

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 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, October 5, 2001.

=====

II. INVOCATION

The Reverend John Savage 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
Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
David M. Gellatly, District Six
B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

ABSENT: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Martin S. Jackel, District Three

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

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 9:05 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing potential litigation and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 9:20 a.m. Chairman Hair said, there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

=====

YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair introduced the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Te'Erica Johnson, Executive Member, a Junior at Groves High School, representing Summer Bonanza Partnership; Todd Allmond, a Junior at Groves High School; and Ms. Renee Bellino, a Senior at Savannah Country Day. Chairman Hair said, I think most of you have been here before, but if you want to comment or ask a question, raise your hand and I'll recognize.

=====

V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR "MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK IN CHATHAM COUNTY" - Darrell Lowell and Leo Weir will be present to accept.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force was formed and dispatched to England in 1942 to become the largest military unit in World War II, and the largest bomber force of all time. Over 350,000 airmen served in Europe; and

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force has continued as an operational combat unit to this day with over one million serving the country in war and in peace; and

WHEREAS, no Mighty Eighth mission was ever turned back due to enemy action. The cost was 26,000 killed in action, and over 28,000 prisoners of war. The number of missing in action and wounded has not been counted; and

WHEREAS, in a one-week period of October 8-14, 1943, the Eighth Air Force lost over 100 Heavy Bombers to enemy action over the skies of Europe, and despite heavy losses, many feel that this was the turning point for daylight strategic bombing. Targets during this week were:

October 8, 1943	Bremen, Germany	14 Bombers lost, 3 Fighters
October 9, 1943	Anklam, Germany	6 Bombers lost
October 10, 1943	Munster, Germany	30 Bombers lost, 1 Fighter
October 14, 1943	Schweinfurt, Germany	60 Bombers lost, 1 Fighter

WHEREAS, the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, the largest single military unit veterans group in history, holds its annual reunions in the month of October; and

WHEREAS, today 20,000 Eighth Air Force Historical Society members are seeking to inform later generations to perpetuate America's freedom and way of life; and

WHEREAS, every year during the week of October 8-14 we will ask every Eighth Air Force Veteran and friend of the Eighth to wear and display items identifying them with The Mighty Eighth to honor and remember our comrades and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do declare the week of October 8-14 to be

MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE WEEK IN CHATHAM COUNTY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed on this the 5th day of October, 2001.

/s/ _____
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

ATTEST:
/s/ _____
Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Darrell Lowell said, on behalf of the Heritage Museum and the Eighth Air Force –, this is Leo Weir. He's Vice Commander and I'm Commander of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society. I'd just like to express our appreciation for the Commission granting us this proclamation which declares that next week is Air Force Week, Mighty Eighth Air Force Week, and we'd like to urge everyone on behalf of 26,000 members who didn't return from this tremendous conflict in Europe to take a few moments and really think about those guys, and we'd also urge you to plan to join us in January to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the commission of the Mighty Eighth Air Force that [inaudible] in January 1942 and left to [inaudible] its first battle. Billy [Hair], we appreciate your recognition. Thank you. Leo [Weir], do you want to say anything? Mr. Weir said, no, thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. We appreciate y'all being here.

=====

2. RECOGNITION OF ERNESTINE BROWN ON HER RETIREMENT AS MANAGER, ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize employees who have provided dedicated service to Chatham County and its citizens, and in that regard, we salute with pride, Ernestine P. Brown; and

WHEREAS, Ernestine P. Brown began her employment with Chatham County on December 15, 1971 as a temporary Tax Clerk I in the Tax Commissioner's Office. Utilizing the knowledge and abilities she possessed, she became a Clerk I in the District Attorney's Office. Ernestine has also provided invaluable service in the Tag Office, Law Library and the Finance Department; and,

WHEREAS, Ernestine became a member of the Administrative Services Division (Records Management) in September 1978 and has served as Microfilm Systems Manager, Microfilm Systems Supervisor, Acting Records Management Officer, Assistant Administrative Services Manager, and Acting Administrative Services Manager; and

WHEREAS, Ernestine became the Administrative Services Director on November 16, 1998; and

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

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

Ernestine P. Brown

for almost 30 years of dedicated service to Chatham County and extend best wishes for a long, happy, healthy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 5th day of October, 2001.

/s/

 Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
 Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

/s/

 Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

County Manager Abolt said, gentlemen, Ernestine [Brown] is one of those very special employees. Many of you, those that have had reason to do business in the Judicial Courthouse, can appreciate her work behind the scenes to get information to those people and need it in a timely fashion. Our storage problem, as you know, is immense. Ernestine has made it all make sense. We're going to make a presentation to her, and I look at it now with some bit of horror because –, not because the lamp is not something we're very proud of, but it's one of these boxes and Ernestine and Michael can both tell you, these type of boxes are the same type of box which we must have gazillions of storing records on the highest and most remote places. Ernestine, the lamp is in here and there are no records. Ms. Brown said, thank you. Thank you very much.

Mr. George Lynch said, I'm going to be brief. You may not believe it, but really. Ernestine is not only a super leader, super executive, marvelous technician, she is a nifty lady.

Ms. Brown said, thank you. To the Board of Commissioners, to our County Manager, Mr. Abolt, and to Mr. Lynch, my former boss, to Michael Sherman now taking my place, it's certainly been a pleasure working for Chatham County all of these years, and I have gained such knowledge from Chatham County. The experience is just tremendous. I enjoyed serving people. Again I want to say thank you.

=====

~~3. PRESENTATION BY COUNTY ENGINEER ON ROAD AND DRAINAGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.~~ *Note: This item will be rescheduled at a later date.*

=====

VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. RECOGNITION OF FIREFIGHTERS WHO ASSISTED IN NEW YORK:

- **LT. JOHN FRANK AND HIS DOG, CAPT. MORGAN**
- **CHIEF DOUG SAHLBERG AND HIS DOG, LT. MOLLY, WHO WAS RECENTLY PROMOTED**

Chairman Hair said, our next presentation we're going to recognize two of our firefighters who assisted in the tragedy in New York. We have with us Lt. John Frank and his dog, Capt. Morgan, and we have Chief Doug Shalberg and his dog, Lt. Molly, who was recently promoted. I think she was a Sergeant, right? Chief Sahlberg said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, so Molly's been promoted from a Sergeant to Lieutenant. And we have the Chief with us this morning. Chief, it's good to see you. I haven't seen you dressed up. It looks impressive. I had the privilege of being at the ceremony and maybe some of y'all were there as well at Grayson Stadium a few weeks ago, and I was very touched by the story of these two outstanding firefighters and their dogs, and I'll give them an opportunity to say something to you this morning, but just as a small token of our appreciation we wanted to give our Chatham County Medallions to both of the firefighters and also to the dogs. These firefighters have very special relationships with the dogs and they might be able to [inaudible], but it really is a small token. We owe them a great deal of gratitude for their courage and for their willingness to help their country in times of need. So it's my pleasure this morning to give you the medallion and one for Molly, right? Chief Sahlberg said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, this is Molly. Molly, you get one too.

Commissioner Murray said, Billy [Hair], go ahead and put it around Molly's neck. They don't bite. Chairman Hair said, all right, Molly. All right. Chief or anybody want to say anything?

Chief Sahlberg said, I just really want to thank everyone for their support. I don't think there's a minute that goes by that John [Frank] and I don't think about the lives that have been lost, what we've seen and I just want to tell you thank you very, very much from the bottom of my heart and from my family's heart. I know I think we've said the word overwhelming in the last two weeks probably more times than we can count. It's hard to describe what we've been through, but, like I said, I don't think there's a minute that goes by that we don't think about it, and I want to thank you very, very much. Thank you.

Chairman Hair asked, Doug [Sahlberg], wasn't it Molly that got injured? Was that the one that was injured? Chief Sahlberg said, no sir, it was John's dog. Chairman Hair said, oh, John's. That was Capt. Morgan that got injured, but fine now, right? Lt. Frank said, yes sir. This dog, what, fell like three stories or something? Lt. Frank said, we fell about 10 to 12 feet together and then she fell an additional two stories. Chairman Hair said, well, we're very glad that she's in good health.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I want to personally thank you guys for your effort. I thought it was extremely exemplary. I had a cousin that was on the 75th floor of Tower One that hasn't been found yet, but we're grateful and I will extend to you the thanks from the parents and all of New York for what you guys attempted to do in the recovery. Thank you.

Chief Meadows said, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to thank the Chatham County Commission and the citizens of Chatham County. While they were representing Southside, they were also extending to a hundred thousand plus people in Chatham County that wanted to be doing what they were doing to help, and we feel extremely lucky to have a resource such as these two that were able to express a small portion. For 24 hours they were the only dog team at this location. I'm proud to have them for the Southside, but I'm extremely proud to be part of Chatham [inaudible], Commission and citizens, we appreciate it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

=====

VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. EMS - TRANSPORTATION (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, approximately two weeks ago we made a decision to abolish in-house EMS and that was a very difficult decision for me to make, but in that we are in those times of scarcest resources we made that difficult decision. I was asked by a person that I've known for approximately 25 years, I think I was six at the time and he was a grown man, Terry Lietz –, Terry? –, who wanted to make a few comments. I ask Terry to come forward. The difference between our system, our form of government and other forms of government is that all people have a right to be heard. You may not agree with what they say, but you have a right to voice your opinion, and Terry and I for a few moments regarding EMS and in that our employees did absolutely nothing for us to dissolve EMS, it was not our employees who because of their performance we reached this decision, it was because we were offered an option which we thought would realize a savings to the County we reached this decision. So, Terry [Leeds].

Mr. Terry Lietz said, Mr. Chairman, members of the Board, Mr. Abolt, ladies and gentlemen, good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning. My name is Terry Lietz. I'm a paramedic and assistant supervisor with Chatham County EMS, the second oldest EMS system in the United States operating since 1973. I have proudly served the citizens of Chatham County in the public safety sector for over 23 years, having been employed with EMS for 16½ years and prior to that as an officer with the Chatham County Police Department for 6½ years. So I'm no stranger to the annual budget battles confronting this Board; however, on September 7th this Commission sought fit to divest itself of the Chatham County EMS system and 40-plus employees of EMS have gone through a variety of emotions since that date: anger, disappointment, sadness, disillusionment and despair. We have felt betrayed by our protectors. We have been through the potential chopping process many times over the past years and, yes, EMS has outlived at least four privately owned and operated ambulance companies. We have provided coverage, equipment and personnel to areas of Chatham County when the private services could not or would not provide service to those areas, and in the nearly 17 years during which I have been with EMS I have seen many professionals come to work with Chatham County from the private sector, but not one person has voluntarily left the employ of Chatham County to go to work for one of the private services. Your employees are a loyal lot and they feel like they have been betrayed. During the past Commission considerations regarding the funding the future of EMS I have been an outspoken supporter of Chatham County EMS. This time, however, I have remained silent so that I would not jeopardize the change that could possibly be beneficial to both Chatham County EMS employees and the citizens of Chatham County; however, today I come to you in defense of the Chatham County EMS inasmuch as I do not believe the proposed changes will be beneficial to either employees or citizens. I am speaking on behalf of all the EMS employees as well as many of the citizens in this County. Never before in my years of public service have I seen so much public support for a public safety organization like I have seen during this process. I have not heard nor seen printed one public comment opposed to the continuation of Chatham County EMS. I have closely reviewed the minutes of the September 7th Commission meeting and find several items worthy of repeating here today. Chief Meadows of Southside-Mercy said, and I quote: "Roving sites, while great in condensed and dense populations, ... [have] 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 ... [and] make a threat to public safety." I strongly concur with that analysis, but now one of the major bones of contention regarding the takeover of EMS by Memorial Health, a/k/a Medstar One. Mr. Bob Colvin, CEO of Memorial Health told you, "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 categorically dispute that contention and will present you with the hard figures to reinforce our position. Several of our senior personnel met with the Chief of Operations at Medstar One and were given compensation figures which amount to 10 and 15% reductions over the current salaries with Chatham County, and while this would be a tough pill to swallow, it was nothing compared to the golf ball we were asked to swallow when our formal offer of employment letters were delivered. I, for example, was initially told that I would be reduced by 10% from my current salary level, but when I received my compensation –, my employment offer, my base hourly salary had been reduced by 28.7%, and mine is not an isolated story. Another individual received a cut in pay of nearly 32%, yet another will receive a cut of 36%, and as if these major cuts are not bad enough, salary offers have been made to individuals with far less time with Chatham County and with significantly less experience as paramedics, which were 5 to 7% higher than their more experienced counterparts. I fail to see the logic or reasoning of these figures. I believe Mr. Abolt has requested all the figures, both current and proposed, for comparison purposes. Therefore, I will not take your valuable time going over each and every employee. Suffice it to say, nowhere near 85% of Chatham employees will receive pay increases, but rather the greater majority will in fact receive substantial decreases in their earning power. Also, we have been told that at the end of the five-month trial period, Medstar will evaluate staffing versus need based on call volume. If it is determined that call volume does not warrant the additional units on the street, layoffs would be imminent. While we were assured that historically Medstar has never had to terminate anyone due to a reduction in force, but covered such rifts by attrition, and we were told that no such continued assurance could be given to Chatham employees transferring over to Medstar. What concerns our personnel is the paragraph in the offer of employment that reads, and I quote: "Your employment relationship with Memorial Health is at will. This means that at either your option or Memorial Health's option your employment may be terminated at any time with or without cause or notice." What kind of reassurance does this give Chatham employees who elect to go to Medstar One? And based upon the gross information –, misinformation given verbally to a number of

our government –, to a number of our personnel, frankly we don't believe a whole lot that we are currently being told. Mr. Colvin presents his case eloquently and in a very convincing fashion, as he should being the CEO of a major corporation such as Memorial Health. I lack the presentation skills that he possesses, but in plain English I feel that Chatham County was promised the moon and the stars with no assurance of being able to produce. Will this also happen with the delivery of care to the citizens of Chatham County, and what happens in a few years when Memorial Health returns and says that they can no longer provide the level of care for the one million dollars a year? What if they put their hand out and ask for a million and a half or two million a year? And if the County refuses and Memorial says, okay, then I guess we're going to have to back out of the 911 system in Chatham County. Have you given any consideration of the enormity of start-up costs to the County should they have to reenter the EMS business somewhere down the line. Information packets were mailed to each of you, giving you the particulars of counties and communities nationwide as well as within this State where government-run EMS was turned over to the private sector and after a few years of experimentation the local government elected to return to the business themselves? If my assessment of this entire situation is accurate, it all boils down to saving money. What about cost to Chatham County for prisoner transports, hurricane response, special events, drawing blood, and so forth. In closing, let me say that I realize that the issues I am presenting to you today pale in comparison with the problems our nation faces as a result of the events of September 11th. We are now a nation at war, at war against terrorism, a war that could very easily present itself in our back yard. With the close proximity of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, the vulnerability of the Georgia Port Authority, Savannah has become a prime location for terrorist consideration. Is this really the time when Chatham County should reduce the level of public safety it provides to its citizens? I think not. Even one of your own recently wrote, and I quote, "We are a vulnerable community because we house one of the most powerful fighting groups the military uses in incidents such as we are experiencing now. Our future planning needs to consider the implications of a nation at war and the possibilities if our City we love is attacked." Members of the Board, please reconsider your previous decision and retain Chatham County EMS. It will be a decision which you will never regret, and if today you decide to reaffirm your previous decision, I have just one thing to say to all of you: Thanks for the memories.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I guess the fact that approximately two weeks ago my mother had what we thought was a heart attack and had to be transported by Medstar, my impression was that they must have known that I was a Commissioner because the two people who came to transport my mom from John Wesley Villa were the nicest employees that I have ever had the privilege of meeting. They were concerned, they were compassionate. I say to the employees of EMS, life holds no guarantees, but what we do guarantee you is that the information that you provided, Mr. Lietz, has been accepted and we will consider it. Memorial Medical Center is our medical center. If you look at the law in the history of this County, Memorial Medical Center was created with Hill-Burton funding in the late 40's. That is a County hospital. So we're not two separate and distinct entities. The second point is that the employees of EMS were loyal to us, and I think it's our obligation to ensure that promises that were made in the justification of the change are promises that will be kept and those are the promises that will be kept by Memorial Medical Center as used as information to justify the transition. This item was put down simply as a matter of discussion to allow a representative from our employees to have comment. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter for a brief comment.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd love to see this thing go to another vote because I believe what we're discussing today is Medstar's broken promises. Someone stands in front of us and puts in a bid saying that 85 or 86% of our employees will receive a raise and then the truth comes out and only 27% of the current EMS will actually receive that raise, 73% of the current EMS paramedic staff will receive a salary decrease, and you can go down the line with the list there. Personnel with more than 10 years of service with Chatham County EMS have been made offers of employment that result in a decrease in annual salary ranging from \$3,706 to \$14,601, and we can go down the line here and show it's broken promises right off the bat. What scares me as a person that it's in my district is this started right here in front of me last time. I was told in two separate meetings, I was assured that Frank Murray, whose district this affects, and myself would be able to sign off on any zone coverage changes. They would word it in, it would be in the contract in writing, we would be able to sign if they should –, should they ever want to change any type of coverage, the amount of ambulances in our district, but as good in presenting and crafty as this presentation was, when it came down to the vote and these people saw that they were going to win the vote, that changed. All of a sudden, no, that wasn't what we said, although I heard it twice, two separate occasions. That changed. Now they're mistreating our employees. That changed. I understand –, each one of you that voted to support this I understand you voting to support the change initially simply because had you not voted to support this change, you would have said that your respective districts were not receiving proper medical coverage because your districts are covered by private industry, but now that you've witnessed a absolute change in heart, broken promises here, what is going to happen to Frank's district and my district in the future if they're breaking promises before they even get in there? What's going to happen? What's going to happen to our employees? I understand your vote in the past because we were assured that our people would be taken care of. We were assured that my district would be taken care of, Frank's district would be taken care of, so I definitely understand why all of you voted the way you did in the past. But now before this thing has taken place we have the chance now to change this thing and let people know we're not going to accept broken promises and move this thing forward and protect Frank and I protect our districts.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Rayno, you know, this was put on the agenda as an information item only. It was not put on here for action, Commissioner Kicklighter, and if you want to bring it up in the future, that's fine, but today it was put on here to respect Commissioner Odell only as an information item to hear from the other side. I do not believe –. Commissioner Rayno said, can we let Mr. –. Chairman Hair said, I do not believe –, you know, I do not believe that –, it was not designed to reopen the issue and take a vote. That was not the purpose of

today's session. I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Rayno, but you want to defer to Mr. Colvin? Commissioner Murray said, I would rather go ahead and defer to Memorial and let them speak first. Chairman Hair said, okay, Mr. Colvin first and then -. Okay.

Mr. Bob Colvin said, Mr. Chairman and members of the Commission, certainly we want to -, we want to clarify this as much as anyone. I think there's -, certainly any time you make a decision to make this kind of change it's not -, I think everyone anticipates there will be some vibrations and ramifications and I think we need to clarify where we stand on those pieces. Please also make sure we know that we understand where promises were made and where we are living up to those promises. As we have begun this transition and working with the County staff certainly there are issues that have come to light. As we talked with you two or three weeks ago, we did anticipate that over 80%, 85% of the staff EMS folks would in fact get increases, and I think when the numbers are actually interpreted correctly, the fact is that all the non-supervisory folks, when you take all the -, except the non-supervisory folks into account, the number is in excess of 89% will actually see an increase. Part of it has to do with the way the numbers are interpreted in some of the documents some of you have seen. We met yesterday with Mr. Abolt and members of the transition team to discuss those issues and clarify those issues, and at the suggestion of County staff we're going back and revising the offer letters to folks to clarify the numbers that appear to be some discretionary dollars in the original offers to these folks are not discretionary, but they're put into the basic salary. So basically the differentials, the pay differentials associated with [inaudible], that even the differentials are part of the basic package. If someone's working 42 hours a week on their regular schedule, which is what our regular locations are, they will be getting the two hours overtime built into the calculation, and I think when those numbers are all tallied versus their current compensations they'll see that all -, practically everyone except the supervisory personnel, and the net effect is over 89% of the people will see an increase, and I think we need to make sure those numbers are clarified and we will continue to work with the transition team and the staff to make sure that that number is recommunicated to the personnel. The issues with supervisors are different. There are -, at the present time there are nine supervisory personnel for a total staff of 37. So nine supervisors for 28 other employees. We don't need nine supervisors for 28 employees, and so we are working through and in compliance with the RFP basically saying we are going to give those folks every opportunity for supervisory positions. We are creating four supervisory lieutenant positions specifically for transfer of folks from the supervisory positions with the County to supervisory positions with us, but we don't need nine. We're going to do four lieutenants and one captain and basically the current salary for supervisory folks will in fact have first shot at those jobs if they want. They will not be at exactly the same pay rates that they are now. In most cases the supervisory folks will in fact take some salary decreases if they come and join us. I need to clarify that and that is in compliance with the RFP and our original intent. And certainly what we did after meeting with staff yesterday, we said let's find some ways to try to at least cushion that blow from our standpoint with those individuals. We are building in a -, while relatively small, we're going to try to build in some one-time payment to help address, sort of basically a bonus, if you will, to help cushion the blow at least for the first year, which will be 15% of the discrepancy in pay between what their old pay would be and the new pay would be, and we'll make that one-time payment to help cushion that blow. And that would apply to anyone, supervisory and non-supervisory as well, so the remaining 10% approximately of non-supervisory folks who don't get an increase would also be subject to that supplemental payment. We're doing that again above and beyond the RFP to try to cushion this situation for those folks. But the reality is there are some negative impacts to supervisory people, but I think most of you, particularly those of you in private business, would look at that and say do we need nine supervisors for 28 other people and I think your answer would be no. That's part of the issue and part of the reason we think we can run this more effectively and more efficiently long term. Those are some of the realities of this situation, and we think we can make that work, but clearly there are some issues there. Certainly, one of the things the Commission may consider if in fact you would like to help cushion that blow more for the supervisors during transition, if you choose some additional severance payment to those folks, certainly that would be fine with us. We have no objections to that whatsoever, but we think what we're doing is a very prudent business move to make this work. Certainly we have -, we've taken the shots in the press about public safety and about whether this is going to jeopardize public safety. May I remind you that 60% of all people in Chatham County are now being served by us very, very well. We've been doing this since the mid-80's. If anybody knows emergency medicine in Southern Georgia, it is us. Nobody does emergency medicine better than us. We are the best in emergency medicine from trauma team, trauma support, and I would allege emergency services as well. So any allegations that we're going to jeopardize public safety or jeopardize the safety of your particular districts by us taking this service, I would say that's nonsense. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I agree with you on that, with your current proposal that was approved I agree safety will not be jeopardized, but my fear is five months down the line you're going to change coverage or finances and that's when we're going to -. Mr. Colvin said, I understand. We made some commitments to you in front of this group before. We've not received a contract draft yet from the County, but we hope to see that and I'd just like to -, as I told you the last time I was here, I'm willing to modify that language in compliance with what we told you here three weeks ago in terms of what it takes for us to change those staffing levels in those areas. We're willing to do that. That's subject to negotiation with the County staff and we're willing to play that out. What our staff was doing, quite frankly, our H.R. staff were doing, they were trying to be very candid with the people they were hiring and say life has no guarantees. We are bringing you on. If you're good staff, we need you and you'll be there long term, but the language that was referenced earlier today in terms of being employees at will -, every employee of our organization, including myself, received that same language coming on board to say if you're not performing, you won't be here. If you are performing, we want you on board, and that's simply the way we do business, and I think it's worked very well for us. Mr. Chairman, those are our major, I think, responses unless there are specific questions.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to recognize Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Rayno and then Mr. Allmond in that order. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, to address a little bit, and I appreciate Commissioner Kicklighter's comments, but when we took the vote there were only two of us that voted against the motion to approve this. Time has already elapsed for us

to ask for reconsideration and I neither Commissioner Kicklighter nor myself could ask for reconsideration because we were not on the prevailing side. The only way that anything could be done at this point would be to rescind the action that was taken, and quite frankly the votes are not there to do that. I certainly was not in favor of doing it. I think that the votes spoke for themselves and I for one am not one that likes to keep bringing things back up and bring them back up and bringing them back up until we find the votes. It kind of reminds me of the vote count in Florida, and I just –, you know, sometimes we lose a vote and sometimes we win a vote. I will take Memorial for their word at this point. Even though I was not in favor of doing this, I will support the vote of this Commission unless somebody on the prevailing side wants to do something differently. I would ask –, request one item though, and I'd like to consensus of the Commission, if in fact we can do this, is that before any contract is actually signed, that it's brought back to us to look at so we know exactly what's going on and whether in fact these employees –, whether the percentages we're hearing because we're hearing a lot of different figures right now. We're hearing from our side, the County employees, and we're hearing from your side and, quite frankly, it conflicts quite a bit so I would request from the Commission that before any contract is signed that it is brought back to this Commission to look at that and look at those numbers before it's allowed to be signed, and I would like to sign on behalf of the EMS County employees, unfortunately when my wife's aunt was living with us before she had died, we had to call a number of times because she had fallen and broken her hip and broken her leg and EMS did a terrific job. We've had –, my mother-in-law has had to call them to come help with my father-in-law when he would fall and he couldn't get back up and things like that and they did a terrific job, and I support our employees a hundred percent and I just want to make sure that they are treated right as this goes through. You know, as I said earlier, sometimes we win a vote and sometimes we lose and if we're on the losing side, we need to move forward and do what has been voted on by the majority and I will do that, but I just want to make sure that before this contract is signed that it is exactly what we've been told it would be and we can move forward. Mr. Colvin said, Commissioner Murray, we would suggest that we continue working with the transition team on the issues of discrepancy in salaries, that we sit down and we look each in the eye across the table and say we agree with –. Commissioner Murray said, I will say the one thing that came up right after I heard about this not long after the vote had been taken, I did call the County staff because there were some concerns and my question at that point was can Memorial just give everybody the salary that they are making now without pay the increases to those or the decreases and still average out, but as you've explained, you can't use nine supervisors for that amount of people, and I understand that too, but that was just one of the concerns that I had but we'll just have to see how it comes out.

Chairman Hair said, I think it would be appropriate to look at the contract and I don't know if we need to take a vote separately, but certainly to review it that would be appropriate and I don't think anybody would have any objections to that. I don't think we'll have any objection to that at all. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, all of my concerns have been covered. I just want to thank Mr. Colvin for coming today.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Allmond.

Youth Commissioner Allmond said, yes sir. My name's Tod Allmond. I'm from District Seven, and the way I look at it is I understand, and I know I'm just youth, but I'm not –, I haven't been in the business world yet and I understand there are mistakes just like there's always mistakes, there's misinterpretations, but if the employees that have been working for EMS for many years get their salaries cut, then there's always a chance they could go on strike, they could quit their jobs and they could be moved –, I don't know what could happen, but what scares me is both my parents are [inaudible] with serious diseases right now and we really depend on the medical facilities of Chatham County, and I did not know the figures and it's hard to understand, but what scares me is that –, and right now it seems fine, it's a great presentation, but in the future, like Commissioner Kicklighter said, what if something changes, what if they go on strike or they do this or they do that? What happens when somebody needs them and they're not there because they are not given the benefits that they were promised? That's what scares me, and it really scares me because in my point of life I really need them there because of what I'm under and I don't want –, this will probably go through, I just your employees to get they were promised or at least get equal for what they have. If they're cut then, who knows what could happen. It just scares me.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Allmond. Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Bellino.

Youth Commissioner Bellino said, I agree with Mr. Murray. I'm concerned. I just hope [inaudible] get to the future and five months down the road what's happening.

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

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, very frankly I was here on the 7th and had to leave and did not take part in this vote. I have no problems with contracting out to Memorial. My reservation is that, one, when this first went out it went out as an RFP to check things out. We came back and immediately accepted that. I like to make a move and thoroughly going through things and understand it, and I think this Board just hastily went through and accepted something. Jon [Hart], my question would be to you is that an RFP was accepted yet we do not have a contractual obligation. Where are we at in that scenario? County Attorney Hart said, well, we've got a –, we've taken –, the Board has taken an action to accept the Memorial proposal in their RFP, and the way the County contracts are generally written, the terms that they provided us in that big book, which is about three inches thick, in regards to the response to the RFP are incorporated into our contract, and so the terms that are in the RFP will become part of the contract. Now we also in addition to that have a normal services agreement contract that goes with that that has some very standard language in that –, that contract. Given the uniqueness of EMS services and the fact that they're regulated by the State and the fact that Memorial Medical Center has multitudes of Federal and State regulations that they have to be in compliance with including, you know, those requirements that they need to run a facility of that size, our normal services agreement will probably need additional language in it and,

you know, the Commission raised some points today and Mr. Colvin raised some points today about, you know, modifying some of those –, those matters, and those will be incorporated into the contract. To have a final contract the parties are going to have to have a meeting of the minds as to that final service agreement. By that I mean we have committed to go forward with the RFP and incorporate all those terms within there, but if there's something that hasn't been discussed that we now wish to include in the contract, both sides are going to have to agree to that. It would be unfair to Memorial for us to be presumptuous enough to –, as a Commission, to make them agree to something that was never discussed. On the other hand, it would be equally so in the other direction, Memorial asking us or eliminating something out of the agreement which we had not discussed. So I think normally when you see these things when they're contracted out, there's a service agreement that is negotiated between the parties. Some of the service agreements are very detailed even down to who will set protocols, so there's, you know, there's still a good ways to go before you get a final document. Commissioner Rivers said, what I would ask then that those concerns that have been raised by everybody, that we sit down and meter those out and that this Commission, those of us who want to, meet and go over that contract and make sure that most things are inclusive in that so that we can be sure that we're on even footing. This is the reason that I asked that that RFP should have been held up, we should have set down and metered things out of what we wanted to see in there and all the nuances and we wouldn't have to be going back and forth with it, so in the future if we put anything for a look see, let's evaluate it after it comes back and then jot down what we want in it before hastily making a decision. So I can assure you employees that I for number one will be there trying to make sure that you get the best out of this transition. We will do that. We have the opportunity to look at it and make sure that that's in the contract, and I'm fine with that. Now the only problem I have with one statement that was made, Commissioner Odell said that this was the County's hospital. It is in a sense, but for you students it's an authority, which makes it a separate entity unto itself. So we don't have any leverage over the hospital. We used to have at one time when we used to do their bonding so we had some leverage, but we don't have any leverage to say what we want or will do or will not do. Whatever goes in this contract will be the final say. So I will –, it behooves us to look at that, Mr. Chairman, and make sure that we've got a good document.

Chairman Hair said, before I recognize Commissioner Gellatly, I'd like to respond to one thing you said. I was on the prevailing side and I would respectfully disagree with you that this was not done in haste. It was not done in haste. There was –, you weren't here, but there was a lot of discussion of this and it was done very carefully with a lot of thought. I would respectfully disagree with your statement it was done in haste.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want one rebuttal. When this first initially happened, we said that this was put out for a look see. Now maybe, Mr. Chairman, you may read very fast and you're very smart, but for me it takes me a little time to decipher everything that's in an RFP, and I did not have that time.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd just like to say that it's been my honor and privilege to work with the County EMS, both collectively and individually, over the last 21 years, and I, too, would like to have an opportunity to review the contract before it's signed, and I, too, would like to make sure that the vast majority of our employees do in fact receive an increase, both in terms of salary and benefits. I have a very keen interest in that so I would like to be included on that. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, as a final comment.

Commissioner Odell said, yes. Jon [Hart], before we transfer any equipment, before any employees transfer, I think procedurally the contract should be the first thing that's done. Before that is finalized, each one of us should have an opportunity to have whatever input that we desire. And when I say input, I don't want to get it today and have to make a decision tomorrow because we have other things that we have to do. If we could get it in sufficient time with any [inaudible] points that you have, that should be done before any equipment or any employees are transferred. County Attorney Hart said, anticipation is to try to have something to y'all by the 19th. Commissioner Odell said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, one last comment please. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to say to Memorial Medstar, I'm happy with all your services you've done. Your hospital's wonderful, I know your ambulance service does a great job, and if you will adjust these concerns. It still saddens me, and I hope you can adjust the concerns that these gentlemen here have said about making the pay increase, and if you can adjust the concerns of the coverage. There's no doubt in my mind that you will provide a great safe environment for Commissioner Murray's district and mine. So –.

Chairman Hair said, the final comment I would make, I would like to agree with Commissioner Murray. I think his comment a while ago is that we're all on the winning side sometimes and we're all on the losing side sometimes –. You know, there's a lot of times when I lose I'd like to bring it up over and over and over, but, you know, you lose, you lose and you've got to move on, and I think it's a lot easier to win than lose, so –. Commissioner Murray said, it sure is. Chairman Hair said, but Commissioner Murray comments about, you know, we can't every time we lose a vote we can't just keep rehashing and rehashing and rehashing. We lose and we move on. We've all been on the losing side and we'll all be on the losing side in the future –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you can thank your left hand there for bringing it back up. Chairman Hair said, well, he brought it up, Commissioner –. Commissioner Odell said, I was on the winning side. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I know.

=====

2. EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, is Danny Powers here or a representative of Danny's office?

Mr. Robert Johnson said, the Tax Commissioner sends his apology. He was unable to be here today. I'm Robert Johnson. I'm the Delinquent Tax Administrator with the Tax Commissioner's office.

Commissioner Odell said, Robert [Johnson], hold for a second. What we're going to do is just --, as soon as it quietens down just a little bit, because this needs an introduction. Chairman Hair asked, will you introduce it? Commissioner Odell said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Odell said, I don't know if it was approximately a couple of weeks ago, maybe, two weeks or so, last week? When we think about Chatham County employees what comes to my mind is their honesty and integrity and this is a clear example of honesty and integrity. A citizen had come to the Tax office, had dropped cash, not a check, had dropped cash, I think \$50, that was on the floor. The \$50 was recovered by Ms. Heath and Ms. Heath went to Ms. Bond and Ms. Bond determined the last person who had been at her window. I got involved in this because it happened to be one of my former clients who was searching, looking around, and she ran out to the car and she said, did you lose anything, sir, and he said, yes, I misplaced \$50. She said, no, you didn't, and she gave it to him. I mean, to me we often have employees who do a lot of good things who do not receive the credit, but I think that in that we're taxed for our income, that's how we are pay salaries, it's important that taxpayers know that we have employees who are honest and honorable, and there was no way that anyone would have known about the \$50 that these ladies found and they did the right thing, and on behalf of the Commission I think it's a positive thing that we need to honor them and Danny [Powers] is not here and if you could do the introduction. Mr. Johnson asked, beg your pardon? Commissioner Odell said, if you could introduce yourself and the ladies.

Mr. Johnson said, I'm Robert Johnson. I'm the Delinquent Tax Administrator with the Tax Commissioner's office, and these two ladies work in my --, for the Delinquent Office of the Tax Commissioner. This is Michele Bond and this is Ethel Heath.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Thank you very much for your honesty and integrity.

=====

3. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO KEEP STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLE FACILITY IN CHATHAM COUNTY (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I'd like to thank you, I'd like to thank the County Manager and our State Representatives for the work you've already done on keeping the DMV here in Chatham County, and it's just my belief as well as I know it's yours that we need this facility to remain in Chatham County because we have the most vehicles and the most people here, so it only makes sense to keep it here. So I'm proposing and I make a motion that we pass a resolution of support to keep the State Department of Motor Vehicles facility in Chatham County.

Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. As Commissioner Kicklighter said, we, myself and the County Manager, have been working on this project for some weeks now, and we are --, we're getting closer and closer I think to a resolution. Mr. Burgess, who heads up this department at the State level, has been --, Mr. Tim Burgess. He's been very helpful to us and I've had numerous conversations with him, and I think we're close to an agreement. We still have some issues to work out, but at least --, I can tell you the State is very interested in also having it here. They're not trying to pull out on us, so I think we'll be able to work it out.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board pass a resolution of support to keep the State Department of Motor Vehicles facility in Chatham County. Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

=====

4. APPROVAL OF F-2 REAPPORTIONMENT PROPOSAL (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, this is probably one of the more important things we'll deal with this year. We attended a meeting last --, I believe, last week and came to a --, what seemed to be an agreement that the F-2 plan would be the best plan for reapportionment, but due to Dr. Thomas being out of town on Commissioner training right now, I feel that this is something that we definitely need her input on as well because it would affect her district, so I'd like to at this point go ahead and make a motion to table this item until next --.

Chairman Hair said, it's really not necessary to table it because it's an information item. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Chairman Hair said, we'll just put it back on at the next time. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, and I commend you for --, Dr. Thomas did call yesterday and she was concerned that we'd discuss this in her absence and I mentioned that to Commissioner Kicklighter this morning, and I commend him for being willing to delay it until she returns. I think that's excellent on your part and I commend you for that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was withdrawn from consideration at this meeting due to the absence of Commissioner Thomas and will be placed on the next agenda.

=====

5. RECONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF BACK TAXES, HUBERT JOSEY (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you. If you recall, Mr. Hubert Josey, who happens to be one of my constituents, appeared before this Board probably a couple of months ago, maybe longer, and the purpose of that is he had overpaid his property tax through no fault of his own for a period that may have been up to or exceeded seven years; however, under State law, State law 48-5-380, even though he paid those taxes, overpaid those taxes, we're only able to reimburse him for a three-year period of time and he has been before the Board of Assessors and they, I believe, did in fact reimburse him for that period of time. When he appeared before us we told him that basically what the State law was and he asked if there had ever been an exception to that to which we didn't have any recollection that there had been an exception, and we in words told him that if he could find a case where there had been an exception, to come back and we would reconsider it. Well, we tabled the decision at that point in time, I think a couple of weeks or more went by, and we ultimately before this Board, we hadn't heard from him and we voted to deny his request. Since then he has in fact come [sic] up with what I feel is some pretty solid information that we did in fact make an exception in 1998 and that's a matter of record. Therefore, I would recommend that at this point in time that we reconsider this. I don't feel like we can pick and choose where we're going to make exceptions. If we're going to make an exception for one, we're probably going to have to do that for other people also. I was told that this type of a situation comes up no more than one or two times a year in this County and the amount of money that we're talking about is a little over \$700, so I'd like to if there's any discussion on it, then certainly let's talk about it. If not, I'd like to make a motion that we reconsider our decision and we in fact reimburse him that amount of money.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Hart, this motion is in order? Is it a legal motion? County Attorney Hart said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. Do I have a second to the motion? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes --. Commissioner Odell said, point of clarification. County Attorney Hart said, rescind. Let's rescind, a motion to rescind. Commissioner Odell said, that was my --. County Attorney Hart said, yes, rescind and then --. Chairman Hair said, you have to rescind it and then approve. Okay, this is a motion to rescind. Do you accept that? Commissioner Gellatly said, rescind, yes. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked, who was the second on that, I'm sorry? Commissioner Odell said, Rayno. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, point of order. Chairman Hair asked, what? Commissioner Rivers said, you just had a rescind. You rescinded --. Commissioner Odell said, our prior vote. Chairman Hair said, yes, we rescinded the prior vote of denying. Commissioner Rivers said, well, what happens now? Okay, so --. County Attorney Hart said, you need to make a motion to grant. Commissioner Rivers said, at this point here. Chairman Hair asked, motion to approve? Commissioner Odell said, yes, motion to approve, David [Gellatly]. Commissioner Gellatly said, I make a motion to approve it. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Gellatly moved to rescind action taken at the meeting of September 7, 2001, denying the request of Hubert L. Josey for a tax refund for tax years 1997, 1996, 1995 and 1994. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the request of Hubert L. Josey for a tax refund for tax years 1997, 1996, 1995 and 1994. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

6. MOVING TOWARDS E-GOVERNMENT (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair said, this item Commissioner Rayno wants to delay to another meeting.

=====

7. MAINTENANCE OF THE SOCCER FIELDS AND OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I've been concerned about the parks in the County since 1997. I made public complaints in 1998 about certain parks within the First District. It seems to me as I drive down the road and look at things today, nothing has changed since then. What's troubling to me is when you go right into Lake Mayer and as you drive in you the thing see the sign is not in a kept condition, you drive by shoddy landscaping, you drive by a sign that says Picnic Area that's falling to the ground. It's left laying there. This is just on the main drive in. You drive by barbecue pits that are falling over with rust in the bottom of them and you go over a bridge and you see unkept grass areas and there's little trimming done, and all you hear from the bureaucracy is there's not enough money, and my question is is there not enough money to take four nails to put a sign back up? Is there not enough money to go out with a pair of scissors and cut the landscaping stuff that's down on the ground and rake it? Is there not enough money to take a trimmer and do the job properly? Is there not enough money to go to a park with a can of paint and cover up graffiti when you see it? Why do you have to go back to the same park four times to do one job? For instance, I went to Skidaway Narrows Park and complained that it wasn't mowed, there was offensive, racial gender-based graffiti in the bathroom, there's exposed wires where there was a light missing, and I go back and one day they paint, they come back a second day and mow, they come back a third day, they do something else, come back a fourth day, do something else, and still we have the exposed wire in this facility. The liability problem's left alone, but everything else is taken care of. It's not a question of money, it's a question of doing the job right, and here we are, you know, close to four years later and all we get is more excuses. It doesn't take money to use common sense. It doesn't take money to do the job right. What it takes is a proper attitude, and I ask my fellow Commissioners what can we do to move from a reactive government to a proactive government? What can we do to move to a department that will care to do the job correctly? And that has nothing to do with money. That has everything to do with leadership.

Commissioner Odell said, Jeff [Rayno], I understand what you're saying, but I think politically what we really need to do is to look factually to determine where we are. We are approximately 20 some odd employees down and, Mr. Abolt, in 1996 how many employees did we have to maintain our recreational facilities? County Manager Abolt said, in '96 I can't tell you for sure. I know in '88 when I first came here we had 51 total. We're down to 32 now authorized. Commissioner Odell said, we're down to 32 authorized. Are all those positions filled? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. Commissioner Odell asked, how many of those positions are filled, do we know? County Manager Abolt said, in maintenance we have at that allocation 12 person [inaudible]. We have, I believe, at the start of the week we had six affected positions. If I may --. Commissioner Odell said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, I do, and I have a great deal of not only just loyal, but affection to all members of the Board. Certainly, Commissioner Rayno can appreciate that. I do take strong exception to the allegation that leadership is not there. I mean it sincerely. I never attempt to argue counter to the Board publicly, but in this case I want to come to the defense of Mr. Golden and staff. I believe very strongly over the last decade Mr. Golden has never, never received sufficient resources to do the job. If you look at what I refer to as the body count within the budget he received each year, it's the very figure Commissioner Odell requested. In 1988 Mr. Golden had 51 positions. He did not have far as much responsibility as he has now. When this County moved to special emphasis as appropriate, the criminal justice and public safety was done in part at the expense of our resources within recreation. There are now currently 32 positions authorized; however, with the budget challenges and the additional cuts, we in effect have been careful in the way in which we filled vacancies, plus we've had turnovers. At the start of this week we had six positions. I'm not asking for or wanting you to accept my remarks as either excuse or by any way of trying to cop out. Our responsibilities demands the very best we can with the resources we have. The management study, however, pointed out two years ago that just with those 12 people we should have normally eight to ten acres of responsibility for each maintenance person. We had with full compliment 22 positions. We are not asking for nothing more --, anything more than your understanding. It is not an issue of leadership. Mr. Golden, and I will say this to you and I've said it to his face, is a master of doing much with practically nothing. What he gets by way of donations, community support, volunteers is amazing. In all my years of working with Jim Golden he has never complained. Each year when I cut his request substantially, and each year when people were taken from him, in spite of the fact that his responsibilities grew, Jim Golden never complained. Jim Golden always gave me nothing but the utmost confidence in the man he would do the very best with the resources given. He has not complained, he's not complaining today. We just ask for your understanding.

Commissioner Rayno said, sir, this doesn't explain how a person can mow --. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, Harris [Odell] was not through, but go ahead and finish and we'll come back. Commissioner Odell said, sorry, Jeff [Rayno]. Commissioner Rayno said, that's all right.

Commissioner Odell said, the management report which we commissioned, Mr. Abolt, indicated that an employee could cover how many acres? Was that eight to ten? County Manager Abolt said, yes, appropriately it should be eight to ten acres, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and are employees are currently covering how many acres? County Manager Abolt said, 22 if we had the full compliment of 12 persons. Commissioner Odell said, in that we don't have the full

compliment, approximately 27 to 28 acres in that we are five to six people down? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. If the math serves me correctly, it would be double that, it would be 44 acres given our current compliment. Commissioner Odell asked, and this is from the management report which we –? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir. Commissioner Odell said, we started off in '88 with 51 positions. What was the total acreage in 1988 that Recreation had to –? County Manager Abolt said, it would be 12 times 22, sir, whatever that is. Commissioner Odell said, no, no. County Manager Abolt said, that's the only way I can get it. Mr. Golden may know. Commissioner Odell said, okay. I understand Mr. Rayno's concerns that we need to have things done and done right, but I don't want it to be when we have cut Jim Golden literally to death from 51 positions down to 32 positions and several of those are not filled and we tell him you're not loyal, you don't have a good attitude, when we have made the cuts and he's several positions back, that to me is not fair and it does not create a level playing field. If we did not cut him and he was up to what the management study said we should have, then we could hold him accountable, but if we are substantially left because of our decision to publicly say that he don't have loyalty and he don't have all these other things, I think it's blatantly unfair and, Jeff [Rayno], I don't say that as a criticism to you, I really don't because I've come to know you and I know that you want to do the right thing, but I think being a numbers guy, you've got to look at the numbers. Our management study says from eight to ten acres and our people are covering 44. There's going to be some trimming not done. I mean, there's going to be some trimming not done and we should understand that. We should understand that. I yield, Frank [Murray].

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, first I'd like to say I do not question Mr. Golden's dedication and loyalty or anything. I believe he's a dedicated loyal leader to the County, he's done a fine job. I do question the effort of some of his employees, and an example of that, and it don't matter how matter people you have, as I rode through Triplett Park the other day, everything was mowed there except they –, somebody was too lazy to jump off the tractor and move the picnic tables. You know, you mowed that entire area, but the grass is three feet tall under the picnic tables. That didn't take another employee to jump off of that tractor and move the picnic table and mow, and then you have right there at the main signs coming in, weeds up past your knees. Again, you know, the employees were there. It's just –, and again, Mr. Golden, had he possibly rode through, I'm sure he would have corrected that, but we definitely have a problem with some of our recreation employees, and I do not question leadership an effort of Jim [Golden], of Russ [Abolt], or whatever. I know there effort is to be there, and they can't be at all places at all times, but some how, at some point, we've got to stop making excuses for employees and ride around. I believe Mr. Rayno referred to a light fixture. That don't take 50 people to fix a light fixture. It wouldn't have taken but one guy and he could have jumped off the tractor and moved the picnic tables and mowed that grass, and it's just a lack of effort on some of the employees there, and until this staff realizes that, you know, we can do better with what we have, I mean, we –, we've got problems, so we're going to continue to have problems. I mean, as long as we're making excuses, then those little things, that's what I'm talking about is the little things. You ride out to a brand new park that many of you were responsible for building and it seems just horrible. I mean, it's really –, it's horrible, and it's just those little things, the knee-high grass is mowed down usually. It gets up about close to your knees, which I understand that's because of a lack of employees that it grows pretty high, but when they actually do the work on these parks, it's a half, a half effort on a lot of that, and that's all we –, that's all I'm asking is, you know, maybe and I know us, as representatives, it's our job to ride through the parks because Jim Golden nor Russ Abolt can be at all places at all times, but I would almost recommend –, I know how we could solve the problems in my district, and I'd like to see a little, some type of study done to see. I would like to see us break this Recreation Department down into individual districts. One person with a tractor and a weed-eater and an edger could maintain the major parks in the Seventh District and do a fine job of it. So that leaves 31 to split up amongst other districts and, you know, there's –, and that way what we'll have is accountability. If something's not going on, it would be like individual cities and individual districts, Mr. Golden can get onto them if he sees the Seventh District's not maintained properly. He can –, he knows exactly who's responsible, because it's hard to be a leader and get onto someone if you really don't know who's responsible. I'm sure they have many people out on the tractors mowing the grass so he couldn't point a finger at one, but this way we would actually know. The people would be accountable. We would know who's not performing at a top level, and I'm sure that our leadership would remedy the problem.

County Manager Abolt said, we certainly will and I don't in any case permit –, you know, we have never been defensive about any calls from any Commissioner. In fact, we've mobilized our response. It is not an issue of not either caring or not providing the leadership. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I didn't say that. I believe they all care and good leaders. County Manager Abolt said, and anything I said should not be interpreted as an excuse, complaint or anything, but, gentlemen, we started this week with six people. Six people. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, but, Russ [Abolt], would you agree the man could jump off the tractor and move the picnic table? County Manager Abolt said, sir, that's not the argument. Certainly, we'll be attendant to that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I mean, that's –. County Manager Abolt said, the issue is, and again we must put ourselves, not because we don't care or we're callous to it, but you can do one task. When you look at multi-task, you've got responsibilities all over this County, where do you stop and that is the issue. Plus you add to it, which the management study did not take up, but you look in the information I sent to Commissioner Gellatly with copies to you, the number of times these same people had to go all over this County and beyond the County to install, set up the band shell.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, is that all? Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's all. Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, it still doesn't explain why some of those were parks and mows, and just mows the litter and lets that fly out of the mower, not pick it up. It doesn't explain why the person working over at Hodge Montgomery Park takes a pallet that's in the middle of the basketball court, shoves it to the side and leaves it there after they leave instead

of bringing it to the side of the road where the next crew could come and pick it up because still it's in the park. It doesn't explain why they leave a car hood in the middle of the park. It doesn't explain why they leave tons of garbage underneath a picnic table and move on to the next park when they could take a garbage bag and pick it up and put it in. That's not money. That's not a management study. It is leadership. I'm sorry, but it is. County Manager Abolt said, I disagree strongly. Commissioner Rayno said, I don't.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, okay, okay, okay. Enough is enough, all right. Now I have stuff in my area that's not weeded or that they don't cut the grass. I have lots within the City that the grass is not cut and I call Russ Abolt and I document what needs to be done and it gets done. Or I will call Jim Golden with his approval or I will call Public Works and tell them what I need, and normally it gets done. This is not a forum to be handling this petty stuff here. Secondly, now more than anyone of you up here, I coached in his Little League program. Started out in the Little League program in 1960, went through all the programs and looked at all of the County facilities as they came on board. Jim Golden has done an exemplary job with little or nothing. He's gone out and got volunteers to do the trail that we have out there going to Tybee, he's done the Canal with volunteers. I mean, this man has ran a program. This man has the responsibility of Memorial Stadium, where people play football every week, and he has to have that stadium ready. When we had the bond issue, the one percent sales tax, we built facilities including the Library, and not account for people to maintain or books to go into it. We did that. You guys were not here. We did that, and I often wondered when they did Triplett Park and the Westside, the Eastside Park out in Runaway Point and the East Broad Street Park, how was it going to be maintained? All of this stuff was brought in as we were cutting back personnel. Nobody was concerned about that. Now if the grass is not cut under the benches, then Russ Abolt should get a note on that, get them to have somebody go back out there and remove that stuff. I have no problem with that, but you need to take it to Russ [Abolt], take it to Jim [Golden], and let them do it. These guys are stretched. I know they're stretched. I understand that. Now what we need to do is look at what it's going to take to maintain all these parks and stuff that you're talking about and look at how do we adequately fund it in order to get the right maintenance. There's going to be a lot of problems out there. So, you know, we sit here and we do think, but there's a consequence for action that we do. Part of it you saw this morning, and you're going to see some more, and I'm going to tell you that whatever you do, next year you're going to have the same problem because you ain't handling it right. So, you know, and I keep saying the same thing over year after year after year after year, but, hey, I guess I'll say it over and over until it's –, until I leave.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think this whole issue's been debated very thoroughly, and I just want to make some observations. I agree with part of what Commissioner Rayno said. I think that the public safety issues in the park are going to have to be dealt with quickly and efficiently, and I would hope that the exposed wires have not been there for any period of time, but we're going to have to deal with that very quickly. Also, I'd like to commend our park services as far as the volunteer program is concerned. I had no idea we had one at this extent. I would say that we need to look at expanding it even further because it would be my observation that our budget problems aren't going to go away next year or the next year, and when we take a look at things, we have a multi-million dollar budget and we establish priorities, public safety, law enforcement, what have you, being at the top, and unfortunately parks and recreation, therefore, tends to be at the very bottom of the list. I would hope that, and I've got assurances that the County Manager and Mr. Golden are taking a look to the Logan Program. The Logan Program is a computer network that connects cities and counties and other government agencies together where you can ask questions, and I would like to –, it would occur to me that we're not the only jurisdiction that has a budget problem, and I'd like to find out what other creative, innovative ways are out there where we can keep our parks open no matter what, and I have assurances that that's going to occur, and I, again –, also I remember during the week there was someone that put fliers underneath the windshield wipers of all the cars that I saw at the complex saying call your Commissioner about the deplorable condition of the park. I never received a call. I don't know if anyone else received a call, but I did go out there and I looked at the park and I'm not an expert on what soccer fields should look like, but they looked to me like they were very clean and very well maintained, and I thank you for that. That's all I have to say.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Johnson.

Youth Commissioner Johnson said, we were at the Lake last weekend and some of the things could have been better, but it wasn't that, it was just so bad there. We couldn't use the facility and a lot of times people use it, you know, for family reunions and things like that and visitors come from out of Chatham County and come and they use the facility, and it's just important that they are kept, you know, in a way that they can be used, and like next year the Youth Commission, as you know, we hold our Annual Youth Rally at the Lake, and next year we were planning on making it even better than it was. We've expanded and inviting other Commissions from different counties into, you know, in Georgia to come, and we just want to make sure that when we have those kinds of things that the park is nice and it is kept nice so that when people come to Chatham County they won't come and, you know, look at it and say it looks like that, you know, and we have certain things, you know, that's nice and it's kept nice, and that's important.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Johnson. Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Allmond.

Youth Commissioner Allmond said, Mr. Rayno mentioned about asking if they could move picnic table or getting off and picking up the trash real quick or doing this and that, but y'all were talking about how these people are forced to 44 acres, is that what y'all were talking about? I don't know about y'all, but I've been cutting grass and working yards in my

neighborhood since I was 10 and that gives me a new perspective on this is that you tell them –, you're saying they can do a little thing right here and a little thing right there, yet they have bigger obligations all over the County and little things add up, I can tell you. My mom tells me to do little things here and there in the yard and it adds up to about three or four extra hours, and you ask them to do small things, what happens if they get off the tractor and go pick up all the trash that the kids leave because I know most –, I know that leave the trash. I know we leave a lot of trash when we're there, and that you ask them to get off and pick it all up, when they spend all that time making that clean instead of going and getting the bigger areas and other places, they don't have time to get there at all. So you've got one place that's really clean and one place that hasn't even been touched because you want them to get all the little things, but in reality you need them to get the bigger areas first and when they do have the time, then they can come back, but telling them they need to get off and doing the little jobs when they're already forced to do more than they're supposed to do, that just doesn't make sense.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Mr. Blackburn and then I'll make a comment.

Mr. Jay Blackburn said, I want to make a comment, and this is not what I came here for today, but I've been watching this government closely for over 25 years. If there's a crisis in leadership, it's not in the Recreation Department. Mr. Golden does more with less than any person in any government in Chatham County, and I would say does more with less than any person in any non-profit organization in Chatham County. The things that he has accomplished in this County since the 1970's are unbelievable, especially considering that his budget is the first to be cut and his personnel are the first to go, and this County ought to erect a park named after Jim Golden for the number of parks that he's built with volunteer labor, volunteer materials and Jim Golden's own volunteering, and I just couldn't sit still without getting up to say something because Jim Golden is the type of public employee and the type of department leader that we wish we had in every department.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. I'll close out the comments on this. First of all, I agree with Commissioner Rayno. I do think that, you know, we don't need to play ostrich and stick our heads in the sand. I do think we have a problem with maintenance of our parks and I think what [inaudible] support, but what we do though is that we not make it personal. All of us have great respect for Jim Golden. This is no reflection on Jim Golden, but, you know, we've got to get beyond who heads up the Recreation Department. If the grass needs cutting, it still needs to be cut whether he's the department head or not, so I think this is not a reflection in any way on Mr. Golden's performance, but I think at the same time we need to recognize that we still have a problem with maintaining our parks. I get more calls about maintenance of parks than I do anything else except Truman Parkway. Truman Parkway is number one and parks maintenance is number two. Okay? And so, I mean, I think we have to realize that we do have a problem with maintaining our parks. I would like to see us again think outside the box. Maybe doing it in-house with our own personnel is not the best way to go. Maybe we need to contract the maintenance out to a private company. Maybe we need to consolidate the Recreation Department with the City of Savannah. I think that would be a good idea. So we've just got to look at all the options and not just say that we've got to continue to defend the status quo and make this personal in Mr. Golden's case because nobody has more respect for Mr. Golden than I do, but at the same time we realize that there's a problem, and I think we –, I'd like to see us pursue the possibility of contracting out or the possibility of consolidating with the Recreation Department of the City of Savannah. I think that would be a great idea.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, with your permission. We have already prepared, actually it's a year old now, at the request of the previous Board, specs to do just that. The only reason the specs never went on the street obviously is the money was not there, but if you would like for us to solicit that, we would be glad to solicit it. Chairman Hair asked, is part of that solicitation including the City of Savannah maintaining the parks? County Manager Abolt said, well, they could bid if they wished to, sir. Commissioner Rayno said, I'd be agreeable with that.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, you know, I hate to sometimes go from bad to worse, and everything we look at we holler privatize this, privatize that when you don't give the departments sufficient people to operate. Now when I came on board, we had a Finance Department that was so short of people they couldn't even reconcile bank accounts. That's how short they were, and we'll sit up here in amazement and say, well, you mean they couldn't reconcile a bank account. Well, that's a true fact that that was happening, and until we increased the personnel now we've got all kind of awards running around the wall on how efficient our department is, and they're still short of people. So everything, we have cut this thing back, we've added parks, and we never sit down, we come up here at a crisis. Like I told them before you got back here, enough is enough of bringing this thing out here in the public. We should sit down in a meeting if there's a problem with maintenance, how do we address it, and address it in-house among ourselves and we can come up with some solutions. Chairman Hair asked, do you believe that we should not think outside the box or consider consolidation with the City? Commissioner Rivers said, any way we want to do it, any way we want to do it, but this is not the forum here to be bringing all of this to the floor. Let's sit down and get some understanding. If that's one option, fine. Whatever the options are, let's look at them. Chairman Hair said, well, I agree with that, but the option, sole option can't be to just add more people too, we've got to look at other things. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I didn't say that, but this is a result of cutting back.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, first of all, I'd just like to say I certainly agree with the Chairman on his comment about thinking outside the box. I think we can do that and I think we can do a great job with it. But just one thing I wanted to mention is there is a group, Islands Citizens for Logical Growth, on Wilmington Island right now in the Islands area that is working with Jim Golden's office and the County Manager to try to put some fund raisers together with the funds directed directly to the Charlie Brooks Park, and if we can get more citizens involved because the citizens are the ones that actually use these facilities, involved in fund raising and other things to go specific to certain parks or recreation facilities, then that would also help. I know we're shorthanded in personnel. The other side of this is if we do have safety problems at any of these facilities, they need to be addressed first, and if it can't be then we need to close that facility down until it can be addressed because I don't want to see anyone hurt because of neglect of something that for whatever reason, but I would hope that we could have more citizens get involved in what we do with our recreation facilities and help come up with some ideas also. I don't think it should be up to the nine of us that sit up here and funding. I think it should be up to the citizens and their input also what takes place with these facilities.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to agree with you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Golden I believe is an excellent leader. I really do. I don't question his leadership at all, but we need to, like you said, not stick our heads in the sand. If there's ways to get better, that's what we need to look to do.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff was requested to look at soliciting bids for maintenance of the County parks and also look to the possibility of consolidating the Recreation Department with the City of Savannah.

=====

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. At meeting of September 21, 2001, no action was taken.**

Chairman Hair said, even though it's indicated on the agenda that we want Item #2, we're not ready to take that off the table.

Commissioner Murray said, we're not ready. That's supposed to be at an undetermined date.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled for consideration by the Commissioners.

=====

- * 3. **SECOND READING - 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.]
At meeting of September 7, 2001, item was tabled until meeting of September 21, 2001.
At meeting of September 21, 2001, item was tabled for County Attorney to conduct research.

Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Chairman, on Item #3, the County Attorney told me this morning that he is not through with his work on this yet and would like to see it tabled to the next meeting also.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled for consideration by the Commissioners.

=====

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY2002 BUDGET FOR THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND AND APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL POSITION IN BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TO BE FUNDED FROM THE EXISTING AMENDED BUDGET; AN AMENDMENT TO THE CIP FUND OF \$115,880 FOR JIMS PROJECTS; AND A TRANSFER OF \$10,000 FROM THE 1993-1998 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY, PHASE II TO THE JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY INTERCHANGE AT SR 21.**

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

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to adopt the FY2002 budget for the Multiple Grant Fund and approve an additional position in Building Maintenance and Operations to be funded from the existing amended budget; approve an amendment to the CIP Fund of \$115,880 for JIMS Projects; and approve a transfer of \$10,000 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase II, to the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange at SR21. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

=====

2. **REQUEST METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT OGEECHEE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY.**

County Manager Abolt said, this is an item brought to my attention by Commissioner Kicklighter and I believe it's in Commissioner Odell's district. There was, I believe, a small business --, operator of a small business was doing things the right way and found out that the zoning had not kept up with it. When staff looked at it, it was obvious the entire corridor should be addressed, and so we're coming to you now asking that direction be given to MPC to look at that entire area.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to request the Metropolitan Planning Commission to conduct an Ogeechee Road Corridor Study. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

=====

3. AWARD OF THE OPERATIONS CONTRACT FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, I'd like to have Mr. Lynch come forward and make a presentation. You'll recall that some time ago County staff was about preparing a Request for Proposal to look at the management of the Aquatic Center giving certain options. That solicitation has been completed. The evaluation is also complete. We have certain recommendations primarily in the context of the actual prices submitted by the apparent firm which they made the highest marks in the overall evaluation saving except pricing. County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. George Lynch.

Mr. Lynch said, I think that the County Manager has pretty well covered the waterfront. Essentially, what it amounts to is that the, if you would, subjective score, the evaluation by committee, gave high marks indeed to the incumbent contractor, Champion Corporation. When the fee proposal came in there was a very marked reversal. Champion Corporation came in some \$155,000 higher than USA Pools. While the evaluation committee ranked Champion highest by a wide margin, it also is satisfied that USA Pools is capable of operating the Aquatic Center. Given those facts, we ask y'all to consider really what are three alternatives, and if you have more tell us and we'll go on. The first is to award the contract to Champion Corporation. Under the provisions of the RFP, they are the highest ranked. As such, an award to them would be completely appropriate. The second alternative is to recognize in a very tight budget year we have a firm which we believe is competent of doing the job that offers a fee \$155,000 lower than that offered by Champion Corporation. It also offers a reduction on those hours where we have to make our cuts for the continuing overhead. Their proposal is 500% of that of Champion Corporation. I hope we don't have to cut hours, but that's a distinct possibility. What we ask is would the Board approve staff approaching Champion, which is already the highest ranked, and say, folks, your fee is too high, get it cut down and cut down significantly. They are under no obligation to do so. And then if Champion does not make significant reduction of their fee, instruct staff to award to USA Pools. I'll be glad to respond to any questions.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Murray. We'll get everybody, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Odell said, the people that have been running it for as long as we've had the pool – Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell asked, is Champion? Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, their bid is lower than a company that's not done it here. Is that true? Mr. Lynch said, sir, I'm not sure I'm following the question. Commissioner Odell said, it's a bad question. I need to rephrase, I'm sorry. USA Pools – Chairman Hair said, lawyers don't usually admit that. Mr. Lynch said, he's a great lawyer, sir, that's why he does it. Commissioner Odell said, USA Pools has no experience with our facility. Mr. Lynch said, with our facility, no. Commissioner Odell said, okay, and their hours would be substantially less than what Champion's hours would be. Mr. Lynch said, sir, we in the RFP specified 72 hours per week. That applies to both firms. The reason we came in at 72 hours was simply to try to be able to fit within budget. Now, we took out 15 hours at a time during the week when there is very minimal activity at the pool, and that's the time from 12:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon. Everybody is pricing, everybody is bidding, fee proposing –, pardon me, I'll be a purist –, on exactly the same number of hours. Commissioner Odell said, okay. So there's no distinction in those hours? Mr. Lynch said, no sir, no sir. Commissioner Odell said, Champion clearly won the bid on all of the non-fee bases. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. They were the highest rated. Commissioner Odell asked, when we say remain in budget, even assuming that they are \$150,000 above, is that still within budget? Mr. Lynch said, no sir. Mr. Lynch said, we would have to come back for an additional approximately –, just to be able to meet the first payment and ask for an additional approximately \$25,000. Commissioner Odell asked, is the sum total for the year –, the overage as we take their bid the way it is, is that amount \$25,000 or \$25,000-plus? Mr. Lynch said, it would be at \$25,000 that we would have to have –. Chairman Hair said, that would be the total overage if we accept it at that figure. Mr. Lynch said, we would have to come back to you for that much more. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Mr. Lynch said, now let me, if I could please, sir, may I amplify? Our concern is, of course, that we don't want to come back and say please \$25,000 more, but our greater concern is there is an opportunity to award and save \$155,000. That's what we want you to take a look at and consider. Commissioner Odell said, you know, one of my concerns with that is, having been here long enough now I've seen institutions one that bidded on energy [inaudible] grants and their board was so structured to drive their competitors out of business and then, having done that, they could charge us, and which they came back to do so, whatever they chose to do. My primary concern is, and eventually Chatham County is going to have to run its facility like in Jacksonville. You go to Jacksonville, the stadium is well done. It's nice. I mean, it doesn't look like this is the lowest bid. I mean, God, we are just learning to read in this County. It doesn't look like that. It's done and it's done right. My impression is that the Aquatic Center under Champion is done and it's being done right. The only question –, my only question is, we're not talking about \$150,000, okay. That is a potential number that has no experience here. That is a number which has no experience here, but is simply a projection so seven months down the road they could say, whoa, we made a mistake, we can't do it for the –, they'll be locked in, but they also could default on the contract. But what we do know is that the company that's been doing it, we're out of budget by \$25,000. We're out of budget by \$25,000. Mr. Lynch said, yes, we would have to get

\$25,000 more from you to make the award to them. Chairman Hair said, if you awarded at the maximum level. Mr. Lynch said, at their maxprice, exactly right, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Odell said, what I'd like to see happening, and I haven't tested, I don't really know, anyone [inaudible] hearing on this is that I think the facility is being run in a manner that is considered to be good. We have an overage of \$25,000, not \$150,000. We have an overage of \$25,000. I'd like to see management go back to Champion and say, we can't do it for the \$25,000, we can do it for this minus the \$25,000, what kind of options do we have? I don't want us to believe just because we're in a tight budget year that we're going to lock ourselves into a proposal which has no experience here and which may not in fact be accurate and which may be done to drive their competitors out of business, and I'm not saying that that's the case. I'm just saying if it's fixed and if it's not broken, why fix it and -. I've gotten a lot of calls on this from people that I legitimately respect and I never tell an opposing counsel -, is Jerry still here? Jerry, who's an assistant D.A., who uses the facility every day and Sherry Miltiades. Both are attorneys and I don't want you to think that attorneys' opinions are more weighted in my view. Mr. Lynch said, well, they certainly look good, sir. [Unintelligible comments when several Commissioners spoke at the same time.] Commissioner Odell said, well, but I'd like to see us go back to them and say the \$25,000 exceeds our budget. Mr. Lynch asked, sir, may I ask one question? Commissioner Odell said, they've got to make a living too. Yes sir? Mr. Lynch asked, may we not be limited to \$25,000?

Chairman Hair said, no, I don't think he's suggesting that. I think he's just -. Mr. Lynch said, okay, I just -, I wanted to clarify that. Chairman Hair said, that would be part of it, I think that's what he's saying, but they could change beyond that, but that would be part of it. Mr. Lynch said, right. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Gellatly. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, George [Lynch], how many facilities does USA do throughout the country? Mr. Lynch said, over a hundred, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, throughout the country? Mr. Lynch said, throughout the country. Commissioner Murray asked, and have you checked any references on those facilities? Mr. Lynch said, we certainly have. Commissioner Murray asked, what were they? Mr. Lynch said, we have found that closest to us and really aside from some design -, little changes, Peachtree City Pool, designed and engineered by the same man, uses USA Pools and they're enthusiastic about them. We have checked other pools in Mississippi, in this area. We got good to excellent to outstanding evaluations. We are aware of some unhappiness with USA Pools. It happens to involve construction that was being done by them, as opposed to what we're looking for, which is pool management. It would appear that the city was unhappy with them, thought they did a bad job; however, the city apparently didn't issue -. Commissioner Murray said, just a minute. Mr. Lynch said, change orders. Commissioner Murray asked, did you just state though that they are unhappy about construction of the pool they did and not the management of the pool? Mr. Lynch said, that is correct entirely, sir. Commissioner Murray said, so there are two separate issues altogether. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir, but I wanted to make it clear to you that when we checked, we were aware of this. Commissioner Murray asked, on a construction side? Let's make that clear. Mr. Lynch said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Not on management side? Mr. Lynch said, that is correct. Commissioner Murray said, the other question I have, in this contract that's out there is -, whoever gets the contract, is awarded the contract today if we award one -. Mr. Lynch said, I'm sorry, sir. Commissioner Murray said, if we award that contract today, in that contract are the -, whoever receives that, are they responsible for the maintenance of the facility itself? Mr. Lynch said, no sir. Commissioner Murray asked, or is Chatham County responsible for that? Mr. Lynch said, Chatham County is responsible. Now let me qualify. Operator maintenance, we both Air Force, we know what that means. That means that there is certain operator maintenance, absolute first echelon, such things as back-washing the filters, making sure that if there is a drain on the floor and there's some hair in it, you get that cleaned out. That kind of stuff and providing custodial services, e.g. cleaning up. With those exceptions, Chatham County is responsible for the maintenance. Commissioner Murray said, and if I hear the discussions right now correctly, the same discussion that went on during the EMS and Memorial contract was strictly on a financial end, that we need to save that money that we're going to save by contracting EMS out, and now I'm hearing the same conversation, just reversed, on another facility we have, and I don't understand the difference. I mean, if we've got an opportunity to save \$155,000 towards our recreational budget, and we have another person that has bid on this that has no complaints on the management side and they manage over a hundred pools throughout the country, I don't understand why we don't try that for a year to begin with. It's not saying that we have to keep the contract the following year.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, George [Lynch], you said you checked Peachtree City -. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers asked, and they have a satisfactory performance there? Mr. Lynch said, they were rather enthusiastic about it. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm personally going to -, I want three of them, at least three of them that are close by that I'm going to call, and I'm going to check personally. Now I have some letters here and I've had numerous calls, and I just got back in town on yesterday. Now I'm glad to hear that there's a separation because some people were complaining about the doors and automatic doors and all that kind of stuff -. Mr. Lynch said, at this point they can get mad with me. Commissioner Rivers said, but there was also some people that complained about the cleanliness and other things within the pool, the time share and different things. There are a number of things that's here that I would be concerned about in the operation that needs to be cleared up, okay. Now I'm one who -, I'm glad I've got a lot of experience. I'm one who has been in the bidding process for a good while, and I would -, I hate like hell to bid on something and be the lowest bidder and my service is comparable and then I don't get the bids. See, I'm a stickler on that because I've had this to happen to me throughout this City, this County, the Board of Education and everybody else, and I had to fight a long time in order to be able to get my bid in there with equal -, with being equal. So if they're equal and they can give the service and we've got them under contract, and we're talking about a price differential of a hundred and some-odd thousand dollars, then I'm very well concerned about that. I, too, like Frank Murray, I'm concerned about the fact that when we look at something that we're going to put this out in order to save, we're going to privatize this, we're going

to privatize that, and here we come with a bid, I can see if this company was giving us a Ford and we wanted a Cadillac and this company was supplying a Cadillac, but if that's not the case, then we don't need to be buying a Cadillac. So, you know, I have problems with that. Even with the experience of people to Chatham County and to the facility because if you operate one pool or different pools throughout the United States, you should be able to operate that one in the same manner. So I just have a problem with all that. And, Mr. Chairman, before I would be ready to bid --, to vote on accepting a bid or any proposal, I'd like to have all of these concerns kind of answered. I'd like to check out myself some of the reference and --. Chairman Hair said, well, obviously it couldn't be done today if you --, if that's what you want, you know.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Gellatly and then I'm going to make a comment. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd like to say that for the last almost two years, why, I've utilized the Aquatic Center myself personally, and I do it for an hour and a half a day, five days a week without any excuses, however, I don't belong to the swim team and I don't personally know the manager, I know who he is, but I would like to share, you know, some of my observations, my personal observations of at least between 5:40 to 7:00 in the morning is --, and that's the hours that I'm there, that the pool I've always found it to be in good working order, found it clean, well-maintained and I found the staffing, as far as life guards are concerned, to be very efficient and seem to be well staffed to me, and I found staff at the desk to be courteous and receptive and knowing what's going on. I, too, have received, as all the Commissioners have, a multitude of letters and faxes and phone calls and what have you, and it seems to me that part of it, at least, that one swim team doesn't like another swim team, and I think we need to [inaudible]. I don't support that swim team, and I want to tell you that right now, but I think we need to get --, we need to get past that, that's what we're dealing with, and I think that a lot of the letters and faxes and calls that I've received had to do with maintenance problems, which we've already clearly pointed out, and I observed the same thing. There's a lot of painting that needs to be done, there's a lot of problems with the showers and what have you, but that's not management's problem, that's our problem. We're going to have to find the money sometime to maintain that pool, and I think we've learned a lot from that. When we use SPLOST money to buy something big and expensive like an Aquatic Center --, I'm glad we did, it's a showpiece --, and then not have a clue of how we're going to maintain it because there's no tax base to do it, well, we've got a real problem. I mean, we've done that at Tybee Pier and we've done it in a few other places too, but I think we're learning. But at any rate, to get back to the pool, I haven't found any problems with it. They're a known quantity. I do, however, have a problem with the difference in the bid. That's a huge difference and if there was an opportunity for the current management to go back and sharpen the pencil, I think that they need to do that. If it's not possible to do that, why I'd have a difficult time voting for it because that's a big chunk of money at a time when the County just flat doesn't have that kind of money. That's all.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Before I recognize Commissioner Kicklighter I've already put myself on the list here. I personally think that Champion's done a good job with this pool. I think what makes me a little bit suspicious of all these similar letters we've gotten in the last week is that they've only occurred once this contract award's been on the agenda, and it appears to me that if these people who are so dissatisfied and have all these complaints about the pool, and I get 85 to 90 phone calls everyday about complaints about the County, okay, and why now? The Champion Corporation's been running this pool for a long time, and it makes me very suspicious that all of a sudden the week before the contract award, that's when we get all these comments about what such a lousy job Champion's doing. Why didn't you call me last month and three months before and six months ago and eight months ago? I didn't hear that then. I only hear it when it's time to change to contract. So I personally think that Champion's done a good job and I would support any motion that --, awarding it with the negotiation to get it within budget. I would not support an increase in the budget in no way, shape or form, but I do think that we should award to Champion with a negotiated price that would be substantially below what it is now, and certainly within budget. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd just like to agree with Commissioner Murray. I believe this Commission took the mind set of saving money when Frank [Murray] and I had no problem with our service of EMS. I mean, their --, I don't believe anybody up here could mention one problem, and this Commission voted to privatize to save the County money because we're in a tight crunch. I don't know whether or not the maintenance is good or bad or, you know, whatever. I'll take my good friend here sitting beside me, you know, opinion that it's good. Commissioner Gellatly said, come join me. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, I need to. I need to. You know, I've heard from a lot of good people, letters and all, and I don't doubt that every letter and phone call's the truth. People just perceive things different. What someone perceives clean might look dirty to somebody else. So I really don't know about that aspect of it. What I will say is that I definitely would like to see this thing at somehow come in close to that reduced price since we seem to be taking the aim or whatever to accept things, especially if you were receiving a comparable service, you know, take the low bidder there, which is what we did with EMS, I would like to see that applied with, you know, all of the facilities because they say this is an equitable bid, so let's at least try to get the --, whichever one we choose here, because I'm honestly --, I told people on the phone last night, I'm baffled. I don't know what to do. I really don't. Pull a coin out and flip it. I've heard from good people on both sides, so this is one issue, and I've been in politics a while too, like Mr. Murray wants to say --, I mean, Mr. Rivers down there wants to say. I don't know on this one. I absolutely don't have a clue of what to do. So I would like to see us at least take the thing and try to come back with a bid that saves the County \$156,000 [sic] that holds to the theme of what this body did when they saved thousand --, hundreds of thousands of dollars with EMS. So whatever way, let's try to get the maximum savings here and receive the same good services that we had.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. I guess there's probably a lot of people in the audience that want to comment. I would ask you to do this one thing. We'll stay here as long as you want to, but if you represent a group, if there's 10 of you here, just have one person represent the person [sic] and say I represent 20 people here or whatever so that we don't hear the

same thing over and over and over. We don't want 20 people coming up and saying the same thing on either side. So I would ask you to respect that request.

Commissioner Odell asked, do we have a motion on the floor? Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion. Chairman Hair asked, all right, what is the motion? Chairman Hair said, the motion is that the contract be awarded to Champion contingent upon their meeting the bid submitted by USA Pools. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second to that motion? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Hair said, second, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, in other words, the exact amount of money? Chairman Hair said, no, you didn't say the exact amount, you said negotiate. Commissioner Odell said, right.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just for illustrative purposes because the Board members are fully aware of it because we have in the audience many people that may not be familiar with the terms. We're using the term bid. Please understand this is a proposal. It's an RFP. Were it a bid you'd be bound by the low bidder. EMS the same way. So I don't want the people leaving here today somehow feeling, well, even though we have a rigid bid procedure that somehow you adjust -. The reason you can discuss it like you are now, it's a request for services.

Chairman Hair said, yes, we understand. It's up to the Commission. We either -, we have a motion and second. We can go ahead and vote on the motion or we can hear from the audience. I suspect the people in the audience are the same people that wrote us letters on both sides, so I don't think we're going to hear anything new that we haven't heard already, but we'll certainly welcome to hear everybody if that's what the wishes of the Board wants to do.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd -. Chairman Hair said, go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to call for the question.

Chairman Hair said, all right. We have a call for the question. We have a motion and a second on the floor. Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, never mind. Chairman Hair said, okay. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes sir. I know, you're going to ask for reconsideration, right? Commissioner Rivers said, yes. I'm going to ask for reconsideration to be placed in the minutes -. Chairman Hair said, that's fine. Commissioner Rivers said, until I check out all the due diligence -, and do all the due diligence that I need to -. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion for reconsideration in the minutes. Commissioner Rivers said, no, there's no motion on that, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, I didn't ask for a motion. I said it's in the minutes. Commissioner Rivers said, you said we have a -. Oh, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the contract for the management of the Aquatic Center be awarded to Champion contingent upon their meeting the bid submitted by USA Pools. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel and Thomas were not present.]

=====

4. AMENDMENT TO PURCHASING PROCEDURES REGARDING RECYCLING.

County Manager Abolt said, very quickly, sir, this just allows us to become more competitive in grants for our very active recycling program. We have to show commitment by this corporation to where possible in certain conditions acquire recycled goods. This is an amendment to our Purchasing Procedures, not in effect -, well, a document that you would adopt, but only by saying that it's now on the books for the next 30 days. Excuse me, notification is not given in the next 30 days that we will give preference in certain conditions to recycling materials. Unless there are objections, after 30 days it will become part of our normal procurement procedure.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Thank you. We don't take any action on it or anything? County Manager Abolt said, no sir. It's just our blessing today.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

No action required by the Board. If no objection is given to the proposed amendment in the next 30 days, the proposed amendment to Purchasing Procedures regarding recycling will then become a part of Purchasing Procedures Manual.

=====

X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Action Calendar.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll move to approve the Action Calendar –. Commissioner Rayno said, with the exception of B and C. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair asked, B and C. Is that the only two? Okay. Chairman Hair said, all right, we have a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Rivers said, we don't have a second. Commissioner Murray said, I seconded it. Chairman Hair said, yes, he did, he already seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm not listening today. Chairman Hair said, I know you aren't. I noticed that. It must be jet lag you've got there, Commissioner Rivers.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 7-B and 7-C. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were 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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2001, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 21, 2001, as mailed. - Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 13 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 26, 2001.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period September 13, 2001, through September 26, 2001, in the amount of \$1,493,562. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, STEVENSON & PALMER, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR OAK LANE SUBDIVISION AND TO CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Stevenson & Palmer, to record the subdivision plat for Oak Lane Subdivision and to create a new streetlighting assessment district. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

4. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ENGINEER, COUNTY ATTORNEY AND COUNTY CLERK TO SIGN ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A COUNTY CONTRACT FOR THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COST OF CONSTRUCTING A RIGHT TURN LANE ON GULFSTREAM ROAD AT THE INTERSECTION WITH STATE ROUTE 21.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to authorize the Chairman, County Engineer, County Attorney and County Clerk to sign all documents necessary to obtain a County contract for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to participate in the cost of constructing a right turn lane off Gulfstream Road at its intersection with State Route 21. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

5. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BLOOMINGDALE, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,950, TO LOWER A 10-INCH SEWER FORCE MAIN FOR POOLER PARKWAY, PHASE II.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Amendment No. 1 to the agreement with the City of Bloomingdale in the amount of \$1,950 to lower a 10-inch sewer force main for Pooler Parkway, Phase II. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

6. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO TRANSFER A UTILITY TRAILER FROM THE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request to transfer a utility trailer from the County Health Department to the City of Savannah. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

7. **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. First renewal to annual contract to provide automotive repair parts as needed	Fleet Operations	Brooks Auto Parts	Varies by item	General Fund/M&O - Fleet Operations Inventory Account
B. Annual contract for "as needed, funds available" basis, model year 2002 Crown Victoria Police sedans	Fleet Operations	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$19,865.10	•CIP - Vehicle Replacement •SSD - Various •General Fund/M&O - Various

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
C. Flatbed dump truck	Parks and Recreation	Roberts Truck Center	\$41,681	CIP - Vehicle Replacement (pending Board approval of grant acceptance)
D. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Central Avenue Stormwater Improvement project for adjustments in actual bid quantities and additional sodding and utility work	SPLOST	D & R Utility Construction	\$8,088.40	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Parkersburg Project
E. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for the construction of the Fawcett Canal Improvement Project for water line relocation	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$4,030	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Drainage - Fawcett Canal
F. Confirmation of emergency purchase of four (4) self-contained breathing apparatus systems with spare parts	Police Bomb Squad Unit	Channel Innovations Corporation	\$18,408	Multiple Grant Funds (pending Board approval of budget amendment)
G. Change Order No. 5 to the contract for the construction of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange at SR21 for the replacement of an existing median	SPLOST	R. B. Baker Construction Company	\$9,362	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Phase II
H. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Wilmington Park Canal Drainage Improvements project for the replacement of a water main	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$11,338	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Wilmington Park Drainage
I. Two (2) long bed pickup trucks	Public Works	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$38,130	SSD - Public Works
J. Change Order No. 2 to the annual contract for janitorial services to increase scope of services	Building Maintenance and Operations	Quality Cleaning Contractors	\$863 per month	General Fund/M&O - Building Maintenance and Operations
K. Reject all bids received for attendant services at the various Recycle/Drop Off Centers	Solid Waste Management	N/A	N/A	N/A
L. Confirmation of contract for the demolition of County obtained buildings/structures	SPLOST	Ace's One Construction (MBE)	\$28,500	SPLOST (1985-1993) - US 17 - Ogeechee River to SR 204
M. One-year extension to the annual contract to provide banking services	Finance	Wachovia	No cost to the County	N/A
N. Second renewal option to the annual contract to provide Third Party Administrator (TPA) services and to increase the per employee rate	Human Resources	USI Administrators	Increase from \$7.88 per employee per month to \$8.27 per employee per month	Internal Services Group Health Insurance Fund
O. First renewal to the annual contract to provide short-term crisis counseling for children and families as referred by Juvenile Court	Juvenile Court	Family Reconstruction/SOAP	\$23,000	Children Youth Coordinating Council Grant

As to Items 7-A through 7-O except 7-B and 7-C:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 7-A through 7-O, except Items 7-B and 7-C. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

As to Item 7-B:

Annual contract for "as needed, funds available" basis, model year 2002 Crown Victoria Police sedans; Fleet Operations; J. C. Lewis Ford; \$19,865.10; CIP - Vehicle Replacement, SSD - Various, General Fund/M&O - Various.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. When you've got the funding and you list that it's coming from CIP and you also list that it's coming from various M&O and various SSD, could you possibly get me a list of the actual line item accounts --? Mr. George Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Rayno said, so I could share that with the other Commissioners. Mr. Lynch said, yes sir. Commissioner Rayno said, 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: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

As to Item 7-C:

Flatbed dump truck; Parks and Recreation; Roberts Truck Center, \$41,681; CIP - Vehicle Replacement (pending Board approval of grant acceptance).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, sorry I pulled it, Mr. Chairman. Motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 7-A through 7-O, except Items 7-B and 7-C. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 7-B. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 7-C. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Kicklighter and Thomas 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. **AN AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4-12C(5) OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, ISLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY DISTRICT, TO REDUCE THE MINIMUM BUILDING SETBACK REQUIREMENT FROM THE MARSH LINE FOR PLATTED OR RECORDED LOTS NOT OCCUPIED BY A RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-010828-59853-1 [NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT - UNINCORPORATED AREA .]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **REPORT ON SUBSEQUENT ACTION TAKEN BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING MPC FILE NO. Z-010612-37306-1 (REFERENCE FILE NO. 98-12425-C), PETITIONER, JAMES B. BLACKBURN, JR., AGENT FOR OWNERS HOMER CURTIS JENKINS, III, AND MARVIN C. JENKINS.**

Chairman Hair said, what we're going to do is, we're going to open the hearing and then the petitioner has asked to continue the hearing to the first meeting in December. So I will open the hearing first. I will now officially open the hearing on this meeting. Now I'll entertain a motion to continue to the first meeting in December. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to continue this matter to the first meeting in December, 2001. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

=====

- OR -

2. **THE PETITIONER, JAMES B. BLACKBURN, JR., AGENT FOR OWNERS HOMER CURTIS JENKINS, III, AND MARVIN C. JENKINS, IS REQUESTING THAT A PORTION OF A LOT SHOWN ON THE COUNTY TAX MAPS AS A 0.3 ACRE PARCEL LOCATED ON WHITEMARSH ISLAND AT 1032 OLD OATLAND ISLAND ROAD AND A PORTION OF AN ADJOINING 0.7 ACRE UNDEVELOPED PARCEL BE REZONED FROM AN R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A P-B-N (PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS) CLASSIFICATION TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE, RESTAURANT OR RETAIL STORE. THE MPC DID NOT SUBMIT A REPORT WITHIN A 30 DAY PERIOD FROM THE DATE THAT THIS PETITION WAS SUBMITTED AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 11-2.6 OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, IS DEEMED TO HAVE APPROVED THE REQUESTED CHANGE.
MPC FILE NO. Z-010612-37306-1 (REFERENCE FILE NO. 98-12425-C)
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

See #1 above.

=====

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 was received as information.

=====

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report was received as information.

=====

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Gellatly and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:20 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:46 a.m.

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

=====

APPOINTMENTS

1. **BUILDING CODE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS AND APPEALS - MISTY BETHUNE
CHATHAM COUNTY HOSPITAL AUTHORITY - WILLIAM A. DOWLING**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the appointment of Misty Bethune to the Chatham County Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals as the Homebuilder representative to a term which expires November 28, 2002, and appoint William A. Dowling to the Chatham County Hospital Authority to a term which expires October 24, 2007, to replace Jackie Sommers, whose term will expire October 24, 2001. [NOTE: Commissioners Jackel, Odell and Thomas were not present.]

=====

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

=====

APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2001

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK