

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2002, 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, January 25, 2002.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Commissioner David Gellatly gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll. [NOTE: District Three currently is without a representative.]

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two Martin S. Jackel, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five (arrived approximately 9:25 a.m.) David M. Gellatly, District Six B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven
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ABSENT:	Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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**YOUTH COMMISSIONERS**

Chairman Hair welcomed the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Yartundra Mallory, a Junior at Beach High School; Nolan Mell, a Sophomore at Benedictine Military Academy; and Renekia Mewborn, a Senior at Jenkins High School.

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## **CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS**

Chairman Hair said, before we get started on the agenda, I want to make sure that our packets are complete on the Board of Assessors nominees. Somebody, I know, Dean [Kicklighter] brought some in this morning, we want to get in the packet. If you'll turn them in to me now, I'll get them to –, we want to make sure that you go ahead and turn them in to Danielle [Hillery] there and she'll make the list complete in the packets. We also, for the benefit of the press, we have a press packet for everyone that will list all the nominees and the background, their résumés, and we'll get that to you at the end of the meeting as soon as it's complete.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Mr. Chairman, may I comment on that also? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just –, I just want it to be known, because of all the public scrutiny on this, that my personal policy is anyone that wanted to be nominated to this, I will turn your name in and the people that contacted me, that's –, that's how I work it. So anyone out there that wants to serve, I believe that's our duty to turn in their name and then scrutinize it later. So –.

Chairman Hair said, we have gotten a pretty good response and we want to make sure that all of these names and resumes are released to the press, and we will not take any action today. We will vote at the first meeting in February on these nominees. So we'll have those press packets ready at the end of the meeting.

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## **V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. GENERAL LEW LYLE AND OTHERS MARKING THE 60<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE AND ITS ORIGIN IN CHATHAM COUNTY.**

Chairman Hair said, our first special presentation today is we have –, we're very fortunate today to have Gen. Lew Lyle and some other folks –, Gen. Shuler out there and some other folks that are marking the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Eighth Air Force and its origin in Chatham County. Gen. Lyle, I'm going to call on you first, or Gen. Shuler?

Lt. Gen. E. G. Shuler, Jr. said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. Chairman Hair said, good morning. Gen. Shuler said, Lew [Lyle] has asked me to open this up and I'm delighted to do so. It's been a while since I appeared before you, and I must say it's a pleasure to be back. I would be remiss if I didn't thank all of you for your continued support of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and particularly during this 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I'm Buck Shuler. I'm Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, and I want to introduce my colleagues and finish with the introduction to C. J. Roberts, who will talk to you briefly about the anniversary. As most of you know, I think, Gen. Lew Lyle is the First Vice Chairman of our Board of Trustees. Lew [Lyle] is a World War II veteran of the Mighty 8<sup>th</sup>, having commanded the 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group 379<sup>th</sup>, and has the distinction of having flown more B-17 combat missions than any other commander in the Eighth Air Force during that period of time. Over 70. Lew [Lyle], as all of you know, I think, is really the father of this dream and this project, the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, so we owe a lot to Lew. Also, our First Vice Chairman, Dr. Walter Brown, who happens to be a native of Savannah, born and raised here. He's a former Air Force Flight Surgeon. He now practices Emergency Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, and Walter [Brown] has been a stalwart member of the board about the same time I joined, a little over 10 years. Also, we have Judge Ben Smith, our Secretary of the Board. He's a distinguished jurist and lives in Waycross, Georgia. He also is a combat veteran of the Eighth Air Force, 303<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group, during World War II. He was a B-17 Gunner. He is also a noted artist in addition to being a very fine lawyer, and an author as well. So these are just some of the executive committee, officers of our board. We wanted to bring them down today and introduce them to the Commission, and I appreciate that opportunity. C. J. Roberts is, as you know, is the President and CEO of the Museum. He's appeared before you twice before, I believe, and you'll see more of him in the future, and I'm going to turn the mike over to him and let him relate to you about our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Gen. Shuler recognized Mr. Roberts.

Mr. C. J. Roberts said, thank you, Buck [Shuler]. Thank you all for giving us the opportunity to appear today. We worked very hard to put together a program to honor the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Eighth Air Force. The 8<sup>th</sup>, of course, was founded here in Savannah in 1942. We've got a great program of activities going on tomorrow, and I just want to extend an invitation to the Commission, those assembled here, and your cable access viewers at home, to come out to the Museum at 8:45 a.m., and take part. We've got several speakers: Roger Freeman, noted historian and author; Allen Jones, photographer of a special exhibit that we're doing; Tom Keck, current Commander of the Eighth Air Force; Don Miller, who's an author and historian; and Paul Tibbets, who piloted the Enola Gay. So join us and come out and have a good time. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Gen. Shuler said, that's it, sir. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate y'all being here very much. We really know what this contributes to our community and we appreciate the leadership, particularly, Gen. Lyle, that you have been doing, as well as the efforts that y'all put forth.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to talk to you publicly. These men are my friends and I mean that with a great deal of pride, and I'm boasting. It has been my good pleasure to work with this County for a number of years, and one of the many things I'm so proud of, of what you and your predecessors have accomplished, have been appreciation for patriotism, love of country and the warrior spirit. You gentlemen, and certainly with Dr. Thomas, were she present, have exemplified that. These men are very special to me and my family. They are warriors of historic proportion, and I mean that sincerely. I don't mean to embarrass them. You've met men, you know men, and we had one of the individuals talking to our Youth Commission with the intent of touching the lives of as many of our citizens as possible. It's so easy for us to forget that our country really is quite young at 225 years of age. But yet, even in this current generation, there's little opportunity to really pass on an oral history of what these men and their organization are all about and what it meant to begin here in Chatham County 60 years ago in 1942. It's very, very special. Pete Nichols, one of our employees, a man that does great things for us, has with the help of Dr. Brown and Lew Lyle, has recorded –, not just for us, but for history, the experiences of Gen. Lyle. It's playing on our cable, Channel 16. Extremely well done. Two and a half hours of tape recounting the experiences of Gen. Lyle and those 75 missions, which was astounding. It will be a part of our history and a part of international history in the years to come because we've committed that. It was wonderfully put together. I appreciate both what Pete [Nichols] and the staff of the Eighth Air Force did to make that possible. Also, I want to mention just again the individuals in front of you and one that has passed since this whole thing became possible, but these are truly men of history of international renown. You've met Gen. Lyle. Gen. Lyle, as you know, 75 missions was amazing. Gen. Lyle also was invited to dine with Winston Churchill. Judge Ben Smith, who's a very close of my wife and I, in addition to being renowned as an author and an artist, wrote a very fine book called "*Chick's Crew*," but I do want to say something about Judge Smith, which you may not know. Judge Smith and his sons are historical re-enactors, and one of Judge Smith's relatives, a great-grandfather, was in Stonewall Jackson's foot calvary. Also, the individual that I referenced that has since passed, Rufus Youngblood, a representative of Chatham County, as you may know, in years gone by was not only a member of the Eighth Air Force and a veteran of Georgia Tech, but then was selected to be in the Secret Service, and he was the man that sheltered, shielded Lyndon Johnson in Dallas. He eventually became the head of the Secret Service. So these men, you know, excel in so many ways and they're so modest that sometimes we forget what they stand for. And as one individual of Chatham County, I am proud of what this Board has done, what your predecessors have done, and also in my life having these folks been a part of it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. Gen. Lyle said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much for being with us.

Commissioner Rayno said, Billy [Hair], they have a card they want to give to the –. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry. That was my fault. The Youth Commission wanted to make a presentation to the Eighth Air Force. Can somebody –? Commissioner Kicklighter said, go catch them. Chairman Hair said, that wasn't on my agenda. If you don't put it on my agenda, I [inaudible]. I follow my agenda religiously. We'll go ahead and do these and try to get one of them back –. Oh, there they are. Gen. Lyle, if y'all will come forward. The Youth Commission has a presentation they'd like to make to the Eighth Air Force.

Youth Commissioner Mewborn said, okay. On behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commissioners and the youth of Chatham County, we have this little card signed by all of us. And this is just a small token for our appreciation because the youth of Chatham County, we do recognize that Gen. Lyle and all the members of the Eighth Air Force, that they were heroes and they still are heroes to all of us, and we want you to just take this and know that you are appreciated by the youth of Chatham County.

Youth Commissioner Mell said, Mr. Hughey isn't here. He came and talked to us about his experience in the Mighty Eighth –, the Eighth Air Force, and he really did have a lot of good stories to tell, and he really, really enlightened most of us and told us, of course, to go into the Air Force because he had been. Commissioner Murray said, best branch. Youth Commissioner Mell said, so we really did appreciate him coming to talk to us, but he's not here today, but we will give it to him, a poster signed by all the Youth Commissioners, and we will make sure he gets it. But he really is a true hero and we really appreciate him. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Youth Commissioner Mallory said, on behalf of Chatham County and the Youth Commissioners, we'd like to present you with these pins.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair recognized Gen. Lyle.

Gen. Lyle said, I'd just like to let everyone know here how much we appreciate the support we've gotten not only from the Commission, County people, but also the entire community. We are dedicated to having the finest education program in the country, and we've got many plans ahead to do that. But without a doubt, this body has been the most supportive of any other group that we've worked with. Thank you so much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, General. We appreciate it very much.

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Chairman Hair said, before we get to the items for Individual Action, we've had two —, several folks from the Eighth Air Force. I'm going to ask them —, we've already had the presentation on the Eighth Air Force, but I'm going to ask them if they would come forward and be recognized at this time, and I think the Youth Commission has a presentation that —. Youth Commissioner Mell said, we already gave it to them. Chairman Hair said, oh, you already gave it. Well, at least tell them that they've got it.

County Manager Abolt said, the gentleman in the middle, Dr. Hair, is Henry Hughey. He is the —, now the godfather of the Youth Commission in relating to them the significance of combat in the second world war. I'll have him introduce the other two gentlemen, who had their photographs in our paper many, many times.

Youth Commissioner Mell said, we already gave him his little poster thing. A little bit late, but we really did appreciate you coming and talking to us and your experiences with the Mighty Eighth Air Force and it was just great. I mean, you are truly a hero and coming near death a couple of times and some of your stories and that's really respected by all of us, and we really appreciated you coming to talk to us. So thank you very much.

Mr. Hughey said, thank you. Your county is in good hands with these young people. They're your future leaders. We did come close to death this morning. Albert [McMahan] stepped out in one of your streets and it was one way. He was looking the other way. But there was no flack involved. We do thank the Chatham County Commission for all of your help, and this goes way back. I've been doing this now for over 10 years, and I don't know of another group of people who've contributed more, especially to our beautiful museum. We're proud of it because there were many people who said it will never happen, it can't happen here. But it's there and thanks to you people and the citizens of Chatham County. It's our last hurrah. We're here to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday of an organization that was founded on Bull Street in its first headquarters, the old armory down there. Ten years ago I wrote a letter to President George Bush and invited him to come. I didn't get an answer. This year we got a letter off to his son and nothing happened. We kept waiting and finally I got a call. I was talking to our former president of the Society and my wife said, "You have a long distance call." I said, "I'm on long distance, take a number." She said, "It's the President's Scheduling Committee." I said, "I'll call you back, fellow." And they said because of this anthrax thing letters were not getting through, and I understand that. They said, "Fax us a copy." I said, "To who's attention should I mark it." They said, "The President of the United States." But as you know, they are covered up with previous appointments, but the effort was made. We invite you people to come out Saturday to a dance at the 165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing Hangar. We'll have some music that's from our era, the 40's and Glenn Miller stuff, and you're certainly welcome. Sunday night at our hotel in Pooler you are welcome to come. We have a young Air Force Major, Pat Vlassic, who's brother was killed in Vietnam, and the Georgia Veterans of World War II, Eighth Air Force, salute the Veterans of Vietnam. It's long overdue. Her brother was buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington. I think she's going to tell us how they discovered it was indeed her brother. There's no one there now. But come out and visit. We've got Eighth Air Force people living from all over the world. I have a couple of gentlemen here, both from Atlanta. Malcolm McGibb, he was a pilot. Albert McMahan was a ball gunner and a tail turret gunner. He flew 25 and he 35 and I've got 32. And it is our last hurrah because there won't be too many of us around for the 70<sup>th</sup>. I may stick around, but we thank you again from the bottom of our hearts. I want to thank your Youth Commission. Thank you for that. That will be on display at the motel for the rest of this weekend, and it'll be in my war room at home when I go back to Atlanta. We thank you, gentlemen.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. You know, it's always impressive when you see a veteran like you Malcolm [McGibb] that wear that uniform. Mr. Hughey said, I hear you. Chairman Hair said, you know —, well, that's what I was going to say. You know, I have mine, too, from Vietnam, but I weigh 40 pounds more than I did then, so I —. They hang in the closet, but I can't put them on, you know.

Mr. Malcolm McGibb said, well, yours was the straight regular jacket. This belt doesn't allow any expansion. That's why it's tough to get in. Chairman Hair said, it's impossible for me to get in mine, I can tell you. Mr. McGibb said, I wanted to say I have a tie with Savannah and I always feel good coming back. My aunt, Brighton Habersham, married my father's older brother, Louis Boris McGibb, in the late 1900's or early 20's. She's buried in Augusta, and he tried to grow mulberry trees here and get in the silk business, and he ended up in Tallulah Falls. There's an old relic up there, I understand, of a factory that he tried to put together, and he's reputed to have introduced apples to the North Georgia. So every time I come I really like —.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much for your service to our country. We appreciate it very much.

Mr. Albert McMahan said, Henry [Hughey] said that I was the tail gunner and a ball turret gunner with the [inaudible]. I was and at the beginning of the war, beginning in 1942, and my experiences were somewhat hectic along the way. But I'm here and thank God to you people, the Eighth Air Force exists.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Thanks.

Mr. Hughey said, I was a ball turret gunner. That was 57 years ago. Today I am one.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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## 2. RECOGNIZING COMMANDER STEVE SMITH OF THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM.

Chairman Hair said, we have several employees that we're going to recognize today, who are leaving us. The first is Commander Steve Smith of the CNT, if he would come forward please.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Steve Smith, Commander of the Counter Narcotics Team, will be retiring after *28 years of dedicated service* to this community in preserving law and order and promoting public safety; and

WHEREAS, Commander Smith will be remembered as a *decorated career law enforcement officer*, who arose within the ranks of the Savannah Police Department to the position of captain before becoming CNT commander;

WHEREAS, *Commander Smith's legacy* will be the *tradition of excellence* he established within the CNT by advancing state-of-the-art methods in training and equipment and promoting high ethical standards: His legacy remains the department's reputation as one of the most well-trained and technologically-advanced local drug enforcement agencies in the nation and gives credence to its mission to protect and serve the community; and

WHEREAS, no better testament stands to Commander Smith's *heroic response* to the *call of duty*, whether in military service or law enforcement, than his decorated awards, including the Bronze Star with V Device, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantry Badge while in the U. S. Army from 1967 to 1969; and his Medal of Valor in 1982 while in the Savannah Police Department; and

WHEREAS, though retiring from the CNT and the Savannah Police Department, Commander Smith—a Fulbright Scholar with bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice and a graduate of the FBI Academy—will continue to *promote professionalism* in law enforcement by sharing his knowledge and insight as an instructor with the Law Enforcement Training Center.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, as Chairman, with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby recognize Commander Steve Smith for his *contributions to the betterment of our community* and for advancing *the ideals of professionalism* in law enforcement.

ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2002.

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Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

Attest:

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Sybil Tillman, Clerk

County Manager Abolt said, Chairman Hair, gentlemen, it is with a great deal of sadness that we see Steve [Smith] pass to another career, a career he's most deserving of. As Commissioner Gellatly said in the paper, recognizing what it is to have him in the capacity of touching the lives of future law enforcement personnel for generations to come throughout the State while he serves on the faculty of Armstrong Atlantic State University, is a blessing for the entire State, but I must tell you that in my years of working with him and having him serve as CNT Commander, and from the very start when I was doing reference checking and one of the individuals I called at that time was Chief Gellatly in the Savannah Police Department. His references not only were borne out the first year, but throughout his entire tenure as CNT Commander. He is truly a man of intelligence and integrity. He also has, as the Chairman has said in the resolution or proclamation, been recognized for what has become obvious to me. In addition to those wonderful traits, he has expressed both a moral and a physical courage that is enviable and also exemplary for all those that know him now and will know him in the future. I will miss Steve Smith. In addition, though, before Steve [Smith] is going to talk, I would like to have Chief Sprague. Tom [Sprague], as you know, was our first CNT Commander. He and Steve [Smith] throughout the years of CNT management by Steve [Smith], in a close liaison with all jurisdictions, are very special to me because of that relationship that kept and has always been of the highest professionalism, and before Steve [Smith] does speak, I would like to have Chief Sprague say a few words.

Chief Tom Sprague said, I met Steve Smith for the first time in 1994 when the CNT first started up, and I learned at that point in time that Steve [Smith] had a lot of common sense. Because of the business I play, I met him. He was at the Precinct 4 at the time, and I met him in the evening at a restaurant nearby the Mall, and we sat in there at seven o'clock and come out at nine, and I was telling him about the CNT, forming it, what services we provided and what would be called upon on the —, at that time, the Deputy Commander, and Steve [Smith] responded he needed a couple of days

to think it over because he was in for a Fulbright scholarship going to London. Well, he come back within 24 hours and said he'd thought it over and he was going to London. I told him at that point in time that's a good decision. He made it. Two years later when I left CNT, I was on the Drug Advisory Board interview team along with Chief Gellatly and 10 other law enforcement leaders in the community, and Steve Smith was chosen as the Commander. And his character, his integrity, his attentiveness to the business of stopping drugs in this community, of throwing water on raging fires, and doing it with an integrated group with police officers from every community in this County, plus the liaison lines to the GBI, the FBI, the DEA, all the Federal/State agencies that are involved in drug enforcement, he's done an outstanding job. Exemplary. And I would just like to take this opportunity to say to Steve [Smith], good luck in your new job.

Mr. Steve Smith said, well, Chairman Hair I'd like to thank you and the Commissioners for all the support that I've received over the past six years, particularly I'd like to thank Commissioner Gellatly for the support that he's given me over the years and also Russ Abolt for the tremendous support and guidance and counseling, and I mean that sincerely, that I've received over the last six years. I cannot imagine having had a better boss than Russ Abolt, so I certainly appreciate everything that he did for me and for CNT and for the community. I'd like to thank the men and women of the Counter Narcotics Team because certainly they're the ones that really do the work and with Capt. Williams taking over, I know that the unit's in good hands and will continue on and do great things. Thank you very much.

Commissioner Rivers said, Commander, Commander. Could I say something, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Certainly, Joe [Rivers]. Commissioner Rivers said, on behalf of the people of the Second District, I'd like to thank you for all your input. I know it has been rough out there sometimes, and sometimes we don't think that the job is getting done, but there's evidence that a lot has been done. It's just that the problem sometimes frustrates it. But on behalf of them and myself, I thank you for attending all those meetings and really get out of there and making the effort, and it was a good effort. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rivers.

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### 3. RECOGNIZING MR. JIM GOLDEN, PARKS DIRECTOR.

Chairman Hair said, I'll read this proclamation first in recognition of Jim Golden. Chairman Hair then read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Jim Golden, Director of Chatham County Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, will be retiring after *almost four decades of dedicated service* to this community in providing recreational opportunity and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Golden will be remembered as the *Father of Parks and Recreation for Chatham County* because of his leadership in pioneering the department from a meager foundation in 1962 of no parks and only two leagues to the modern system of parks and recreation that exists today, including Lake Mayer and four other regional parks, 24 neighborhood parks, 26 neighborhood ballfields, three lighted multi-purpose complexes and a stadium, 19 boat ramps and fishing piers, and several miles of trails—altogether more than 1,200 acres of recreation and conservation; and

WHEREAS, *Mr. Golden's legacy* will be the continuing opportunity for citizens to maintain and promote their well-being through recreation as evidenced by attendance and usage counts that show more than 500,000 participants annually in recreation and more than 4.5 million visits annually to parks; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his public service, in 1987 Mr. Golden received a Governor's Award and in 1991 became the first state "Rails-to-Trails Man of the Year" because of the nationally-recognized McQueen's Island project; and

WHEREAS, besides his work, Mr. Golden will also be remembered as a devoted husband and father of four children, as an active leader in civic and religious organizations and as a sports legend whose athletic achievements earned him "Hall of Fame" honors in four college and local organizations.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, as Chairman, with the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby recognize Jim Golden for his life-long labor of love in parks and recreation, and acknowledge that because of his contributions, our community remains a better place to live and play.

ADOPTED THIS 25TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2002.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

Attest:

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Sybil Tillman, Clerk

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Hair, gentlemen, in the middle ages there was allegedly a science, or it was more magic, it was called alchemy and the alchemy was supposedly taking from nothing and making gold, as obviously the wealth and the precious nature of a commodity that was as highly in demand then as it is now. Alchemy never worked. In our lifetime, we have our Jim Gold-en. And Jim Golden, as the Chairman has so well put in the document he just read to you, has taken from nothing in 1962 and treated a recreation and facilities that we can truly be proud of. It was the case 38 years ago, there was nothing except Jim [Golden]. And so our Jim Golden has done so much. We will say much more as a community in appreciation to him next Thursday evening from four o'clock to six-thirty at the Trade Center and which I know all will be present. He's a very special man in my life as a public administrator. What he and his family, his wife Jean certainly, and then his sister-in-law have done in public service is truly amazing, and I'm very proud to know these people.

Mr. Jim Golden said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. Mr. Chairman, members of this Board, including you, Attorney Hart, very seldom you have an individual that's given an opportunity to come back home and work. I've been blessed with that, and I appreciate all the support that's been given. Most of all, we had volunteers when we fell short of budgeted resources, which we never were about a budget. They filled in and contributed in many ways: land, equipment and even cash and manpower. We appreciate the opportunity to work with the various department heads and also a dedicated staff who have supported us all, and I can truly say that the Recreation Department is ranked high among the State and nationwide, and we are glad to say that the citizens here has something you can be proud of and thankful for providing the opportunity to provide that leadership to accomplish that task. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Jim [Golden]. I'd like to also recognize Virginia Edwards, Retired Superintendent and also a member now of the State Board of Education. Virginia [Edwards], we're just glad to have you with us. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Jim [Golden], I guess I was one of the few people in Recreation with you at the time. I guess we came along together, but I want to thank you for all the things that you have done for youth across Chatham County, and I remember so well some of the lessons that you taught of doing much with little. I remember when we were over on Habersham Street next to the County Jail there in a little small space, coming over there to get equipment and fighting for equipment, and the County half the time didn't have it, but you operated at that time one of the best programs in this Chatham County, and now you have carried it to monumental status. So, thank you for what you have done. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rayno said, and the people in the First District would also like to thank you for the improvements you've made that were evidenced last November when we toured the town and looked at those. We appreciate your hard work. Mr. Golden said, thank you, sir. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Jim [Golden]. We wish you well in your retirement. You did a great job for us and we appreciate it. Mr. Golden said, thank you. I have two staff people here who'll carry on, and you've probably heard the name of Larry Murchinson and Lorenzo Bryant. They're here with us today. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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**4. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARDS.**

Chairman Hair said, we will now have the Mystery Customer Awards. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

Mr. Van Johnson said, gentlemen, once again we pause to celebrate the very best that Chatham County has to offer: our employees. Four years ago you adopted a recognition program to award employees that render excellent customer service. In the Mystery Customer Program, our random visiting customer, at an unknown frequency, visits County departments inquiring about services. This mystery customer may be irate, he or she maybe calm and accommodating. Our aim is to insure that consistent quality service is rendered by all County employees in all County departments. I am pleased to report that Chatham County was three for three, and the three County employees were visited or contacted by our mystery customer, and all three received high marks. In recognition of their commitment to quality customer service, today they will receive \$50 and a certificate. Today's recipients are: Cathy Sims.

Cathy [Sims] has been a member of the Chatham County family since 1991. She currently serves as Administrative I in the Police Department, and she is accompanied this morning by Chief Sprague of the Police Department.

Chairman Hair asked, we do have a check, right, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, it is there. It is there. It's made out to occupant. Chairman Hair said, they like the certificate, but that check is what they really want. County Manager Abolt said, it's made out to occupant, sir.

Chief Sprague said, it's been a pleasure working with Cathy [Sims] for the last five and a half years. She's in our Records Section, but she also is a member of the National Evidence and Property Organization. She trained there. She is one of only two people that have access to our control areas for property, evidence, et cetera. She does an outstanding job and she also does it in meeting with the public, on the telephone, or otherwise, this [inaudible] today, but I have nothing but good to say about Cathy [Sims]. She's a great employee.

Ms. Sims said, this is an honor. Thank you very much. I love working for the Chatham County Police Department. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

Mr. Johnson said, our second recipient this morning is Stacy Houck. Stacy [Houck] has been a member of the Chatham County family for a little less than a year. She currently serves as Administrative I in the Sheriff's Department, and I believe the Sheriff is here this morning.

Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, it's a pleasure to have someone like Stacy working for us. She works in the front office, she deals the public all day long when the phone and war fumes, and she's always polite and courteous, and I wish we had more like her.

Ms. Houck said, I just enjoy working for the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Department a lot, and thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Stacy.

Mr. Johnson said, our final recipient this morning is Nancy White. Nancy [White] has been a member of the Chatham County family since 1991. She currently serves as an Appraiser II in the Assessor's Office. She is accompanied by the Chief Assessor, Gary Udinsky.

Mr. Udinsky said, I appreciate the promotion, but I don't think I'm the Chief Assessor. I want to thank you all, first of all, for making this award possible. And, secondly, and really more importantly, I want to thank Nancy [White]. Nancy has been in the office much longer than since 1991. I came in 1991 and Nancy [White] was one of the people who helped me learn a lot of the stuff that needed to be taught when I came there. She's been a great mentor to me. But beyond that, Nancy [White] exemplifies the level of service that we try to provide the public, and she just does a wonderful job. I wish I had a whole room full of Nancys. To Nancy [White], thank you very much. I appreciate it.

Ms. White said, good morning. I'd like to make the correction. It's been 1985. I would like to first tell you all thank you and it is a pleasure to receive this in light of everything that's going on with our office. But this just simply says that in light of it all, we're still professional and we're still serviced of the public, and I would like to thank my boss, who instilled that in us to always put the public first. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Nancy [White]. Thank you.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

None.

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**VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

**1. PRESENTATION TO BOARD FROM FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).**

Chairman Hair said, we're going to have a brief presentation to the Commission from Friends of the Library and in Dr. Thomas' absence today, I will introduce this. I'm not sure, Bill [Johnson], who's going to be the lead on this? Do you want to start out?

Mr. Bill Johnson said, Mr. Chairman, we have this morning representatives from the Friends of the Library, which is a young group, but growing. In the last six months they've grown from about 50 members to about 170, I believe, and George Hubbs and Sigmund Hudson will come before you this morning with a presentation. I'm not sure what they're going to say, so –.

Mr. Sigmund Hudson said, I am Sigmund Hudson, a member of the Friends of the Library, a support group for the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library. The Friends group has 180 members, is independent from the administration and has its own budget. The Friends operate a gift shop, assist at used book sales, sponsor talks and book signings by authors, staff festivals and special events, and perform various volunteer duties. We have some of our members present. Will they please stand? Thank you. Friends give time and money because libraries enhance the community. Beginning with the Greeks, libraries have served as sanctuaries of culture and knowledge. Libraries help individuals with personal advancement. The author Rita May Brown once said, "I got my first library card and then my life began." Today we'll spend 10 minutes to present some of the recent successes for the library and also concerns for the future. Feel free to interrupt with comments or questions. You already a packet with the information we will present today. First, we thank Chatham County for its share in the recent renovations and additions at the Bull Street Library. The public has enthusiastically responded to the –, what they have found there. Here is the evidence over here. Our chart shows that in 1996, the last full year before Bull Street closed for renovations, there was a yearly circulation of about 170,000 checked-out items. Then money was spent on the building renovation, \$3 million was spent on books and materials, then during the first full year after the Bull Street reopened, the circulation was 308 [sic] items, for an increase of 82%. Also, before closing for renovation, there were 10 computers with Internet access for the public to use. After reopening, there were 64 computers, and these 64 computers are heavily used. Clearly, this shows that the public wants helpful and informative materials to be available in attractive and inviting facilities. Thank you, Chatham County, for the transformation at Bull Street. The Friends are particularly concerned about funding for books and materials, one of the line items on the budget. This budget item represents the traditional hands-on experience of the library user. The American Library Association publishes annually statistics comparing 750 library systems across the country. On this chart, Chatham County is in red, the blue is the average of libraries in the same population range as us. We see that Chatham County spent 86¢ per capita in 2001 on building –, on books and materials, and you can compare that to the \$3.76 spent by the average library in the year before. That is, we spent less than one-fourth of comparable systems. Also note that in the last year and a half funding has headed in the wrong direction. We are now spending less than in 2000. We have work to do if we wish to become average. Today we have two users of our library system. They will introduce themselves.

Mr. Ryan Schneider said, Chairman Hair, Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity for me to be here today. I'm Ryan Schneider, Vice President with Hugh Armstrong Real Estate Company, and I wanted to share a quick story of a problem I had and a solution that the Mall Branch Library and Leon Gyles provided for me. I was attempting to contact a number of companies: restaurant and retail, and the key contacts there of those that are not located in Savannah at this point, and I searched the Internet and various publications that we had and we subscribe to that was really not getting anywhere. So I went to Leon [Gyles] and told him of my problem, and he put me onto a reference book that they recently acquired that's quite expensive, but updated yearly because these contact names change so often. I was able to find really the key information I needed to get in touch with not just the companies, but the key decision-makers at these companies and talk with them about Savannah and really expand on the unique characteristics of Savannah that they did not know about, and really the result has been that now I'm working with several of these companies and these people to locate in Savannah now, and some of these companies you will see over in Hilton Head, some of the retail restaurants that you don't see here now. And this is just one example of how they provided a service, not just to me, but really to the County and the City that hopefully will help bring in more business, provide more jobs and increase the tax base. So thank you for the support that you've given to them up to this point, and for the additional support that hopefully they'll get. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Thanks.

Ms. Chris Neal said, good morning. My name is Chris Neal, and I teach art history at the Savannah College of Art and Design, and I am also a big fan and user of the Bull Street Library. Our family consists of my husband and myself and a 17-year-old and a 3-year-old, and I know you can understand when I tell you we have a hard time finding activities for all four of us. And so what we do is every Saturday morning the four of us go to the library. Now the teenager ditches us the minute we hit the parking lot. My husband goes to the top floor and he has access to periodicals, some of which we had never even heard of before. So he curls up in one of the chairs and spends his time looking at all those periodicals. The teenager has lost himself in the Teen Room and is looking through books and magazines and videos are a big favorite for him. And my daughter and I, the 3-year-old, we go to Storytime, where she is learning that reading is fun. And the presenters there, the storytellers, are wonderful. They engage the children. They bring the stories to life. Well, then my husband and I switch and I get to have my time, and I'm able to do some research in the Georgia Room, research for talks and lectures that I give around the community on subjects such as John Norris [phonetic], who's an architect around here. So it is a great resource for us. We meet up again after a couple of hours. We have spent a productive and educational morning. We all come away with an armload of whatever. The teenager has more videos than he can carry, my daughter and I have her books, my husband will have sometimes CD's, videos and books, and we haven't spent a dime and we have access to all this great material that's available at the Bull Street Library. I would also like to say that the staff at the library is superb. Not only are they knowledgeable and professional, but they greet us, they recognize my daughter and me. We go –, we go the most of all. Very friendly. They have just been wonderful

to us, and so the library for our family is probably our favorite resource in the community, and it's just a real gift to the community. It's been an honor to speak in support of it. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Neal.

Mr. George Hubbs said, good morning, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners and Youth Commissioners especially. The future [inaudible]. You've heard two testimonials. They're not members of the Friends. They're just citizens of Chatham County, like we all are. In addition, I just want to quickly call your attention to five handouts that you already have that represent five programs of the library and tell you how the public knows about them. The first is, yes, they have story times in many branches, but during the year at National Library Week, an example, many other activities going on for children and adults, on both sides of this page. This is a publication used to publicize what the library is doing. It's available at the branches, it's available on the Internet, so people know what the library has to offer. Second, parents and children put face to face with authors who come to town. The library sponsors this. The Friends actually sponsor it. Here's an example of one that's happening February 7<sup>th</sup>. The authors talk about why they started writing, the joy of doing it, they answer questions from the kids, and then they sign books which are for sale. What about classes? Well, you can't use the Internet if you don't know what it is, you don't know what computer technology is, et cetera. Therefore, your library or my library has classes on computer technology, the Internet, e-mail, et cetera, and also on how to use the resources of the library and the Internet for homework, and the homework classes are at three different levels: third and fifth grade, at the high school level and at the college or preparing to go to college level. Once again, a promotional document also is available on the Internet. You have heard the reference to individual help for a company seeking to know essentially where the prospects are that they can work on to bring to Savannah and to Chatham County. That's part of what the business center does at the Mall Branch. Here's a flier on it, which again is available at all the branches, and is primarily targeted at small business. And, finally, if you're interested in genealogy, your own or the history of Georgia and the Atlantic Coast States, the Bull Street Library has an outstanding genealogical library, which is not only printed materials, so there's access to the Internet materials and very willing and helpful staff. So there are five broad scale programs that are promoted and they are indicative of what the library is doing today that you should be very pleased about: offering innovative programs that are also publicized, not kept quiet so that the public knows what's there, and they are definitely taking advantage of it. In summary, we, the Friends of the Library, repeat what the five messages are that we have for you. Number one, the success of the Bull Street Library, due in large part to investment by the County, and the circulation increases show that the public knows the difference when you have an attractive secure building that invites you in and the materials there that they want. They vote with their feet. They're coming to the Bull Library —, Bull Street Library, and the chart indicates not only is the circulation up in the first year after reopening, but it continues to rise. That's the first message. The second message is that the testimonials you heard, the Bull Street example, the charts you saw on funding of books and materials, and generally the outreach of the library system is heavily dependent on the quantity and quality of the books and materials in the library. And you will hear more from the Friends during budget time about that subject. The fourth message is our library system is supporting the business community as well as the community of families in the County. So obviously the fifth message is thank you. Not just thank you for your time, but thank you for what you have done and continue to do to support your library. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. We appreciate you folks being here this morning. I think this Commission, all of us, I think, appreciate the role the library plays in our community, and we try to give it the funding we have, but it's never enough and we know that. And we know you need more money, but we try to balance that against what our budget restrictions are, but we appreciate the fact that we've got a citizens group out there trying to help, and we do believe in the library and the staff —, Bill's [Johnson] doing a great job out there. So we appreciate y'all taking y'all's time and coming to help us support the library. Thank you very much for being here.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Presentation received as information.

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**2. CONFIRM TIME AND PLACE OF BOARD'S STRATEGIC PLANNING. (TENTATIVE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2002, 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM, 124 BULL STREET, COMMISSION MEETING ROOM)**

Chairman Hair said, the next is under the Commissioners' Items, is the —, to confirm the time and place. I guess, without objection, it will be set for next Friday, nine to twelve, is when we originally set that. So I assume that that's still okay with everybody. We'll just change that from tentative to permanent and notify the media of that as well.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Without objection, the time and place for the Board's strategic planning was set for Friday, February 1, 2002, from 9:00 a.m., to 12:00 Noon, in the Commission Meeting Room, 124 Bull Street.

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### 3. EXPANDING THE EDUCATIONAL CHANNEL (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the recent funding of President Bush's education bill and the fact that we have School Board elections coming, the issue of education is going to be in the forefront of this community and, as I've always said, I believe it's everyone's commitment to education to make it better within this community. You can't say because I don't have children, I should not be aware or involved because I think if we all work together, we can make a huge difference. And one of the ideas that was always tootled around was using our educational access channel as a medium with which to accomplish goals within the community of helping our youth do better in their classes, and one of our employees in the County has taken this idea by the horns and just run with it. And he's done such a great job despite personal adversities that he's gone through. He's been there on the job. You can't even notice that anything's happened in his life. He continues to be an exemplary example of what can be done with this, and that person is Pete Nichols. We owe a debt of gratitude for what he's done with this, and he's going to present what they've done in the past, what they're currently doing, and some exciting plans for the future that I think will help some of the students in Chatham County. Pete [Nichols], what's going on? Good morning.

Mr. Pete Nichols said, thank you, Jeff [Rayno]. Good morning. Good morning, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners. If any of you watch the cable channel Bravo these days, you'll see two programs that they promote as the art of television. *St. Elsewhere* and *Hill Street Blues* are now considered TV classics. But I'll tell you what, if those shows were introduced today, they would not survive. At the end of their respective first rating periods, both shows were dead last, and if it were not for the commitment made by Brandon Tarticoft, who was president of NBC at that time, NBC would have canceled them and cut their losses. But Tarticoft stuck by those programs, and at the end of their respective runs, eight years for *Hill Street* and seven years for *St. Elsewhere*, they are now considered some of the best dramatic shows in the history of entertainment television. While the educational programs we have on our little Channel 16 don't quite have the audience or impact of *Hill Street* or *St. Elsewhere*, they are quality programming and we have been able to see their interest increase over the past year and a half. When I first started with Chatham County and long before Channel 16 became operational, I was approached by Jack Starr about running programming that we could receive from the Annenberg CPB, and that stands for Corporation for Public Broadcasting, satellite channel. These programs were —, we were able to acquire for free via a license agreement, and with them we run two hours a day, Monday through Saturday, ten until noon. They offer the viewer a variety of educational subjects from Western Civilization, American History, Science, Literature and the arts. We promote them on a very limited budget, basically any free publicity we can get like standing up in front of you today, and with Jack's [Starr] commitment and dedication, he also offers classes for free with the goal to help people that enroll in those to earn college credit through the CLEP exams. As I mentioned before, when we started, we had very little interest, but because of a recent press conference that Jack [Starr] set up and some publicity we received from that, he now has 19 people enrolled in his American History class which started this week. So, let me go ahead and turn this over to Jack [Starr] and let him tell you a little bit more about the program that we're doing right now and what we have in store for the future.

Mr. Jack Starr said, Chairman Hair, Commissioners, it's —, I'm very pleased to be here to give you kind of an updated report of what's been going on for the last year, and I have to correct —, I have to correct Pete [Nichols]. We had nine more people come into the class during the second session yesterday. We've got 30 people in there now. This is actually quite remarkable considering we only had about a three-week run-in period to be able to let people know that the classes were being held. And the wide variety of the students who attend these classes, they range from home-schooled high school students to working mothers to people who want to go back to college and are kind of a little hesitant to plunge in, and this becomes a very convenient way for them to just sort of ease in and other people who are just coming for their own personal enrichment. Our motto is, "We bring college to you." We provide everything at no charge, and I should say also at no cost to the taxpayer, and we welcome everyone from teens to seniors and we love to have that mix in the classes. We run a —, previously we ran a series about seven different mini-courses, and that gave us the opportunity to build what we're doing now, which is Savannah Free College, which is going to by the end of Summer, certainly by the end of July, be able to provide up to a semester's worth of college credit by examination, using a combination of the resources that we have on the County channel, the tapes, and we just made a presentation to the library of some of the tapes that we're using in the class, the goal being that we'll be able to let people come there who can't attend even our short six-week session classes and be able to see those videos at the library and then we've also established a web site which has a detailed study guide so that people will be able to use this combination of the videos and the material that we [inaudible] to and the study guides that are on the Internet that will help them be able to get college credit by examination. But to look to the future, there are so many other things we can do. Over the course of the past year we have accumulated a very substantial library of videos, and we can offer additional programming. Additional programming on the County channel and additional programming in the form of a variety of different classes, and I think one of the ones that is perhaps the most interest to the Commissioners is the college prep program where we will utilize videos in math, algebra, statistics, chemistry, physics, and microbiology and earth science to be able to help people prepare for entrance examinations in college. We can talk a little bit more about how we're going to do that. It may require a little bit of money if we're going to be able to run additional tapes during the course of the day, but not a lot. And —, but there is one way in which we can spend about \$60 and get more of the information out to the public. That's been our big challenge right now. We held a very successful press conference, we ended up getting coverage from all four local television stations, a major piece in the *Close-Up* section of the *Savannah Morning News*, a featured spot in *Connect*, and that was one of the —, these were a culmination of that with some direct mailings

that I do and notices that are posted around the town, but these are kind of gorilla warfare style methods of getting information out, and we do need more help, and one of easiest ways to do that is to let the County employees know that all these facilities exist for them and their families. With a —, this would bring, using a common multiplier, about 5,000 voices out into the community letting people know about it because when people find out about it, they get very enthusiastic. And I want to also —, you were talking about the library, I also want to thank the library. We use the library for often to run our classes. They have been extremely supportive, and also use other County facilities. We've run many courses at the Islands Community Center and we have —, we have also support from other agencies around the County, and we are trying to make as many different connections as we can in order to be able to get more and more people involved in college level learning at any age. Thank you.

Mr. Nichols said, one of the things I would also like to point out is, and take the opportunity to thank our two other partners that we have in this collaborative. One is Comcast Communications, who's been recording these programs for us, and the other one is Goodwill Industries, who's been helping to duplicate them.

Commissioner Rayno said, it's just so important to have this program when you consider the fact that Georgia rose last year six points and the SAT scores for Chatham County dropped four points. So we're behind the eight ball to do something, and this kind of a program is going to be instrumental if we decide to move forward with it to make a big change and give people an opportunity to educate themselves at no cost, go into these tests being prepared, and I think we'll see the results immediately. And I appreciate all the work that you've done on this and hope the public supports it as well.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rayno. Thank you, Pete [Nichols]. We appreciate the job. Yes?

Youth Commissioner Mewborn said, I'm not exactly sure how the whole channel thing works, but is the channel contracted through Comcast? Mr. Nichols said, no. That is our channel. It was basically allocated to us through Comcast via the most recent franchise agreement that the County has with Comcast, but it's our channel. We operate it as we see fit and, like I said, when I first came on board to build this channel, I was approached by Mr. Starr with the opportunity of looking at how we could put these programs together. Youth Commissioner Mewborn said, okay, because I know there is another cable company in Chatham County, U. S. Cable —. Mr. Nichols said, right. Youth Commissioner Mewborn said, and I'm with that cable company and I don't get to see the local channel and I was just wondering how that —. Mr. Nichols said, well, right now we are in negotiations with U. S. Cable out at Tybee. Is that where you live? Youth Commissioner Mewborn said, Skidaway Island. Mr. Nichols said, okay. Skidaway Island unfortunately has their own franchise agreement with U. S. Cable, being a private community. The one thing you can hope for out there is that I know that the residents of Skidaway Island are quite upset with the service that they've received over the past couple of years, and The Landings Association is looking at the possibility of bringing Comcast out there. But for those that do live on Tybee, we're in the process of renegotiating the franchise agreement with U. S. Cable for Tybee Island, and one of the main objectives we have is to work out some way that they can pick up our Channel 16.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Pete [Nichols]. Thank you, Renekia [Mewborn]. Appreciate it.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A presentation by Mr. Pete Nichols and Mr. Jack Starr made a presentation regarding expansion of the County's educational channel, Channel 16, was received as information.

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**VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS**

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

None.

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**IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION**

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

1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER TO PUBLIC WORKS FOR HIGH MAST LIGHTING EXPENDITURES, AND A TRANSFER OF \$21,000 FROM THE 1993-1998 SPLOST, JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY, PHASE II TO JIMMY DELOACH PARKWAY INTERCHANGE AT S.R. 21.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I so move. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following: A Special Service District contingency transfer to Public Works for high mast lighting expenditures, and a transfer of \$21,000 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST, Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase II, to Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange at S.R.21. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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2. **REQUEST BOARD TO AMEND THE CHATHAM COUNTY HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN ORDINANCE TO CREATE A FORMAL APPEALS COMMITTEE; TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE IN THE PLAN THAT PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR MORBID OBESITY; TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE IN THE PLAN THAT INCLUDES A HOSPICE BENEFIT; TO PROVIDE LANGUAGE IN THE PLAN THAT REQUIRES A RETIREE TO HAVE WORKED A MINIMUM OF FIVE YEARS IN ORDER TO BE COVERED BY THE *LIFE AND HEALTH RETIREE BENEFITS*. (MR. GARRISON, THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR, WILL BE PRESENT).**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to amend the Chatham County Health Benefit Plan Ordinance to create a formal Appeal Committee; to provide language in the plan that provides benefits for morbid obesity; to provide language in the plan that includes a Hospice benefit; to provide language in the plan that requires a retiree to have worked a minimum of five (5) years in order to be covered by the Life and Health Retiree Benefits. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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3. **REQUEST BOARD ELIMINATE A LIBRARIAN I, POSITION NUMBER 141, AND CREATE TWO 20 HOURS PER WEEK LIBRARY ASSOCIATE POSITIONS AND ONE 40 HOUR CLERICAL ASSISTANT II POSITION.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I so move. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve a request to eliminate one (1) Librarian I, Position Number 141, and create two (2) 20-hours per week Library Associate positions and one (2) 40-hour Clerical Assistant II position. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to take anything off the Action Calendar? County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, we're told that Item Number 10, the liquor license for John Robert Turner, the Islands Oyster Bar, is not ready yet, so we'd ask you to pull that item. Chairman Hair said, okay, we'll pull —, with the exception of 10. Anybody want to pull anything. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, 7 and E. Chairman Hair asked, second, number 2? Commissioner Rayno said, 7 and E. Chairman Hair said, 7, I'm sorry; 7 and E. Okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Action Calendar in its entirety except Items 7, 10 and 16-E. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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

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**1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 11, 2002, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of January 11, 2002, as mailed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 3 THROUGH JANUARY 16, 2002.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period January 3, 2002, through January 16, 2002, in the amount of \$7,819,831. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**3. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, PORT CITY ENTERPRISES, INC., TO RECORD THE FINAL PLAT FOR COMMODORE POINT SUBDIVISION, PHASE A-2 AND CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Port City Enterprises, Inc., to record the final plat for Commodore Point Subdivision, Phase A-2, and create a new Streetlight Assessment District. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 4. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, TRIPLE CROWN DEVELOPERS, TO RECORD THE FINAL SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR VILLAGE OF WILD HERON SUBDIVISION, PHASE 4 AND RECOMBINE THIS PHASE INTO THE EXISTING GEORGETOWN STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Triple Crown Developers, to record the final Subdivision Plat for village of Wild Heron Subdivision, Phase 4, and recombine this phase into the Existing Georgetown Streetlight Assessment District. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 5. RESOLUTION TO FIX AND PUBLISH THE QUALIFYING FEES FOR ELECTED OFFICES TO BE FILLED IN THE 2002 ELECTIONS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to adopt a resolution to fix and publish the qualifying fees for elected offices to be filled in the 2002 elections as follows: Judge, Recorder's Court, \$2,831.87; Chairman, Board of Education, \$360.00; Member, Board of Education, \$240.00; and Member, Board of Elections, \$72.00. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 6. APPROVAL OF JUDGE DILLON'S RECOMMENDATION OF RECORDER'S COURT PRO TEM.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Judge Dillon's recommendation of Recorder's Court Pro Tem Judge as follows: Mary Kathryn Moss, Attorney at Law. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF GRANTS-IN-AID RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HUMAN SERVICES AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS TASK FORCE FOR FY 2001-2002.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm going to make a motion to approve. I just hope that we get together some time before budget deliberations to find alternative funding for these agencies so that we don't run into the same problem we did last year.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the Grants-in-Aid recommendations from the Human Services and Cultural Affairs Task Force for FY 2001-2002 as follows: Human Services: Ashtree, \$5,000; CARC, \$5,000; CASA, \$1,000; Citizens Advocacy, \$5,000; Coastal Children's Advocacy, \$4,000; Community in School, \$5,000; EOA, \$15,950; Fair Housing Council, \$1,000; Frank Callen, \$8,000; Georgia Legal Services, \$8,000; Hope House, \$2,500; Hospice - Savannah, \$4,000; LIFE, \$10,000; MedBank Foundation, \$13,000; Open Arms, \$4,000; Parent & Child Development, \$18,000; Rape Crisis Center, \$15,000; Royce Learning Center, \$2,000; Safe Shelter, \$5,000; Salvation Army, \$4,000; Savannah Association for the Blind, \$10,000; Savannah Runaway Home, \$5,000; Second Harvest Food Bank, \$5,000; Senior Citizens, \$10,000; Sheriff's Reserve, \$0.00; STEPS, \$5,000; Summer Bonanza, \$3,000; Union Mission, \$4,000; Wesley Community Centers, \$5,000; West Broad YMCA, \$9,000; West Chatham YMCA, \$8,000; Youth Futures, \$60,000; Youth Services Corps, \$0.00; and Cultural Affairs: City Lights Theater, \$0.00; Coastal Heritage, \$1,700; Community Change for Youth Development, \$4,750; Georgia Historical Society, \$9,320; Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Farm, \$850; Historic Savannah Foundation, \$1,600; King-Tisdell, \$5,000; Mighty 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum, \$1,450; Parent & Child/Museum Magic, \$0.00; Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, \$3,900; Savannah Sailing Center, \$3,600; Savannah Symphony, \$15,650; Savannah On-Stage, \$0.00; Science Alliance, \$1,650; Telfair Museum, \$8,200; Tybee Arts Association, \$1,040; Tybee Island Science Center, \$4,250; Veterans Council, \$2,000. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 8. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: JOHN ROBERT TURNER, D/B/A PEARL'S ELEGANT PELICAN, LOCATED AT 7000 LAROCHE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of John Robert Turner, d/b/a Pearl's Elegant Pelican, located at 7000 LaRoche Avenue, for renewal of Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 9. REQUEST FOR A NEW SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: JIMMY HARVEY, D/B/A SHAMROCK'S IRISH PUB, LOCATED AT 348 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Jimmy Harvey, d/b/a Shamrock's Irish Pub, located at 348 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for a new Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 10. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: JOHN ROBERT TURNER, D/B/A ISLAND OYSTER BAR, LOCATED AT 444 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, I apologize. I'm sorry, sir. Mr. Anderson reminds me, I erred. Please, and I apologize deeply. Would you approve Item Number 10. I received incorrect information. So —.

Chairman Hair said, okay let's entertain a motion to approve Item 10. Let me read it in the record. [Chairman Hair read the item into the record.] Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. County Manager Abolt said, thank you very much.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of John Robert Turner, d/b/a Island Oyster Bar, located at 444 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 11. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: ROBERT D. MIMS, III, D/B/A STEAMERS RESTAURANT & RAW BAR, LOCATED AT 1190 KING GEORGE BOULEVARD.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Robert D. Mims, III, d/b/a Steamers Restaurant & Raw Bar, located at 1190 King George Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 12. REQUEST FOR NEW BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSES FOR 2002. PETITIONER: GREGORY T. MARINI, D/B/A RUBY TUESDAY RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 590 AL HENDERSON BOULEVARD.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Gregory T. Marini, d/b/a Ruby Tuesday Restaurant, located at 590 Al Henderson Boulevard, for new beer, wine and liquor pouring and Sunday sales licenses for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 13. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: ALAN C. CALE, D/B/A HENDERSON GOLF CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 AL HENDERSON DRIVE.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Alan C. Cale, d/b/a Henderson Golf Club, located at 1 Al Henderson Drive, for renewal of Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 14. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSES FOR 2002. PETITIONER: MORGAN L. BARNWELL, D/B/A LARRY'S LOUNGE & RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 5115 OGEECHEE ROAD.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Morgan L. Barnwell, d/b/a Larry's Lounge & Restaurant, located at 5115 Ogeechee Road, for renewal of beer, wine and liquor pouring and Sunday sales licenses for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 15. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES LICENSE OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING FOR 2002. PETITIONER: CHARLES R. JONES, D/B/A SILVER DOLLAR BAR & GRILL, LOCATED AT ROUTE 3, BOX 304A HIGHWAY 204.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Charles R. Jones, d/b/a Silver Dollar Bar & Grill, located at Route 3, Box 304A, Highway 204, for renewal of Sunday sales license of beer, wine and liquor pouring for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Renewal of annual hardware maintenance contract for the E-911 Centralink radio equipment	Police	Motorola Corporation (sole source)	\$12,888	E911 Funds
B. Renewal of annual software maintenance contract for the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal and Assessment Administration system software	Assessor	Terra Soft Systems (sole source)	\$27,325	General Fund/M & O - Assessor
C. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms to provide contract labor	Public Works	Eastern Personnel Services	\$6.70 per man per hour	•SSD - Public Works •Solid Waste Management
D. Change Order No. 6 to the contract for the construction of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange at SR 21 for additional work	SPLOST	R. B. Baker Construction Company, Inc.	\$20,980.87	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase II (pending Board approval of transfer)
E. Change Order 1 to the Ferry Dock Contract to add 300' of recreational docking	SPLOST	Myrick Marine	\$208,000	SPLOST (1993-1998)

**As to Items 16-A through 16-D:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 16-A through 16-D. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

**As to Item 16-E:**

**Change Order 1 to the Ferry Dock Contract to add 300' of recreational docking; SPLOST; Myrick Marine; \$20,000; SPLOST (1993-1998).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, consistent with my past votes that I'm not in favor of being in the water ferry business, if someone would like to make a motion to approve —.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 16-A through 16-D. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]
2. Commissioner Odell move to approve Item 16-E. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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**XI. FIRST READINGS**

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

None.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

None.

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**XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A written report was received as information.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A written report was received as information.

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- 3. **ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Written reports were received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion made by Commissioner Odell, seconded by Commissioner Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the meeting of the County Commission recessed at 10:10 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation and personnel.

Following the adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the County Commission reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE SETTLEMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GA V. 0.086 ACRES OF LAND, COMET OIL COMPANY (WILLIAM A. WINBURN, III), ET AL, CV96-0934-AB (JONATHAN HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Gellatly moved to authorize the settlement of Chatham County, GA v. 0.086 Acres of Land, Comet Oil Company (William A. Winburn, III), et al, CV96-0934-AB, in the amount of \$20,375. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**APPOINTMENTS**

None.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2002

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

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SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK