? As a matter of fact, it would have been a lot easier to park when we came today if we didn't have all the law enforcement vehicles and ambulances in the streets taking up parking spaces.

Dr. Wessinger said, hopefully, they're feeding the meetings, sir. I'm Bill Wessinger, I'm Vice President at Memorial. Many of you know me. I'm an orthopedic surgeon. Let me start out by saying I'm responding to Dr. —, my colleague Dr. Victor, who I respect very, very much and have known him for 21 years and EMS has been around 28 years. I'm been —, I'm in my 21st year here in Savannah, and they have done a wonderful job, but he's made the comment let's keep it as it is, keep it like it is, don't change. Well, unfortunately, we have to change. We've changed a lot of things we do in life. We don't drive the same kind of vehicles we used to drive. We talked about GPS technology. One of the secrets of success of J. B. Hunt Trucking is that every truck has got a GPS device on it and they can route and dispatch them much more efficiently to provide better service and they're much more cost effective. A comment was made about Mayor Walter Parker and the folks at Tybee. I'm not —, I don't know exactly what they said. I know that our staff tried to contact or have contacted almost every single municipality in this County, elected officials, mayors, aldermen, and law enforcement officers throughout this County to discuss, to solicit information and input. It's my understanding that the support has come very solidly. I support this. Emergency medical services, whether it be by a County or by a private contractor, are heavily regulated by State, by Federal law, subject to liability action in case of malfeasance, malpractice, the same standards that physicians have to live by. If you refuse to answer a call and someone dies, or you are negligent or slow in arriving, you're going to be held accountable either in the civil law or by the licensure individuals. We maintain a level one trauma center, which is the highest level recognized by the American College of Surgeons. Last week when that building collapsed downtown, we put in 18 minutes not an ambulance there, but an entire surgical team which performed heroic acts under —, under life-threatening conditions. That's the kind of teamwork that we offer this County. Gold standard, yes, but we're going to add platinum to it and take it even higher.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Wessinger. Mr. Meadows, did you want to say anything else? You apparently do.

Mr. Meadows said, yes, I feel honored to be up here surrounded by all these —, Mr. Colvin, you have a terrific job, but I just wanted to address Commissioner Kicklighter about the five services. If you go with five dedicated sites, I think you'll find that we're the low —, the low cost on the five dedicated sites.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, we started out with dividing the County up into three different zones and all I've heard is that people are satisfied with it. When you look at what EMS costs us on our budget, that's a line item. The true cost is much greater than that because we've got social security, we've got pension, we've got medical plan, we've got on and on. This is a tough budgetary time. It's not one, however, to sacrifice safety, but they've got a proven track record. They've done good, they up here told us that. They're prepared to cover any liability, they're using the latest technology. Other counties are satisfied with it. I mean, what does it —, what does it take? I think it is time —, plus they're going to take all of our employees, so we can't —, none of our employees will be saying —. Commissioner Rayno said, and equipment. Commissioner Jackel said, and equipment, so none of our employees —, we just have to move forward with it.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I will entertain a motion. Commissioner Jackel said, I so move. Chairman Hair said, motion is to approve Medstar proposal. Commissioner Rayno said, with the GPS system. Commissioner Jackel said, with the GPS. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray, before we vote.

Commissioner Murray said, again, I would ask that —, if I can make a motion to table this to vote on it at the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to table. Do I have a second to that motion? Motion dies for —. Commissioner Thomas said, I second it. Chairman Hair said, second to the motion. Okay, a motion to table is not debatable. All those in favor of the table vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Murray, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Odell and Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion to table failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. I'll now entertain the motion from Commissioner Jackel. Commissioner Jackel said, I move that we go with the GPS system at Memorial. Commissioner Rayno said, same second. Chairman Hair said, same second. Okay, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. County Manager Abolt said, well, we need —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, why are you —, which one of you proposing to do? Commissioner Jackel said, the GPS system where they have moving —, moving —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, you're not going to —, your motion does not include the extra hundred thousand for two paramedics? Commissioner Jackel said, no. Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Jackel said, they're going to have that mostly anyhow and at least 80%. Chairman Hair said, 80 to 90% anyway. Chairman Hair said, alright, all those in favor —.

Commissioner Murray asked, does this go out and come to us every year as a contract? Or it's just a service that's there and we pay it regardless, is that what you're talking about? County Manager Abolt said, I believe we have a four year contract, we need some specificity as far as the service level you wish plus we need some specificity as to retaining the EMS license. Chairman Hair said, well, we definitely want to retain the license. That's —, Commissioner Jackel do you accept that? Commissioner Jackel said, that's part of that. That's fine. Chairman Hair said, that's part of it. What else do you need? County Manager Abolt said, specificity as to service —, Mr. Lynch, would you take us through that please? Commissioner Jackel said, item ten.

Mr. Lynch said, yes, if I could. Medstar and this would be at the fee over a four-year period of \$3,823,000. That would be that they would meet the standards. We know the way they will be meeting them, and that would be the amount, the target amount. Chairman Hair said, right.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, this motion appears that it's about to win, but could I get some clarity on a couple of things please? Chairman Hair said, sure. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, does this have a fixed —, I mean, not fixed site, but a roving ambulance on Tybee? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, as well as the current authorized areas, there will be five ambulances roaming in those zones? Chairman Hair said, correct. Commissioner Murray said, well, I'll tell you one thing —. Chairman Hair said, let's —, Commissioner Kicklighter, are you through? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, if that doesn't happen, it's obvious this is going to pass. If that doesn't, I'm going to be Memorial's worst nightmare. I just want you to know that up front. I have nothing wrong with Memorial, I'd go there in a second.

Chairman Hair said, all right, any —, Dr. Thomas has a question.

Commissioner Thomas said, I have one other question and I was trying to get it in before the motion was made. It says here that the actual cost if Southside is selected, and I'm, you know, behind time on this —. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Thomas said, would increase by \$834,900, and I wanted someone to explain to me how so. Mr. Lynch said, yes ma'am. Neither —, Chatham County does not include in its subsidy proposal, in other words EMS does not have to pay liability insurance or a bond. That is not factored into their cost. In the interest of comparing apples to apples, what Chatham County did in its RFP was to say you identify to us, Mr. Commercial Source, since we aren't asking for this from our people, how much it's going to cost and for evaluation purposes only we will factor that in, we'll adjust the amount that you say you want. Okay, our Memorial colleagues said, hey, we're providing an irrevocable letter of credit in lieu of a bond, which is acceptable, and we have the insurance that you require; we aren't asking you for additional for evaluation purposes. Quite legitimately, Chief —, and in no way am I being critical, Chief Meadows came in with theirs. For the purpose of evaluation only, we netted out of theirs 835 or whatever the —, \$834,900 and said for evaluation we aren't going to consider that, but obviously if Chief Meadows and Southside won the contract, you'd have to increase their actual contract value by that amount. That's what we're saying. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Thomas said, may I get the —. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Thomas said, I just want to say one further thing. Chairman Hair said, certainly, Dr. Thomas. Commissioner Thomas said, just —, my constituents, this is a very hard decision for me, a very hard decision for me because we've had some very bad experiences over the past, but we can't dwell on the past. We have to look towards the future, and while I have been very, very satisfied as well as my constituents with EMS, they have done an excellent job. They've been there for citizens of this County when no one else has been there for them, but I'm really sitting up here trying to decide based on information that I have gathered here, and I have the highest respect for Memorial. I've had opportunities to work along with them and I've seen some wonderful things that have happened as well as Southside, but, you know, when I stop to think in terms of gains that we need to make, and we're talking about technology and all of this kind of stuff, and how we're going to get from Point A to Point B, I've had to rethink. So right now I don't know what my finger's going on when it's time to vote, but I am having a change of heart. I just

want the record to reflect that I have thought through this very seriously and looking at everything that has been presented here today, and certainly if Memorial's bid is going to be the better one for this County, then that's perhaps what we need to go with providing you do not leave any of the workers out of the till, no one will lose their jobs, that they would be considered, and so forth and so on, and that's where I am at this point.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Kicklighter, one final comment.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir, a question. Chairman Hair said, oh, a question, I'm sorry. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, this –, they would have to come before the Commission for any type of zoning changes could take place and removal of ambulances? Commissioner Jackel said, no. Chairman Hair said, no. County Manager Abolt said, your contract will control. Commissioner Murray said, they've taken over our zone. Chairman Hair said, no, they would not. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm saying before they could remove an ambulance from, say, at Tybee or whatever. Chairman Hair said, no, they would not –, they would not have to come before us. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, now they –, they expressed to me before that they would word that in writing that it would have to come before us. Would you do that? Mr. Colvin said, Commissioner, what we committed to you is that we would sit down with each of the affected, Commissioner Murray or yourself, before we made any changes, and you were in that loop, and you agreed that there was going to be a reasonable solution to the issues before we proceeded with anything. That is our commitment. We want you all to be satisfied that we're serving the population correctly, but as the Chairman said, basically what we are guaranteeing is that we're going to guarantee our response time, we're going to guarantee that response time, and we're going to sit down with you and show you how we're going to do it and give you confidence that we're going to do it well. And I can tell you in the foreseeable future you're going to have the ambulances in the same spots basically you have them now. But we do want over time to say how we can get most efficient so that you can have an effective service. That's our commitment. We will guarantee the response times and I will assure you two I will sit down with you individually before making any changes in your areas.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray asked, when will this be implemented? County Manager Abolt said, that would be subject to contract. We'd have to work on that. Again, we approached this soliciting cost comparison to service comparison. We now have a lot of work to [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, the contract will specify the beginning date.

Mr. Lynch said, gentlemen, Mr. Chairman, could I make one comment? The way that we –, this would be a one-year contract with automatic renewal. Chairman Hair said, just like most of –, a lot of our contracts are the same way. Mr. Lynch said, exactly. The only way that that one gets changed so that it terminates on –. Chairman Hair said, we have to approve the contract each year. Mr. Lynch said, is if you the Commission vote to do it. Chairman Hair said, it shows up. Mr. Lynch said, I just want to make sure we're all in agreement on that.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we have –, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote of the motion yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas. Commissioners Murray and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Jackel moved to accept the proposal from Memorial Medstar One and enter into a four-year contract to provide EMS services to Chatham County Zones 3 and 4 for \$3,823,000. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas. Commissioners Murray and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Jackel said, I just have one item, Item C. Chairman Hair said, C. Commissioner Rayno said, D. Chairman Hair said, wait a minute. C for Jackel, D for Rayno. All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Odell said, E. Chairman Hair said, okay, E. Commissioner Murray said, let's do them individual, we've been here all day, let's stay a little bit longer. Chairman Hair said, motion for the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve the balance. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. 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 Rayno moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 15-C, 15-D and 15-E. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

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

=====

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 24, 2001, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on August 24, 2001, as mailed. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 16, 2001, THROUGH AUGUST 29, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period August 16, 2001, through August 29, 2001, in the amount of \$1,402,091. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EARLY ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY OWNED BY JERRY A. LLOYD, 1238 WEST VICTORY DRIVE FOR THE WIDENING OF U.S. 80 (OGEECHEE ROAD) FROM I-516 (LYNES PARKWAY) TO VICTORY DRIVE.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the early acquisition of the property owned by Jerry A. Lloyd, 1238 West Victory Drive, for the widening of U. S. 80 (Ogeechee Road) from I-516 (Lynes Parkway) to Victory Drive. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

**4. REQUEST FROM DAVIS ENGINEERING, AGENT FOR HENRY NANNINGA AND JOAN NICHOLS, TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR BRADLEY PINES SUBDIVISION, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND CREATE A STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request from Davis Engineering, Agent for Henry Nanninga and Joan Nichols, to record the final plat for Bradley Pines Subdivision, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

5. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE A REQUEST FOR COUNTY CONTRACT WITH GDOT TO CONSTRUCT SPUR 21, PHASE 1, AND APPROVE SIGNATURES ON THE NECESSARY FORMS.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to authorize a request for County contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to construct Spur 21, Phase 1, and authorize the required signatures on forms required to complete the project, including GDOT Form 532, Utility Agreement, Local Government Project Agreement (LGPA), and Right-of-Way (ROW) Certification, and authorize the transfer of \$1.5 million from 1998-2003 SPLOST, Contingency, to Spur 21. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A QUIT CLAIM OF PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF POOLER TO BLUE CIRCLE, INC.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to authorize the execution of a quitclaim deed for property described as "Portion of Parcel 1-B-2 of Pooler Development Park S/D" located in the City of Pooler, to Blue Circle, Inc. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

7. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY AND PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE AUTHORITY'S PLAN TO PURSUE MORE AGGRESSIVELY PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve general housekeeping amendments to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Savannah for the Land Bank Authority, designated as "Second Amendment." Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

8. **REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2001. PETITIONER: KELLI M. SAUERS, D/B/A THE LIGHTSHIP, LOCATED AT 618 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request of Petitioner Kelli M. Sauers, d/b/a The Lightship, located at 618 Wilmington Island Road, for a new Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2001. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

9. **REQUEST FOR NEW BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2001. PETITIONER: RICHARD W. AKAM, D/B/A HOOTERS OF SAVANNAH, LOCATED AT 4 GATEWAY BOULEVARD WEST.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request of Petitioner Richard W. Akam, d/b/a Hooters of Savannah, located at 4 Gateway Boulevard West, for a new beer and wine pouring license for 2001. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 10. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2001. PETITIONER: TONYA N. GERACA, D/B/A PREGO, INC., LOCATED AT 11 GATEWAY BOULEVARD SOUTH.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request of Petitioner Tonya N. Geraca, d/b/a Prego, Inc., located at 11 Gateway Boulevard South, for a new beer and wine pouring license for 2001. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 11. REQUEST APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFER AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM AND THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR MUTUAL USE OF WAREHOUSE SPACE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to authorize a budget transfer of Confiscated Funds of \$11,400 and approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for mutual use of warehouse space. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 12. REQUEST APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT THAT PROVIDES FOR THE REIMBURSEMENT OF OVERTIME EXPENSES TO THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM FOR OVERTIME PAY INCURRED BY CNT AGENTS WORKING ON JOINT INVESTIGATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve an agreement which provides for reimbursement to the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for any overtime pay earned by CNT agents while working approved joint investigations with the IRS. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM BOARD OF EDUCATION REGARDING SHARING OF INFORMATION ON SHODDY WORK BY DESIGN PROFESSIONALS, ENGINEERS AND CONTRACTORS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Savannah and the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education regarding sharing of information and joint actions to be taken when a designer, engineer or contractor performs in an unsatisfactory manner. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

- 14. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF \$62,123 OF REIMBURSABLE MONIES FOR TWO FORD EXPEDITIONS AND EQUIPMENT.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the expenditure of \$62,123 of reimbursable monies for two (2) Ford Expeditions and equipment for Sheriff’s Department (Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control Grant). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

=====

15. 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. Declare property items as unserviceable and authorize property disposal by sealed bid sale or sale for scrap value	Purchasing	N/A	N/A	Revenue Producing
B. First renewal to annual contract to provide concessions at various County recreational facilities	Parks and Recreation	Riptide Concessions	Revenue to County - \$12,120	Revenue Producing
C. First renewal to annual contract to provide security and custodial services at the Tybee Pier	Parks and Recreation	Riptide Concessions	\$31,200	General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation
D. Contract for the construction of a golf range net for the Bacon Park Golf Course adjacent to the Truman Parkway, Phase III	SPLOST	Golf Range Netting, Inc.	\$217,450	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Truman Parkway, Phase III
E. Renew professional services contract for legislative liaison	Commission	Robert McAlister	\$25,000	General Fund/M&O - County Commissioners

As to Items 15-A and 15-B:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Items 15-A and 15-B. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]

As to Item C:

First renewal to annual contract to provide security and custodial services at the Tybee Pier; Parks and Recreation; Riptide Concessions, \$31,200; General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Jackel.

Commissioner Jackel said, I have opposed this every time it’s come up, I think. Tybee ought to pay the cost of security out there, so I will vote against this.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with you that I think they should because they do benefit from it. That is a County facility. Commissioner Jackel said, right. Commissioner Murray said, and it falls under the same contracts that the rest of our facilities do. I’m not so sure that this is the right approach to take on it, and I guess –, in other words, we’re paying them \$31,000? Mr. Lynch said, yes. Chairman Hair said, we’re paying the concessionaire. Mr. Lynch said, to the contractor. Chairman Hair said, yes, the contractor not the –, yes, we’re paying them \$31,200. Commissioner Murray asked, and on most concessions don’t they pay us? They make a profit. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir, and they do here also for the privilege of operating the concessions. That does not include security or your custodial –. Commissioner Murray asked, so this \$31,000 is for custodial –. Chairman Hair said, and security. Mr. Lynch said, and security. Commissioner Murray asked, then why does it go to Riptide? Mr. Lynch said, because they have given us the best –. Chairman Hair said, bid, they’ve bid. Commissioner Murray said, I know but that –, wait a minute, we’re talking about several different things though. You’ve got concessions, right? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, we don’t do it that way out at the stadium, do we? When they have the concession out there, don’t they just do the concessions? We’re still responsible for maintenance, we’re still responsible for everything else? Mr. Lynch said, I cannot address right now Memorial. I’m sure Jim [Golden] can. Let me –. Chairman Hair said, well, let Jim [Golden] answer, let Jim [Golden] answer it. Mr. Lynch said, but I can explain why this is on a contract basis. Chairman Hair asked, Jim [Golden], do you want to answer that? Mr. Golden said, the difference there, they operate concession, concession for the stadium, we get the intake from that. This is just on the security and cleaning at the stadium [sic] and also add Tybee Pavilion, we also have a concession every day, funds from that, which is different. Commissioner Murray asked, in other words, Riptide is going to be handling the security

and they're going to be handling the maintenance and cleaning, is that what I'm hearing? Mr. Lynch said, not maintenance, sir, the cleaning. The custodial services.

Commissioner Rayno asked, are these qualified security people? County Manager Abolt said, there was an issue a few years ago, again this is renewal of a contract, where it was more expensive to have a presence out there by County employees, so in our attempt to try to be innovative, we went to the –, well, went to the prospective contractor. He was willing to do certain things in lieu of having a County staff person out there. It's not the best of solutions, but it's a reasonable contract. Mr. Lynch said, I would also remind you all we had a very expensive problem with vandalism –. Chairman Hair said, we sure did. A lot more than \$31,000. Mr. Lynch said, where people were picking up 400 pound tables and slinging them over the sides. Chairman Hair said, yes, a lot more than this number too. Mr. Lynch said, and as a consequence these people are not quite like our licensed guards downstairs, but I can assure you they have kept the vandalism under control, and that's a blessing. Mr. Golden said, we had some tables gone over and whatever. By this organization being on board, they have kept the security and everything for us.

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

As to Item D:

Contract for the construction of a golf range net for the Bacon Park Golf Course adjacent to the Truman Parkway, Phase III; SPLOST; Golf Range Netting, Inc.; \$217,450; SPLOST (1985-1993)-Truman Parkway, Phase III.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I know this netting is to prevent a liability problem a flinging golf ball coming into the parkway obviously, but we don't own Bacon Park. The City does, right? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, but this would be on the right-of-way to the parkway. County Manager Abolt said, part of our negotiation for the alignment of Truman Parkway we had to guarantee the protection from the existing –, for the existing use.

Commissioner Murray said, and there was a mistake made in the drawing of the alignment of that road –. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, that wasn't a part of the golf course that wasn't supposed to take. County Manager Abolt said, that's true. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Murray said, so there has been a big mistake made and we're paying for it.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Murray said, it might not be exactly right. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

As to Item E:

Renew professional services contract for legislative liaison; Commission; Robert McAlister; \$25,000; General Fund/M&O - County Commissioners.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd just like to have that position evaluated in light of our tight budget. County Manager Abolt said, sir, well –. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, I think that's a great question, but I'm going to tell you, you know, he has done an outstanding job and I think all of us recognize that and he's in a position to bring money to us far in excess of \$25,000. I think you've got to look at it from that standpoint.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Items 15-A and 15-B. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 15-C. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Jackel and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

3. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 15-D. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]
4. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 15-E. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

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. **AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ORDINANCE IN ORDER TO RETAIN "ISSUING AUTHORITY" STATUS UNDER THE GEORGIA EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL ACT OF 1975 (O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 ET SEQ) AS AMENDED.**
[ALL DISTRICTS.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

=====

2. **REVISIONS TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY RIGHTS-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENT ORDINANCE AND AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE TO REFLECT AN APPLICATION FEE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Read into the record as first reading.

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

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.]

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Chairman Hair said, motion and second.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I move that we table this until the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, all right we have a motion to table. Do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Rayno said, I'll second that. Chairman Hair said, all right, all those in favor of tabling vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion to table passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to table to the next meeting the request to amend Section 11-3, Action to be Taken if Plans of Property Owner Are Not Implemented Within Specified Time Limits, by deleting Section 11-3 in its entirety from the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Jackel, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion to table. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Gellatly voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

- 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.]**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd like some discussion on that. I'm just not real sure about the rezoning on that piece of property with everything else that's going on on that particular short stretch of road across from the landfill.

Chairman Hair asked, would you like to –.

Ms. Charlotte Moore said, yes, my name is Charlotte Moore, I'm a planner with the MPC. There would be no extra traffic generation. It would be single-family housing, it would be limited to five units per acre so that additional traffic is not a consideration. It is consistent with the Islands Land Use Plan and as well as the future land use designation as a single-family residential property.

Commissioner Rayno said, the only other thing on that road is the Grace Presbyterian Church, is that correct? Commissioner Murray said, no, we've got another church that's going to be built in there and several other developments are getting ready to go in there also across from –, on the opposite side from the landfill.

Commissioner Jackel said, but it's single family. Commissioner Murray said, but if it's single family, it's –. Chairman Hair said, if it's single family it's also consistent with the plan.

Commissioner Murray said, move for approval. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve. Second? Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

Commissioner Murray said, it must not be too bad, we don't have half the Island here opposing it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request of Petitioner Bob Ratchford, Agent (for Mary H. Pollard, Owner), 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. Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

- 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.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Jackel said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. County Manager Abolt asked, which one? Chairman Hair asked, pardon? County Manager Abolt said, specify which one you're doing. Chairman Hair asked, what do you mean? Number three. Commissioner Rayno said, no, he's asking which alternative we're going to approve.

County Manager Abolt said, we gave you choices. The status [inaudible] when you were looking at this as a policy issue initially as to some -. Chairman Hair asked, what's the difference? Briefly. County Manager Abolt said, the issue is whether or not an employee that has been on maternity leave without complications might avail herself to donated time from -. Chairman Hair asked, the first one allows that? County Manager Abolt said, other employees. In the past we have discouraged it, the reason being is that it can create a protracted time away from the office and those department heads have to -. Chairman Hair asked, which one has it in it, first or second? County Manager Abolt said, the first one is a -, the second one has it in it, the first one does not.

Chairman Hair said, okay, the second, second one. Commissioner Rayno said, okay, the second one, that's the one I want. Chairman Hair said, that's what the motion was. Okay. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to amend the Chatham County Personnel Ordinance and Procedures Manual, by adding Section VI-7.1, Donated Leave, in the Ordinance, and adding Article IV-105.15, Donated Leave Policy, in the Procedures Manual, which amendments incorporate the use of donated leave for maternity leave (Attachment II of staff report). Commissioner Jackel seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

- 3. INFORMATION ON TRAILS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE "MILLENNIUM CELEBRATION."**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

4. INFORMATION ON A SPECIAL EVENT USE OF GRAND PRIZE OF AMERICA AVENUE DURING LIMITED HOURS IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

5. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHATHAM COUNTY YOUTH COMMISSION'S 2001 END-OF-SUMMER BEACH JAM ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 1:54 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO EXECUTE AN AFFIDAVIT THAT THE TWO EXECUTIVE SESSIONS WERE HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the two Executive Sessions held during this meeting were held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

APPOINTMENTS

**1. DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES
CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to appoint Ms. Viola Bell to the Department of Family and Children Services to fill the vacancy created by the expiration of the term of Ms. Frances Dunham, which term will expire June 30, 2006, and appoint Ms. Mary Jane Allmond-Beischl, which term will expire December 31, 2004. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK