

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 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, February 22, 2002.

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II. INVOCATION

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

Chairman Hair welcomed the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Rizza Palmares, a Junior at Calvary Baptist; Celeste Ratcliffe, a Junior at St. Vincent's Academy; and Haley Stone, a Junior at Johnson High School.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR ANN RIMES, RECOGNIZING HER RETIREMENT FROM THE LIBRARY.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, there comes a time when an employee decides to retire and reap the rewards of their labor, in that respect, we salute, Ann Rimes who will be retiring on March 1, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Ann began her career with the library in the circulation department of the Bull Street Library in May 1978 where she enjoyed putting up book displays and working with the customers; and

WHEREAS, the highlight of her career was her promotion and transfer to the Ola Wyeth Branch in 1989 affording her the opportunity to work with a variety of customers and to meet many tourists from all over the world who frequently visited the library to inquire about our community. She has been the manager of the Port City Branch Library since March 2000; and

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

ANN RIMES

upon her retirement and express sincere appreciation for over 24 years of dedicated service to the CEL Regional Library and extend best wishes in her travels.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 22nd day of February 2002.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Rimes said, I have enjoyed my many years with the Library very much. It is sad to leave, but I'm very happy to be able to retire. Thank you.

Mr. Bill Johnson said, when I came to the Library in 1981, Ann [Rimes] was on the circulation desk at the Bull Street Library. She was one of the first people I saw, and all these years she has met all our customers and new customers with a smile on her face and that sweet voice you just heard. We couldn't ask for a better person to have out front meeting the public and representing the Library and the County.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Rimes. Ms. Rimes said, thank you.

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2. MYSTERY CUSTOMER AWARD.

Mr. Van Johnson said, Dr. Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, it is that time again where we present our Mystery Customer Award's recipient. You developed this program four years ago to reaffirm that which we already knew that day by day, day in and day out Chatham County, no matter what the employee --, the occupation or the station, provides excellent customer service to Chatham County citizens. It is with that in mind that our mystery customer went out on his or her own monthly mission to be able to seek out Chatham County employees and to determine their level of service. It is with that we proudly present our recipient for this morning. The recipient is Jeff Heusel from the Mosquito Control Department, and in recognition of this achievement, he receives a certificate and a check for \$50.00.

Chairman Hair recognized Dr. Henry Lewandowski.

Dr. Lewandowski said, thank you, sir. I'd love to thank the Board of Commissioners for this program and this award and let you know that Jeff [Heusel] has been with us for 19 years and shows the same enthusiasm that he did on the first day of the job. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

County Manager Abolt said, it really is important to this organization to have people like, Jeff [Heusel]. Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, it's been my great pleasure to work with Jeff [Heusel] these many years and certainly in the situation he and Dr. Lewandowski and that staff is called upon literally almost day in and day out of the entire year, and our ability to perform with kindness and consideration at a high premium, I am certainly proud of Jeff [Heusel]. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Russ [Abolt].

Mr. Heusel said, I'd just like to say thank you very much for this award. As a government employee, it's our --, basically our job and for me our privilege to be able to provide a good and --, well, basically a good service to the citizens of Chatham County. That's what we're there for and hopefully that's what we provide every day. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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3. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE "AMBUCS WEEK."

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, AMBUC members are dedicated to creating independence for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of AMBUCS as an organization making an important difference in communities across the United States is a noteworthy event; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah chapter of AMBUCS is celebrating 60 years of dedicated service to all citizens of Chatham County; and

WHEREAS, AMBUCS displays a proud record of providing scholarships for training young people as therapists for people with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah chapter has greatly enhanced the quality of life for our citizens through community service projects such as the AMBUC stadium at Daffin Park where thousands of children have participated in various sports since 1959, the Trustees Gardens school for children with cerebral palsy, the Fresh Air Room on Tybee Island which serves underprivileged children, the Exceptional Bowlers League which has provided recreation and socialization for disabled citizens since 1965, the AMBUC Park Complex where thousands of children have participated since 1978, the Tree of Lights which the AMBUCS sponsored for three years and the AmTryke program for children with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the week of February 18, 2002 as:

"AMBUCS WEEK"

in Chatham County and urge all citizens to become more aware of the altruistic service and the wholesome up-building of communities they render.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 22nd day of February, 2002.

ATTEST:

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Jason Ray said, my name is Jason Ray. I'm a member of the AMBUCS organization here in the State of Chatham. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of the County Commission, I'd like to say to you that as civic members of this community, we as several chapters of the AMBUCS organizations take great pride in representing this County and this area, and we're deeply honored for the opportunity and the recognition we have here today. We thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Art [Howe], did you want to say anything?

Mr. Art Howe said, I just wanted to say how much I appreciate the County Commissioners recognizing us this day. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Keep up the good work.

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4. RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SAVANNAH TREE FOUNDATION FOR BEAUTIFICATION OF THE SAVANNAH SOCCER COMPLEX.

Chairman Hair read the following resolution into the record:

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners commends the planting of significant canopy trees at the Chatham County Soccer Complex by a public/private partnership organized by the Savannah Tree Foundation and including the Chatham County Government, Coastal Georgia Soccer Association, International Paper, JCB, Low Country Machinery, Savannah Electric, Savannah Fire Department, Savannah Forestry Equipment, Savannah Morning News and SunTrust Bank, Savannah; and

WHEREAS, the project will beautify and improve the natural cover at this highly valued and heavily used community sports facility, provide shade for its future users and create one more link in the what will one day be an unbroken chain of urban canopy in the county; and

WHEREAS, on Saturday, February 23, 2002, forty trees will be planted at the Chatham County Soccer Complex; and

WHEREAS, this project signifies the community's concern for its trees as natural resources, as natural infrastructure supporting man-made projects and as emblems of the high quality of life in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Savannah Tree Foundation has for 20 years worked for the preservation and enhancement of the urban forest canopy in Chatham County.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby endorse this initiative on behalf of our community by the Savannah Tree Foundation and its partners.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 22nd day of February 2002.

ATTEST:

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Bill Saxman said, thank you for this resolution on behalf of the Savannah Tree Foundation. Just have your shovels in the morning about 8:30 and we'll be out at the Soccer Complex. All of you are welcome. We'd like to see you there if you'd like to get up that early in the morning. Thank you again and nice seeing y'all again, and I'm not retired yet. Chairman Hair said, you're just paid a little less, right? Mr. Saxman said, right.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has asked that we have a brief 10-minute presentation on mental health. Without objection --, does anybody object that we add that to the amendment? Okay, Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, because David [Gellatly] is going to have to go, I thought we'd add it at the end of the Commission's items it that's agreeable with everyone. Chairman Hair said, that's fine.

[NOTE: A presentation on mental health was added to the agenda to be heard at the completion of the Commission's Items.]

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. REMINDER OF MEETING WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICIALS THIS AFTERNOON AT 1:00 TO DISCUSS COMBINATION OF RECREATION SERVICES.

Chairman Hair said, first is just to remind everyone there will be a meeting this afternoon at one o'clock for us to begin discussion with the Mayors and City Managers on the combination of recreation services, and we invite anybody in the audience or any Commissioners to attend.

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2. INTRODUCTION OF INTERNS FOR THE CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, COURT DIVISION, BY CORPORALS, BONNIE STEVENS, DAVID WALKER AND DEBRA BARTLEY.

Cpl. David Walker said, good morning, Mr. Commissioner. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and all of our Commissioners, it's an honor to be able to introduce to you the interns for our Chatham County court section services. All of our interns participate in our internship in order to give them a well-rounded education as to what we do and what the Sheriff's Department is about, how we relate to other law enforcement agencies and interact with them, so we feel that it's a good internship and provides for them a real life working experience. So at this time without further ado, I would like to introduce the students who participate in our internship program. From right -, I mean, left to right, our first student is Mr. Sylvester Ndubueze, who is a student from Savannah State University. He's majoring in Criminal Justice. Next, is Tonya Owens. She's also a student from Savannah State University, and she majors in Criminal Justice. Ms. Tamesha McGee, also a student from Savannah State University majoring in Criminal Justice. Ms. Tanzanika Williams, also a student from Savannah State University majoring in Criminal Justice. Ms. Janea Robinson, a student from Savannah State University, she's majoring in Mass Communications. We have two other interns who are not present unfortunately. Their names are Ms. Stacy Goodridge, who is also a student at Savannah State University majoring in Criminal Justice, and also Ms. Mary Williams. She's a student at Armstrong Atlantic State University. We thank you for your time.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Corporal. We're glad to have you with us.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. CNT FUNDING (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want the Board to know before I get started here that I've stressed, lost sleep, I've got a headache right this second because I'm about to propose approximately \$1.5 million dollars in cuts out of our County budget. Some of the cuts I will propose are absolutely heart-wrenching cuts that are wonderful projects we have here in Chatham County. I'll get to those in a little bit. The first cut I believe would be a little easier for us to do in terms of CNT funding because this proposal does nothing to harm, hinder, destroy the CNT makeup as we currently know it. Basically, what I want to propose here is a way for us to save the Chatham County taxpayers approximately \$700,000 per year by shifting the funding of 13 of the 14 Savannah police officers making that the responsibility of the City of Savannah. Currently, we fund -, we being Chatham County, we fund all of the officers for CNT, one per municipality and 14 officers in the City of Savannah. The structure of it right now is basically -, it's unequal funding. You have people on Wilmington Island, The Landings, Pooler, Port Wentworth, Garden City, Bloomingdale, Thunderbolt, Tybee Island, all of the unincorporated areas paying to fund \$700,000 more for the City of Savannah than we do for the other areas. This proposal to eliminate the County's funding of 13 of those 14 police officers, like I stated earlier, does nothing to stop or alter the current makeup of CNT. I know I've heard the arguments in the past about overlapping. What my wish would be, my hope would be, and I understand if this would not happen, my hope would be that the City of Savannah would simply fund the 13 police officers and leave it just like it is. In taking with the former Chief and my fellow Commissioner here, that probably would not be the case is what he seems to think. Worst case scenario I can see coming out of this, is the City of Savannah chooses to have its own drug fighting task force, but we still fund one officer for them on CNT that is a coordinating agent with the Chatham County Narcotics Team. Every other person would still be funded, all of the officers for unincorporated Chatham County, one officer per every other municipality. The CNT will remain completely intact. This is nothing more than a shift in who funds the additional police officers. I believe this would actually create the opportunity in my discussions with some of the mayors to increase drug fighting in Chatham County. I believe this could possibly promote branches of CNT that can concentrate on specific areas. If you'll look at the numbers, most of the drug fighting, a great majority of all of drug fighting is done in the City of Savannah. It makes sense. They're a larger city, you know, so more numbers means more drugs. But hopefully off of this, which has nothing to do with this proposal, we'll see a [inaudible] CNT form out there where they form one person per municipality, they have their coordinating agent running back and forth. We'll see an eastside CNT, Tybee Island and Thunderbolt, they fund two of their own, they work that area, coordinate with their two funded with Chatham County. This has the potential to fight crime better and -. I want to state this. I would never propose anything that I felt would increase crime, increase drugs, increase anything violent to save a dollar. I had a brother that was murdered in 1987 and, frankly, I have no compassion nor care, to be quite honest, for criminals. I'd like to see -, I mean, to lay it out, I'd love to see the death penalty utilized a lot more. I could care less about a criminal. I want them locked up, I want the drug users off the street, I want the drug dealers off the street. So I would never propose anything that I felt would break up the structure of drug fighting in Chatham County. This is nothing but a shift in funding. And I want to state this. This County, it is my believe, we're on the verge of complete bankruptcy. We will go bankrupt shortly in

Chatham County if we don't either buckle down and cut or raise taxes. I look at the makeup --, excuse me. I count votes pretty good. I don't think we have the number of people on here to raise taxes. I'm not one of them that's going to. I believe in cutting, but I challenge the people that say that they're not going to raise taxes to make the cuts. Nothing's easy. Every program we have is great. Every single program we have is great. I'm going to liken this, while we're in this conversation, I'm going to move over because this is not even --, I'll hit that on the next agenda item because this is not even a part of that. This is an awesome. CNT has done a fine job. They've done a good job. So this is nothing but a shift in funding. The officers out there I respect every one of them, I respect their fears that this would break it up. But this throws the ball in Savannah's court, not ours. It would be Savannah's choice on what to do there because we're not tearing the structure of CNT up. The structure will be in place, and it would save the taxpayers of Chatham County \$700,000. So at this point I'll make a motion that we --, and I'll state this too. This is not immediate. This is the 180-day notice that we're going to stop the funding, so there's 180 days to get everything like it needs to be as far as the City of Savannah with their funding. So at this time I'd like to make a motion that we stop funding 13 of the 14 sworn officers for the City of Savannah on the CNT.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'll second it for the sake of discussion. Please put me on your list, Billy [Hair]. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. It will be myself, then Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rayno. That's the order. First, if the Commissioners will remember, the shifting of the funding for CNT was part of my budget proposal a year and a half ago. And I do think that needs to take place. However, I think there are two things that concern me. The first is I do think that we have to make sure that anything we do does not damage the effectiveness of CNT and we have to maintain that integrity. The second thing, I think we have an option of doing exactly what Commissioner Kicklighter wants to do and what I wanted to do a year and a half ago was shifting that funding to the City. Later in the agenda this morning there's going to be some discussion of beginning the LOST negotiations. I believe a better way to do this --, it would accomplish exactly what Commissioner Kicklighter wants to do --, would be to include CNT in the LOST negotiations with the City along with the jail costs. If we did that, if we shifted the cost of CNT for two and a half million dollars for the entire force, not just the \$700,000 or the 13 officers, but shift the entire two and a half million for CNT to the LOST negotiations, what that would do is it would shift the funding because we could negotiate with the City of Savannah and they would get a little less tax --, sales tax money. We would get a little more sales tax money and still shift the funding to the City from the County, and it would also free up two and a half million dollars in the General Fund, which we could use for other purposes or to roll back taxes, whichever the Commission wanted to do, and if we put the jail costs in there, that's another four million. That's six and a half million that would free up in the General Fund, and it would still accomplish the shifting of funding to the City, but it would still maintain the current funding levels and maintain CNT's integrity. I think that's a better way of doing it than just shifting automatically because I do --, I do fear that automatic shifting would cause some reduction in the funding of CNT. So I think we need to maintain CNT at its current level, but we do need to shift the funding as Commissioner Kicklighter has suggested, but do it through LOST negotiations of sales tax and not do it through property taxes. Now Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, if you were to ask any citizen here in Chatham County, "What is your biggest concern?" crime would be the biggest concern. I would dare to say that between 65 and 75% of all crimes committed in this County are committed by people who are either on drugs or on alcohol. CNT was created to bridge the various municipalities. It was seen that drugs was a problem that we needed to be united on, that we did not need to worry about boundaries such as if it's [inaudible] in Savannah and it impacts Tybee that our people could not go into Tybee and do the necessary investigation. To say to my district, which is the Fifth District, that this is a tax savings, this is a tax increase for the people who live within the City of Savannah. I'd say about 80% of my district is within the City of Savannah, so this is a tax increase. I'm concerned, too, that we will have a meeting today at one o'clock to look at consolidation, and we're going to talk about consolidating recreation for the County. Recreation is a minor concern compared to the impact that drugs are having on the lives of people in this community. We should not have structured initially CNT the way it was structured. I was not part of that structure. It should have been --, we should have assigned officers based upon some population density. To say that we give one officer per municipality, you've got some municipalities that's just his brother and his cousin out there and they get one officer, whereas the City of Savannah is a major city. We did not do it that way; however, CNT has been effective. Some will say that drugs still are prevalent in the community. Practicing law for 22 years in this community, I shudder to think where we would be if it was not for agencies like CNT. I think we'd be overwrought with drugs. I think because of our location, and this is a neat little stopover for people transporting drugs from down to Florida and to scatter throughout the North. If we did not have CNT, we would be overrun. What will the City of Savannah do? The City of Savannah --, I'm not a soothsayer and you're not going to see me on your late night TV with a 1-800 number making a prediction. I cannot read the future, but if I were on the City of Savannah as an alderman or as the mayor, my position would be the County has determined that we need to worry about our own. We will worry about our own. I think that this is a good intention. I am concerned that the results may not be what the intent is. The intent is to save money, and let it be recorded we're in a budget crisis because we made financial decision to raise the fund balance rather than raise the millage. It is better to look at your constituents and say, "I'll never cut taxes, but I'll give you every service that you want that I think you need." CNT is like Juvenile Court. It's an essential service. CNT is like a Tax Assessor. We don't have Tax Assessors in the various municipalities because that's such a substantial effort that uniformity demands that it be centralized. We are now moving toward centralizing other services: inspections, recreation. I would implore you that unless we have some kind of assurances from the City of Savannah that we either delay, look at Chairman Hair's alternative because the impact, we said that there's a savings. There's not a savings. If we can get over the fact that it's us and them, it's not us and them. Chatham County is for everyone in Chatham County, which includes Bloomingdale, Tybee, Thunderbolt. You are all Chatham County citizens. If there's an unfair taxing of citizens as result of what we've done in CNT, let's analyze that, but let's not analyze so quicky that we destroy

something that worked. If it works, if it is not broken, why fix it? I would like for us to speak to the mayor and the aldermen and try to work some resolution so that we do not divide CNT because CNT is needed. I mean, I don't do much criminal work anymore, thank God, but I'm not ashamed to say that I do do criminal work. I'm just a blue collar lawyer. There's no disgrace in my saying that I represent citizens who are accused and I think people now are moving away from that being a negative stigma after many of their children have been arrested for drugs and what have you. You represent citizens who are accused and represent citizens who accuse drugs as a problem. It's a problem and, believe it or not, if it's a problem in the City of Savannah, it's going to be a problem in Tybee. If it's a problem in the City of Savannah, it's going to be a problem in Thunderbolt. And here's why. Young people ironically, and we have they Youth Commissioners, I'll guarantee you that they know people throughout the City and they've had friends that they've known who purchased drugs. We need a unified effort. Thank you for your time.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I share Commissioner Odell's concern that we would make a decision today without all the information on the table that we would necessarily need to make a proper decision. And I saw the one-sided information that was given to us by staff and the police departments, which I really appreciated because it caused me to want to go and try to find more information, and I went to the Department of Justice's website, the Bureau of Justice Stats, and started to look at counties across the nation and what they do in their drug fighting efforts, and three-quarters of the county police, municipal police and sheriff departments participate in multi-agency drug enforcement task forces similar to what we have here in Chatham County. And then they break it down into population size and it gives you the number of officers that they dedicate to that particular problem. And I thought, well, wouldn't it be a good idea to see what we're doing compared to what they're doing on a national level, and for local police departments populations from 250,000 to 499,999 –, just say 500,000, they dedicate nine officers and sheriff's, same population size, dedicates four. If you put the two together, you've got 13 individuals and 500,000 in population they dedicate to a CNT. We dedicate 41; 13 compared to 41. What makes us so special that we have to have 41 officers? But that mean we go today and cut away? No. I think we take some more time and we look at this. And if you consider the fact –, also on the Department of Justice's website they've got all kinds of stats about how crime's been reduced [inaudible] to us while we reduce violent crime by 13.5% while nationwide it's declined by 15%. We haven't done quite as well with 41 CNT officers as the national average did it with less. Something's wrong here. We're obviously not doing something right with more officers, and if you consider the fact that one in four people convicted and when they're surveyed afterwards and they get in jail, they ask them why did you do the crime. Well, I was trying to get money for drugs. They've got a drug problem. Do we have a drug treatment program in Chatham County. Huh-uh. We cut that out. We fail to focus on treatment, but now we're starting to get into treatment, and if we treat the individuals so they're not have a desire for drugs, you're going to cut crime by 25% in this community based on the stats on the Federal level. So what I would suggest that we do, which would make really good common sense, is hold this card in our hat, go into the LOST negotiations like Billy's saying and say, "Look, we've got this right here." We could come back later on and do what we're going to do, but let's talk turkey and shift some funding here during LOST. But if you don't do what we want, we've got a low card in our hand and we're going to play it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I'd just like to say that I do support what the Chairman was saying about using this as part of the LOST negotiations. Whether that will work or not will be decided when we start that negotiations, and that would be my first choice. Along with that though I feel like that the way this was established –, the County Commission did not establish CNT. It was a countywide effort with a lot of different law enforcement agencies, with the judges, with the District Attorney's office, and a lot of people involved throughout this community over a long period of time to put this program together and stand CNT up. They have done a good job since they've been here. I have concerns about dismantling CNT and seeing this take place as I feel like it would if this proposal passes today. But the other part of that that I would like to see done is if we're thinking about doing something like this, that we bring not necessarily the same people, but those same agencies and those same organizations that were a part of putting this plan together to begin with back together and get some input from them also. They were some of the top law enforcement people in this community, which I have a lot of respect for. And, you know, I understand what your national statistics say and a lot of these other things, and I think we need to look at that also, but at the same time we need to look at why this was done, where we have come since it was established, and it's already been said that the City will set up their own unit again if we cut those positions. So to me that starts dismantling the CNT. The other side to this, Commissioner Kicklighter, I would really like to understand a little bit better. You said that it's only a shifting of the funding, yet you said that it would give the mayors of the smaller municipalities an opportunity to establish their own agencies within those communities. Now if that is done, why would they even want to participate and why would we have one person that we're going to fund work as someone's coordination-wise to what they're doing. I mean, I just –, I just feel like that when we start doing that, then we go right back to where we were before CNT was established and we'll be right back with the drugs on the street more prevalent than they are today. I agree with the comments that Commissioner Odell was making. We have come a long way and I don't want to see us back up. I know funding is something that we're all thinking about up here. We're all talking about how we can do different things to have more revenue to do what we need to do without raising taxes and all that, and that's fine. But to me, we all talk about this central services that we are to provide as a governing authority of Chatham County, and to me law enforcement is on the top of that list and this is part of that law enforcement effort countywide. It is paid –, the reason –, one of the reasons that the County is responsible for it right now is the fact that we have the only mechanism of all the municipalities to fund this because we do an M&O tax that is a countywide tax. The rest of the municipalities can't do that. And, quite

frankly, I don't believe the other municipalities are going to do anything if we do this. The reason that the City of Savannah had 14 officers involved in it was because of the size of the City with a population of close to 200,000 people. That's why they had more officers. Is it fair to say because most of the crime is there we aren't going to do it? What about the ditch maintenance that we do? You know, that needs to be addressed, too. But do we just go out and cut it from the people? That came up on part of our negotiations and it was an item that we left in the budget. Where's most of that ditch maintenance done? It's not done in the City of Savannah, but yet those people pay a big portion of the money to fund it. So, I mean, we can go back and forth with the funding side of it and we can come up with all examples all the way across the board of who funds what and why it's done, but the bottom line is it's an essential service to the citizens of this community to keep them safe and I will support keeping them in there, but I would also support the negotiations side of it, but will request if that does not work we bring those agencies back together and address it again and see if we do need to make some changes within the CNT itself in the makeup of it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Rivers and then Dr. Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, I just hope all of y'all support the tax increase before this County goes bankrupt because I want —. None of this is easy. It's amazing to me, safety comes up when it affects your city and your district. Y'all didn't hesitate, that fast you cut the ambulance services out of West Chatham County to save 700, 800,000 a year. Safety wasn't a priority then. Y'all saved some money. My proposal does not do a thing against safety. Not one thing. CNT is left totally intact, and as far as the LOST negotiations, yes, if we don't have the nerve up here to do today, you know, if we want to put off until tomorrow to do what we can today, that's the nature of this body. As a group we are that procrastinating group, and I've said that before. Let's just wait for tomorrow, we'll do it tomorrow. LOST negotiations. That's a great idea, but you're going to go to the municipalities coming up, you're going to ask them for jail money in the LOST negotiations. You're going to most likely, which was a part of it, and not dispute what you said, that was a drainage LOST negotiation mess-up on the County's part before is why we have currently funded that, and that will be negotiated again. Commissioner Murray said, we're still funding —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so we're going to —, I didn't interrupt you. We are going to negotiate for jail money, we're going to negotiate for drainage money, we're going to negotiate for CNT money. Let's just ask the municipalities to give us all the LOST funds. That'll work. We'll just —, just every bit of it then. Let's tack another one. Let's find something else we can just —, the municipalities want us to have all of the LOST money. Commissioner Rayno said, I second that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. What this is equivalent to, to put it in just a regular person's terms, is we're like cousins with the City of Savannah. We're the poor cousins. We're the extremely poor one about to go bankrupt and we're giving our rich cousin down the road money. They're the ones with the money that can fund it. They're not on the verge of bankruptcy right now. We are. They can fund those 13 officers with no problem. We can't. And they're not, if they have any political sense whatsoever, going to stop funding the 13 officers. That is absolutely ridiculous to think. Mr. Adams, thinking of running for Congress, is he going to stop drug fighting in the City of Savannah? No. He wouldn't win, he wouldn't get one vote. Any of them. Mr. Liakakis, Tony Thomas, all of them wanting to run for mayor. Whoever's running out there, are they going to stop drug fighting in Savannah? No. Shift the funds. They can afford it. We can't afford it. We're the broke cousin in the family. We're the poor one. We're still giving our money —, we've got our little fast food job and we're giving our cousin over there with his fancy high powered position, we're giving him money. We're broke. They ought to fund something for us right now. We're broke. We are going to go bankrupt. It's a fact. We're going bankrupt, Chatham County. Everyone out there, this body does not —, we as a whole, I don't believe, have the nerve to raise taxes, and this body, as you can well see, we don't have the nerve to cut expenses. Bankrupt. That's where we're heading. We'll be the first group to bankrupt Chatham County that I ever know of, and it's a fact —, no, this is not my [inaudible]. I'd love to fund everything around, just give everybody money. Back when this was a rich group, hey, it was great. You could build all your swimming pools and your racetracks and all the stuff that happened in the past when we had some money, but it finally bit us and we can't afford the fancy stuff any more. We can't do it any more. We're broke, and you either are going to have to raise taxes or you're going to have to shift expenses, and we don't seem to have the nerve to do either one. So we're going to sit here and we're going to wait until tomorrow. Oh, we'll do that then. We wait. We waited. We haven't had any budget talks to see about what we're going to cut. What are we doing? What are we going to do? We're going to just sit around and wait until we're bankrupt and we can't borrow it from the catastrophic funds any more because it's gone. What are we going to do next time, guys, because we're not undoubtedly up to the challenge of making the cuts and we're not up to the challenge of raising taxes. I know I won't. If there's a penny of waste out there I feel I will never vote for it. If everything's cut to the bone as far as wasted expenses and we're about to go bankrupt, then I guess, you know, whatever the political consequences, you've got to do what you've got to do. But when I know there's money out there that this County's paying that we shouldn't be paying, it's absurd, and this is one way right now to save money and not jeopardize drug fighting in Chatham County. That's political. That's nothing but political. This is your districts. Yes, Savannah's going to crash down on you. That's because you represent their districts. They're going to come down on you, but they should be paying it. Savannah offers us advice during the budget hearings. How nice. Very nice to give us advice on how to balance our budget. One good way we can do it is quite paying for everything for them. I mean, it's that simple. We've got to take care of our house now. We're going bankrupt. And this proposal with CNT does nothing at all to mess up the structure of CNT. The difference in my proposal and Chairman Hair's proposal back two years ago is his proposal said get rid of every officer from every municipality. This proposal has one in place for every municipality, and to clarify or answer Commissioner Murray's question to me a little while ago, what I was saying was that there is one officer —, currently we fund one officer for every smaller municipality. What I'm saying is it would be my hope that they would fund one also out there, form a team. They could do a lot of work out there. They have their coordinating agent paid for by us, which is currently there, as a liaison inbetween the two groups to coordinate the work together to increase drug fighting in the outer —, unincorporated areas and smaller municipalities

because it's a fact that the majority is down right downtown in Savannah. And we're all walking around with blinders on to think that everybody that does drugs lives in Savannah. They don't. They live out there next door to you, next door to me. They live out in the country. They're growing it. I mean, you name it, it's everywhere. So it's just time to stand up and do what's right for a change and quite being political, and I understand, I'll take the monkey off your back, you people that say you'll raise taxes, I don't blame you. Vote against it. You know, that's fine. Hey, you said you'd raise them, so raise them, but you people that say I'm not raising taxes, what are you going to cut? I'm proposing \$1.5 million in cuts today, which is a small start. If each of us could come up with a few cuts, we may be able to get this County out of trouble. It's tough. None of it's easy. I'm going to get roasted in a little while, I'm going to lose friends and customers for my next proposal, but we've got to do something because this County's going bankrupt and we can't keep balancing this budget on the taxpayers' backs in Chatham County.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Rayno asked, Billy [Hair], can I be on the list? Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers next.

Commissioner Rivers said, I represent a large part of the City of Savannah and I hate to see us in a panic mode. My fellow Commissioner said we were going bankrupt. We're going bankrupt not this year, not the year before, but this process started a long time ago, and it started with the rollback and it started when we had money, and money and poor decisions has us where we are now. We could fund everything that we needed to fund if we did not make poor decisions of rolling back. Rolling back, and it didn't mean anything to the taxpayers because the taxpayers only got maybe \$50 on a rollback, but it decimated the County because it —, it's millions of dollars, giving it back to industry, giving it back to everybody else. I think you've got to understand the process, and I hope my folks out there that have listened to me all these years understand the process that brought us to the point that we are in now. You see, there's a thing called the one percent sales tax, special option sales tax, has done a great thing for this County, but the majority of that money is collected in the City of Savannah, and if we continue to keep the City of Savannah viable and the tourism come in, then we can add to the growth that we have on the westside that's going now. We have done a tremendous thing with roads out there that have caused this County to grow. And if we were selfish and said, hey, we don't want to spend all that money on the westside, we'll keep it in the City of Savannah, no, it don't work that way. Everybody has to help everybody. This is one community and Chatham County is the government that is responsible for most of the things that's done in this County and when we begin to neglect our obligation and try to shift recreation, try to shift this because we're say we are in a hole, sure we're in a hole. We made a poor decision at the last meeting. Poor decision. It's what has gotten us here where we are. Going in the catastrophic loss funds, that causes a problem. We have to replace that money next year in the Sheriff's budget. We're going to give them out of catastrophic loss, but where does it come from next year? We gave the Sheriff some money earlier and we didn't have it. Where does the continuing revenue come from? Folks, and I'm saying this to John Q. Public, we as a Commissioner —, as a Commission has to think, and we don't think. We make decisions and we make haste decisions based on what is happening now, and the most decisions that we have made have been wrong decisions, and they have been wrong because you see the outcome. This is the outcome. We are moving in a panic mode. So, you know, I'm not going to stay here and try to answer everything today and defeat this and I think CNT has been a viable organization. I advocated year before lost get rid of them, totally. Let everybody do their own. But that approach is somewhat sad because it takes us back to where we were when we organized. So I don't know if that's a better approach and I'm not going to make haste to do anything today, so with that I'm going to move to table. Commissioner Odell said, second. County Attorney Hart said, that cuts off the —. Commissioner Odell said, I seconded his motion to table.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, [inaudible] other people a chance to speak. Commissioner Rivers said, I moved to table. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, you seconded, Mr. —. Commissioner Odell said, yes ma'am, I seconded his motion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor of the motion. Opposes? Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present; District Three was not represented.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, it passes. That's it.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the funding for 13 of the 14 officers from the City of Savannah on the Counter Narcotics Team be shifted to the City of Savannah. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Rivers moved to table this matter. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion to table. Vice Chairman Thomas and Commissioners Rivers, Murray and Odell voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion to table carried by a vote of four to three. [NOTE: Chairman Hair was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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2. AQUATIC CENTER (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Rayno said, one fire into another.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Now this is the hard one for me. All right. Tough times, I guess, call for tough decisions. We have some very wonderful projects, buildings in Chatham County that was built with the SPLOST revenues, but we're spending an extraordinary amount of money each year just to operate them. Not to pick on --, I'm not trying to pick on any of this, the Aquatic Center, the Weightlifting Center, the Tybee pier because I think they're great, I think they're wonderful, I think families enjoy them, I think they're good for the kids, but as I stated earlier, we're heading towards bankruptcy in Chatham County, and the way I'm looking at this budget is like I would look at my own personal finances. If I'm living in a huge house with a really nice pool, nice gazebo, huge weightlifting gym inside the house and I'm going bankrupt, I'd sell my house. I'd downsize, I'd cut my expenses and move on, move forward. If I stayed in that big house that I can't afford to live in, I'm going to go bankrupt. That's what we're doing in Chatham County right now, we're going bankrupt. We currently --, we own the Aquatic Center. 1997 SPLOST built this Aquatic Center for \$4,706,000. It's paid for, but currently it costs \$888,477 a year to operate it. We receive \$330,000 in revenues, so basically the Chatham County taxpayers are losing \$558,236 a year on the Aquatic Center. Again, it's wonderful. And I know --, I've got friends that use the Aquatic Center. It's a great nice place and I want it to stay there and I want it to thrive. I want people to be able to go out there and enjoy it, but we're broke in Chatham County and we're either going to go bankrupt or we're going go bank--, and it's not even an either. We are going to go bankrupt, and yes I am --, I'm scared, and I don't know the word to use. Hectic, frantic, whatever. Yes, we're at that point because it's --, it's all here. There's no more --, no more money to bail us out. We own a Weightlifting Center, which is wonderful. Ms. Cheryl Hayworth, the Olympic champion, helped me on my campaign. Wonderful Olympic champion. Wonder facility. It's awesome. That facility costs \$397,000 to build, but the County is losing \$215,926 a year to run it. The Tybee pier, another wonderful thing. It's nice to go to the beach. I love to go take my family, the kids out on the pier. It was also purchased with SPLOST revenues for two million six hundred --, oh, excuse me, \$2,644,000, but right now it's costing Chatham County taxpayers \$31,000 to keep it open. Not to pick on the facilities in everyone's district other than my own, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, a wonderful, wonderful honor for the gentlemen that served in our military. In 1995 with the bonds --, let's see here, the capital cost on that was \$13,815,000. Annual debt payment costs this County \$1,255,000. Right now the principal balance is \$11,205,000. This place can't be sold to the people at the Mighty Eighth that want to purchase it. They made us an offer and I would love --, we would all love to be able to sell it to them because they're the ones in there making the museum nicer, but their offer was not even remotely close to the \$11 million, so we have a lot more invested in this place than we can actually sell it for. Henderson Golf Club is in my district. Wonderful. Started the growth out there, beautiful neighborhoods. Excellent. Good idea to get it moving back when we had a little bit of money. It was a good thing. But, again, we're broke. We're broke now. This was a 1995 bond also. It --, there was a cost of \$6,700,000 to build this facility. Our annual debt on that is \$560,000. We currently have a principal balance of \$5,475,000 on this facility. In speaking with the Assistant County Manager, a golf facility or a golf course in this area recently sold, something that was comparable to this golf course, for about \$3 million, so again we have much more money invested in this than we can currently sell it for. So when I make this proposal, please know that I'm not excluding these two because they're in my district. We just --, to sell these two, we would lose money. If this Commission --, I would like to see us offer the Aquatic Center and the Weightlifting Center to the City of Savannah for a token payment for \$1.00 and let them run the facility, much like a previous Commission here did when they donated the \$700,000 for the band shell. Undoubtedly at that point people started realizing we can't afford all this stuff. I'd like to see the Tybee pier offered to the City of Tybee Island for \$1.00, and that's --, should these people not --, should these cities not accept the offer, I'd like to see the facilities go up for sale with the first option maybe to your YMCA's --.

Chairman Hair asked, are you making that in the form of a motion, Commissioner Kicklighter?

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I'm --. Yes, I'm putting this in the form of a motion. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, to your YMCA's and then, if they're not interested, to private industry, and I put that in the form of a motion.

Chairman Hair asked, okay. Does that motion have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, I'll second it for the sake of discussion. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Odell said, I want to compliment Dean [Kicklighter]. It takes a lot of nerve to make the proposals that you've made, and I compliment you on that. Although I absolutely and unequivocally and probably forever will disagree with you, I respect your right to your conclusion. We are in a predicament financially, and without saying that we put us there, we did. Freeport helped and Stephens-Day is probably going to help some more, but we made the decisions that put us there. I'm not --, I didn't elect to be born here. My family was elsewhere. I chose to move here because of quality of life issues, and when you talk about the Aquatic Center and when you talk about Tybee pier and when you talk about the museum, which is in your district, you're talking about quality of life issues. If we ever want to move in industry, and that's industry that can provide a liveable wage, \$5.50 an hour is not a liveable wage. That is a starvation wage. If we ever want to bring in industries that will pay people a liveable wage, we're going to have to fully address quality of life issues. One of the quality of life issues, you don't work all day. The Aquatic Center is near and dear to me because some of the people from my mom's center go there to swim, and it's a great program for the elderly. I will adamantly oppose our selling any program, whether it be the Aquatic Center or whether it be Tybee pier, to the highest bidder if the YMCA's cannot buy it. We used tax dollars to do that and I would be adamantly opposed to that. It's important to say that since 1995 we've reduced the millage rate minuscule little amounts to add up to \$10 --, \$10 million. We're here because in part we did that. We made that decision. I voted adamantly against it. I'm not going to vote to start selling off. We cannot have a government --, at this rate, let's not have a government. Let's disband, not have a government. The courts will still be run, they'll still be assessed. There's some things that we must do. To me, quality

of life issues are important and I think necessary to attract companies like JCB into this area, and we're still underestimating our biggest asset, and our biggest asset is tourists. Why do tourists come to this community? They come to this community, some, those who fought in the war, to see the museum. That's an amazing attraction, and when those people come here, they spend dollars and we benefit from those dollars. On Tybee Island we built a pier that's a major attraction to people in –, coming to Savannah. They may stay in the City of Savannah, but they'll go to Tybee and can enjoy the pier. My concern is that the level of radicalness perhaps in some of the outlying municipalities may preclude who can use those services. They may structure it so that it's not open to the general public. That concerns me. I think –, we're going to be looking at consolidating recreation. This should fall under that consolidation consideration.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Rayno said, I seconded it for the sake of discussion because I believe that –. Commissioner Odell said, no. Commissioner Rayno said, whatever it meant, it was funny. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, it was. Commissioner Rayno said, we need to focus on the problem. You know, we built these projects, I was adamantly opposed to all those SPLOST adding all the pork, and when we come up with SPLOST again, if they put the pork in, I'm going to say no, I'm not with the Commission. No more pork projects. Let's finish drainage and roads and be done with it so we can get out infrastructure in place, but pork projects, you know, now we've got to deal with them. The people voted for it, we've got to deal with it. So what do we do? Do you try and give it to the City for a dollar? I doubt they want it. I doubt they do because it would put a huge strain on their budget. We've not dealt with the humidity problem in there, that's another expense that's added on top of that \$600,000 deficit per year so some kind of dehumidification system needs to go in there. You have to deal with the problem of how hot it is in there in the middle of the Summer at 105° in the middle of a swim meet who wants to be there. I certainly don't when my daughter swims. But what if we talk to the colleges and say –, we have a wonderful facility like Savannah State or Armstrong Atlantic –, and say what would you think about possibly taking this over and get State funding for this with the caveat that we still allow Savannah Swim Team to use the facility, you still leave it open to the public so they have access to it, and work out an agreement prior to signing any contracts with them. That's one possibility without selling it or a contractual agreement. We could sell it to them if they wanted. As far as Tybee pier, why not talk to the –, on the national level, to Jack Kingston? You know, what about the idea of including this as a part of the National Seashore Program and give it to them and let them take care of it? There's lots of alternatives we could explore, but don't get mad at me or any of your fellow Commissioners if we don't want to do it today. It might take a couple of weeks for the drug thing because we want more information, and I think your idea is great, and I'm sure Mr. Hair is probably thinking the world's turned upside down that I'm agreeing with him –. Chairman Hair said, actually I do. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, see. Commissioner Odell said, and we believe that, too, Jeff [Rayno]. Commissioner Rayno said, yeah, I know. Strange world. But –, but let's look in the realm of possibilities as to what we can do to reduce the problems that we have. We've got to deal with them, but we'll create enemies in this process of just yank it to fix the problem. We can do it in a slower more thought out process and accomplish what you want and keep people happy in the process. Because if we do it without public input, you know, we're here to make the tough decisions, yes, absolutely, and I'm with you on that, but you've got to involve the public and you've got to think about other possibilities which could exist. And I agree with you, we should get rid of the pool, we should get rid of the Tybee pier. We built these things with no foreknowledge of what we're going to do on how to pay for them, and this is very shortsighted to say we're going to take SPLOST funds in the future to pay for projects because then that takes away the responsibility of any of us up here to think about how you pay for it in the future. Just, oh, yes, we've got SPLOST, that's going to take care of it, and then you'll have SPLOST forever. The better idea is to think about HOST money, Homestead Option Sales Tax. You remove the burden from the taxpayer, you leave 20% on the table to account for fluctuation in the economy, and then when all those people come in to the Aquatic Center and they talk about a \$20 million impact, that little penny sales tax starts adding up and it's paying for the facility while they're there, and all the people that come to Pooler to go out to the Mighty Eighth Air Force, that little penny tax is paying for all the maintenance on that, and when they go to the Henderson Golf Course, that little penny tax is paying for all those things and it's off the backs of the home owners and our budget problem starts to disappear.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'm going to put the County Manager, Russ Abolt, on the spot and ask you a question. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, if you could give your opinion, sir. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, I will. I'd be glad to. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, in your estimation, if this body does not drastically cut expenses or, number two option, raise taxes, how long do we have before this County is bankrupt? County Manager Abolt said, I met this week with the auditors, with the County Attorney and the Finance Director to, in effect, determine that. I'm told, and I know it's difficult in the jargon of municipal finance versus private finance to interchange the term bankruptcy. If something is not done by July, we are in a terrible crisis. I will not use the term bankruptcy. I was advised not to use that. You'll receive a memorandum from me later on today, and the only reason you didn't receive it earlier is because we're waiting for the signature from Mr. Tindol, but at that same meeting I challenged those present to identify known costs that are not covered in our current stream of revenue in the M&O budget that will be faced with straight-out the first of July. That figure hovers around \$11 million, and that's before you ever begin to have your meetings with each department to talk about their wishes for the year that begins the first of July. So –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. If I could ask you, although you can't use that term bankrupt, would you say the thought of what will happen in July is –, closely resembles that term? County Manager Abolt said, sir –, sir, I mean, I –, as you all know, I've done this for many –, I've devoted my life to this profession. You have on the walls some testimony to the men and women in this organization that have been recognized nationally for their ability to assess

financial situations. I have never seen an organization that's more in the threat of serious repercussions than this organization's M&O budget. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, sir. I want to say to my Commissioner here, Mr. Odell. I –, hey, I understand and respect your views you've stated previously about tax increases. Any of you that said tax increases, I understand you're voting against everything I've proposed, but everybody that stands up to the public and says I'm not for a tax increase, we've got to start cutting. It's that simple. Period.

Commissioner Rayno asked, but don't you think we can do it in a timely –? Chairman Hair said, let's don't have debate. Let's say in order. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm not debating. I'm agreeing with him. Chairman Hair said, well, just –, if you want to speak again, I'll be glad to –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's it.

Chairman Hair said, okay, Dr. Thomas, Ms. Stone and then Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my fellow Commissioners, ladies and gentlemen. You know, I've sat through this entire and was listening to various conversations back and forth about the different issues that we are facing. I want to reiterate that we didn't get in this position over night, we're not going to fix it over night. We've got to sit down and actually look at everything across the board. But the one thing that disturbs me is the fact that, you know, we keep talking about a lot of pork. When it comes to the recreation and the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum and some of the other projects, the citizens of this County certainly played a vital role. The Commissioners did not just sit up here and made a list of the things that we wanted to have done in Chatham County. We asked opinion from the citizens. This was a gigantic job. We had input from every resource, just about every individual who wanted to, to have any input. They made a list, they decided what would go on the referendum, and that's what was decided and that's what was done. I agree that we did not look far enough in terms of maintenance for some of these projects, which has caused us more funding, but to sit up here and to say, you know, that we are a group of people who procrastinate, I'm going to beg that you put yourself in that category, exclude me. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I said, we. Commissioner Thomas said, no, don't include me. I don't procrastinate. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, you're excluded. Commissioner Thomas said, I do not procrastinate. I try to make the best decision based on the information that I have, and I'm not going to ever say I'm not going to ever do this or that. You don't know what you may have to do. When you get out and you're running for office and you make these promises to the citizens and you say, "When I become a Commissioner, I'm not going to do this and I'm not going to do that," knowing full well that you can't do that, it takes five votes up here. You don't deliver anything on one vote. So you have to have different people, five persons to agree to, you know, to carry that decision out. So what I'm saying is that if we could stop looking at our own little world and if Savannah, Chatham County, if we all can just come together and look at the issues that are deeply relevant to this County and to this City, and let's sit down and see if we can work with city councils, see if we can work with board of education, whomever we need to sit down and work with, then I think we need to do that. But to make quick decisions, you know, without really giving –, giving thought to those kinds of things I think will be a, you know, a bad mistake to do that. So I'm hoping that we can –, we can somehow get together with all of the players and make the decisions that we need to make for the future.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Stone.

Youth Commissioner Stone said, I'm not sure that I completely understand what y'all are talking about, but if I'm wrong then, you know, please correct me. But it seems that the best –, that what y'all are talking about is –, the best way, it seems like the most surefire plan to come up with the funds for these different projects would be to raise taxes, and I know that that would not –, I mean, that's not going to –, people aren't going to be happy about that and people also won't be happy until you cut the funds, you know, for these different projects, but if you don't, you know, it seems that you need to do either one as soon as possible because if you don't then you will go bankrupt and then you won't be able to do the projects at all. So either way some of them's going to have to –, the taxes are either going to have to be raised or the funds are going to have to be cut because if you go bankrupt, then you want have –, be able to do the project anyway. So –.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Stone. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I think we can all agree on several of these projects that we would probably like to get rid of. Unfortunately, because of the bonding and the way that it was financed, we can't at this time because we can't come up with the funds to pay it off, so it's going to be a long term process. If I'm not mistaken, the golf course, when you mentioned that, right now we are –, we're in the black with that, not the red. Is that correct? Chairman Hair said, operations. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, operations for about \$57,0000. Chairman Hair said, not the debt service. Commissioner Murray said, the debt service I know is still there, but at the same time we can't get rid of that right now. I would support getting rid of the golf course as soon as we can do it because I don't think we should be in that business. At the time we did it I agree with it, and I think it served the purpose that we intended for it to serve. That whole corridor out there has been mass development ever since that, and so I think we have served the general public with that. The other fact in this that I don't think we have in the numbers yet, and that is we talked about what it cost to build the projects, we've talked about the operational cost of the projects, but we did not talk about the functions that are held at each one of those facilities and how much revenue that actually brings in to the citizens or to the governments, not just the County but all governments of Chatham County, with the monies that are spent here by the tourism and the spectators and the parents and the children and everybody that comes in for these different meets they have, whether it be at the Aquatic Center or whether it be at any of the other facilities. The Weightlifting Center. I

certainly would be glad to look at some of these projects and see what we can do with it and which ones we really need to get rid of and which ones we really need to keep, but at the same time, if this Commission is about to make a decision just to take selective projects and vote to get rid of them, then I would take all projects, other than roads and drainage, that were built with sales tax and put them on there. If I'm not mistaken, we've got several large recreational complexes throughout Chatham County that were built with sales tax dollars. Does that mean that we take those? We put money into those every year. We continue to put money into it. Does that mean we do away with these, too? I mean, you've got one in your district that was built with sales tax dollars. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the only thing in my district from Chatham County. Commissioner Murray said, well, regardless, what I'm saying is it was built with sales tax dollars, and do we not put money into it every year? I think we do and, you know, so if we go and look at this, let's look at all these projects not just selective projects that we think are the big bucks items because they all are. And I just feel like --, I agree again with the Chairman and with Commissioner Rayno that we need to look at it, we need to look at other alternatives and then come back and look at what we need to do, but I think the timing right now with negotiations, the meeting set up today to start talking about recreation with the City and this --, you know, we don't know whether it's going to work or not work. It didn't work the last time. It may work this time. We don't know that, but I think we need to give that a try before we just start chopping different projects off of the list at this point because of the revenues--. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Murray said, or lack thereof. Chairman Hair said, I'm sorry. I thought you were through. Commissioner Murray said, I am.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I just want to clarify that my motion did not include the sale or transfer of Henderson Golf Course or the Eighth Air Force. I was trying to explain why --. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I hope I didn't insinuate that that was part of it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I know we can't do that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, because I know we owe more on both facilities than we can sell it for so that's why --. Commissioner Murray said, no, that was --, if I said that, that was not what I meant. I'm sorry. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want y'all to know I don't question the integrity or anything of any of you that were involved with building any of them. I'm not asking why anybody built anything. All I'm asking is to look at the financial shape we're in currently, and this young lady here had it right. I mean, one of two things has to happen now, and it's either raise the taxes or cut some just wonderful projects. Dr. Thomas, your experience and all, I certainly would never intend to offend you. I know y'all put much thought into your decisions and talked with the public, but no one envisioned back then the financial shape this County would be in now, and --. Commissioner Rivers said, I did. Commissioner Kicklighter said, except for Mr. Rivers down there. Commissioner Rivers said he did, but, you know, I just --, I just --, I want to say, and I know y'all know this, that we talk about hastily, we can't hastily do anything. I want you to know I'm not --, I can see where this is hastily thrown on y'all, but I did a lot of research on this. I mean, I didn't just --, I didn't just ask Russ [Abolt] this morning to give me a spread sheet and just start talking today. I've checked into this and, you know, we have here with these wonderful projects, we have a savings of \$828,000. Possible savings. A year, per year. And again I hate to see anything happen to it at all, but the fact is we --, we have two options now. We either start cutting or we raise taxes, and I'm trying to start cutting.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Hair. Chairman Hair said, Ms. Ratcliffe and then I'll put you down. Commissioner Rayno said, yeah, thank you. Chairman Hair said, Ms. Ratcliffe and then Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Rayno briefly. Let's go ahead and finish up. We've said everything four times now so let's go ahead and call for the question after people get --. Ms. Ratcliffe and --.

Youth Commissioner Ratcliffe said, Savannah is a growing city and, you know, on behalf of the youth, like when these projects were brought to Savannah, you know, I have friends who use the Aquatic Center, you know, daily, and to see them go it would be pretty sad, and so I know that I don't have to pay taxes, but I think if the citizens out there were to know that --, what was going on, then maybe they wouldn't be so upset about paying the taxes because Savannah's growing and we love to see it flourish.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Thank you, Ms. Ratcliffe. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Ms. Ratcliffe, you do pay taxes. Commissioner Murray said, that's what I was going to say. Commissioner Rivers said, every time you buy something, when you buy those pretty clothes you've got on. So your one --, your one penny helped to do all of the things that we're talking about. It's just unfortunately when we did that and when the great ideas came forth, we did not think of money or how we would maintain them. We did not infuse that money in the budget. See, when you don't put a revenue stream in there for things that you have to maintain, then there's no money there to do that, and unfortunately we have taken that money out of our fund balance and out of various places and now those cupboards are empty so now we're suffering the consequences. It's all about foresight when you do something that impacts you in the future. You may make a decision to roll back taxes, but yet not infuse money into your budget to take care of things like this, then you don't have any way that you can get it. Somebody has to pay, okay. When you remove something, when you do something. You hear them say they want to shift everything to the City of Savannah, that would be great. But if we shift it all to the City of Savannah, then what is left to be done by Chatham County? We Commissioners can pack our bag and we go home, it's just we aren't contributing to the quality of life or to them maintenance of this County or to the growth of this County. Okay? So I want you all to understand how we got here. See, we got to this point too by giving freeport on \$5 million out of our budget, we gave in order to

induce industry or attract industry by not taxing them. So when you take that, you've got to shift it to somebody else, you see, and we didn't do that. So –.

Commissioner Rayno said, just one other comment –.

Commissioner Rivers said, but I'm going to say this. Chairman Hair said, as I said, wrap it up. Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to say this and I'm going to –. Mr. Chairman, I'm going to say this and I'm going to close, and I don't want you all –, I want you all to understand that when I have the floor, until I release it or relinquish that, then I don't want to interrupted. That's my privilege. These things that we're discussing this morning I would hope that my fellow Commissioners would take it into special meeting. This is not the forum for that. For all these things that we're trying to do today or trying to rectify the budget, we need to do it in special meeting, and then we won't –, you won't have to rush me on these kind of things. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno briefly.

Commissioner Rayno said, yeah. Dean [Kicklighter] I would suggest, I know what it's like to see little red lights up there and it's not a pretty thing to feel. Why don't you and I get together with Kathy White and have lunch with her first and talk with the Byrds and SST and get together with some of these different organizations and talk to them about the possibility of them purchasing, and just explore it and then come back to the Commission and suggest it again. Withdraw the motion and I'll withdraw mine. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to see the vote and then if I lose, then we can –.

Chairman Hair said, briefly Ms. Palmares. Last before we vote, we're going to vote after this.

Youth Commissioner Palmares said, okay. Well, I just feel that the County should have anticipated the costs to fund these projects in the first place, and I believe the taxpayers should not have to pay for the consequences, and I think it would be a good idea by giving up these projects to Savannah or other organizations the project will still be available for the citizens to enjoy.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. We've had a call for the question by Commissioner Odell. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the County offer the Aquatic Center and the Weightlifting Center to the City of Savannah for a token payment for \$1.00 and let them run the facility and offer the Tybee pier offered to the City of Tybee Island for \$1.00, and should these cities not accept the offer, the facilities would go up for sale with the first option to the YMCA's and, if they're not interested, to private industry. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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PRESENTATION ON MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair said, next item, and Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner Odell agreed to reverse these items for the sake of the people who's going to speak, there's some comments that's going to be made on mental health. Commissioner Odell, I'll let you introduce it.

Commissioner Odell said, just by way of introduction, I'll ask that Ms. Miller and Marianne [Heimes] and everyone to come up. Approximately three months ago Mr. Rayno and I were asked to look into the state of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse in Chatham County. Pursuant thereto, we had two public hearings here in the Green –, here in the Chambers and they were well attended. Jeff [Rayno] and I both attended. From that we appointed a subcommittee, and we will have the subcommittee reports. Those who have to leave first, and I apologize about the length, but if you could state your name for the record and then just give the summary.

Ms. Loretta Miller said, well, thank you so much for having us. I'm Loretta Miller and Kris Rice and I are chairing one of the subdivisions. Normally we're talking about mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse; however, we felt that it needed to be broken down one other step and that was for child and adolescent services. Our –, following your direction, our report is maybe about two minutes long and one page. Now what we are talking about is trying to get back services in Chatham County. So the first thing that we wanted to say, that we totally support the Chatham County developing a local community mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse board that will address the needs of all mental health consumers, especially and particularly children and adolescents. We stated some issues that

are some concerns, but I'm not sure how much we need to talk about them here. Number one, we would like to see planning and funding responsibilities are now headquartered in Brunswick. We want to bring them back to Chatham County. It's too far away. Our constituents don't have ready access. Number two, the single point of entry, which is how you get into the system, is housed in Augusta. We would like to have that. One of the problems with that, if an agency from Savannah calls and they may say your closest —, you may tell them to go on Fahm Street, but then if they don't know how to get to Fahm Street from where you are, then that's still inaccessible service. And the other part that we wanted to bring up, that there's definitely a lack of adequate therapeutic foster homes in Savannah. Now, these we're going to pass them to you, but we just wanted to tell you about our major areas.

Commissioner Odell said, okay, and thank you all. I want to include your report as part of the record and be made an attachment thereto. Ms. Miller said, okay. Commissioner Odell asked, is that good? Ms. Miller said, oh, sure, that's fine. We just —, you know, everything is written in there, but I just wanted to bring up these points. Commissioner Odell said, go ahead, Loretta [Miller]. Ms. Miller said, no, those were the only points, Augusta and Brunswick. Commissioner Odell said, okay. We will have an additional meeting of the chair within the next week or so, and the reason that we're rushing to do this, we wanted to do this before our legislators left the Legislature for this term so that we could get some information to them, and I appreciate it. Marianne [Heimes]?

Ms. Heimes said, my name is Marianne Heimes. Commissioner Odell said, no. Ms. Heimes said, Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, I'm reminded of the jingle that we heard a while back, "it pays to buy local in Savannah." Mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse issues are also better managed locally, and we're here today to request that you bring our own community service board back to Chatham County. My committee is speaking for mental retardation. That's probably the most smoothly run program of all the disability services, but that does not mean it cannot be improved, and by having your services local will make that much easier. The idea behind House Bill 100 was to bring services to the consumer. Right now you have your regional board in Brunswick, your community service board in Darien, so your purse strings and all your board meetings are conducted a long way away. They —, the board, the regional board does meet every third month in Savannah, but the service board does not. Commissioner Odell said, and they don't meet where the clients are either. Ms. Heimes said, that's right. Commissioner Odell said, unless Bethesda has just become downtown Savannah. Ms. Heimes said, well 45% of the consumers in the current community service board are from this area, and that's a large percentage to be handled from downstate, so to speak. Commissioner Odell said, so we're the big dog and they're the tail, but they're doing the wagging. Ms. Heimes said, they're wagging. Right, right, and we think it would be much more efficient and much more economical to do it here. I met with Faythe Merkert at Coastal Center for Developmental Services because she does a large portion of mental retardation work. She says there is a need for more of what we call dayhab, which she supplies so well, that could be done through a community service board, and a dayhab is really day rehabilitation for people who cannot work in a regular job, and they —, they run, as you probably all know, a catering service, a print shop and a workshop and Chatham Industries, and they do an excellent job. There could be more of that because they are full. They have done such a good job they're full and they cannot take any more. There is also more need for employment services. There are many mentally retarded consumers who are able to work out in the community. My daughter is one of them and she's actually worked five years at Publix at the same job and she's done very well. And there are —, if you had a local CSB, they would be able to go out and talk with the businesses locally and be more persuasive to get more jobs. The more these consumers who have jobs, the better off they are, the better off the community is. There is more need for residential, as Loretta [Miller] mentioned. There's more need for dual diagnosis, which is a consumer who is mentally retarded and may have substance abuse, or a mental health patient who also has substance abuse. In other words, there are two things that they're addicted to or afflicted with, and that's a fairly difficult field to get into, but it needs to be addressed. We've talked a lot about crime here today. A lot of your crime comes from your mental health and substance abuse community, and we need to get a better control of it here and keep a lot of these people out of jails because it's more —, it's more reasonable to get them before they get to jail and before they have the big problems. In other words, prevention can save us all money and that's what we've been talking about here today. Those are just a few of the improvements, and I think there would be many positive returns from having a local community service board, and I urge you to consider strongly, you know, asking Atlanta to give permission to have that because I think, I think we need it.

Commissioner Odell said, I want to thank the three of you. There were many others who participated, but these are the true troopers. They had a real constraint deadline, and I know I cut into your personal time, or we cut into your personal time, but we're indebted to you and extremely grateful. I'm going to make a motion, and I want you to listen just for one moment, and that motion is that the Chairman be authorized to sign a resolution to be submitted to our State representative, and the resolution in substance will say, having reviewed the issue of substance abuse, mental health, mental retardation, and services for children and adolescents, that the Chatham County Commissioners are of the opinion that a Community Service Board should be located in Chatham County. Is that a —? Okay. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Odell said, oh, I voted against it. I'm sorry. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was without a representative.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Ms. Heimes said, thank you very much. We appreciate y'all's time very much. Thank you. Commissioner Odell said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate the work y'all do, too. It is very important to our community.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Chairman be authorized to sign a resolution to be submitted to our State representative, and the resolution in substance will say, having reviewed the issue of substance abuse, mental health, mental retardation, and services for children and adolescents, that the Chatham County Commissioners are of the opinion that a Community Service Board should be located in Chatham County. Commissioners Rayno and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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3. CONSULTANT SERVICES (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Odell said, Jeff [Rayno], thank you for letting me move –.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. It was my pleasure. During the strategy session that we just had a few weeks ago, I mentioned that I thought it would be good for the Commissioners to have access to a separate fresh set of eyes and ears that would be outside of the fish bowl of the budget battle process. In the past we've had to go to staff to crunch numbers, and I don't know that –, they did a great job and they were under the heat of the battle last year, but I think it's time that we have access to the analysis capabilities that the City has when they go into budget battles, and we don't have the analysis capabilities that the City does. And my suggestion was that we would have a person who'd come in and look for things within the budget, such as what Dean [Kicklighter] was talking about earlier, ways that we could cut our budget and also a person who would have knowledge of grants and things that we might not have tapped into that could be part of solving some of the service issues that we are concerned about when the budget battle comes around. We've had a great deal of discussion today about the budget and how we're going to possibly be in a serious \$11 million crisis when it comes summertime, and I submitted to you last week we made a good decision to have the Department of Revenue come to oversee the preparation of the tax digest. Some friends of mine have been doing some preliminary work on that before they get here and found that there's some commercial properties out there where contiguous properties are valued at \$80,000 an acre, whereas the central property in the middle is only \$8,000 per acre. That's a huge difference of \$72,000 per acre that's not on the tax rolls, and you're looking at close to a billion dollars within the commercial sector that should be reviewed and properly looked at. And these properties have not been looked at since 1993. We heard testimony in previous Commission meetings that there have been commercial digest reviews 100%, but we keep finding properties that have not been reviewed since 1993. As we go through this with the Department of Revenue, we're going to find more and more properties that are not valued properly, and that goes back to the issue of people being taxed unfairly because of lack of uniformity. So having a person here to oversee the budget and to take the information that's given to us from the Board of Assessors, and they can look at that with a very close watch and close view and see things that perhaps we've not seen in the past would be a great advantage to this County. I don't think it would cost much because I'm talking from a period of about April through –, April, May, June, July. Maybe August if the budget battle gets pushed into the middle of August like it did last year. So my motion is just simply this, that the Commission would consider having an independent consultant, along the lines of someone like Bob McAlister, who would have those capabilities of seeing things because he worked for the City before. He's got access to State legislatures, and he knows what grants are available, to come and help us with the budget process and make suggestions on ways that we could cut expenses.

Chairman Hair said, I –. First of all, does that motion have a second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, the motion has a second. I –, I'm going to oppose this motion. I think that the problem we've had has not been the numbers we get from our budget staff. I think we have an outstanding budget staff. I think you've got awards from 14 years up there on the wall that we –, we win awards for outstanding budget preparation. I have never in my five and a half years in office have never asked for the budget office to give me something they didn't produce for me exactly and quickly. I think the issue is not what's in the budget. I think the issue, as Commissioner Kicklighter said earlier, is political will. I don't think it's that we don't know what's in the budget. We clearly know what's in the budget. A lot of it's in there because we put it in there and I do not see, and I'm speaking as someone who makes a living as a consultant, I do not see the value of a budget consultant coming in and doing this, so I will oppose the motion. Anybody else want to speak before we vote.

Commissioner Rayno said, I do. I just think it's ironic you're saying you like the numbers that are given you by the Budget Department when you argued with them last year, and that's in the record. So I don't –.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. That takes us to items for Individual Action. Has everybody voted?

Commissioner Murray said, let me make a comment on that. Jeff [Rayno], would you have a problem with that if it's just the RFP put out for that to look at the cost of it before we make the final decision to move forward? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, I think that would be a prudent thing to do. Chairman Hair said, well the motion's already been made so we could add that if you will accept that. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, you will accept that

as a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay. We'll add –, okay, just –, so the motion for an RFP. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved that we issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for an independent consultant to come for the period April to July and help the County with the budget process and make suggestions on ways that we could cut expenses. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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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: GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE A \$500 CONTRIBUTION FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAVANNAH SOUTH FOR THE AQUATIC CENTER, \$3,290 REIMBURSEMENTS DUE TO THE YOUTH COMMISSION, A TRANSFER OF \$10,500 FROM SPLOST (1993-1998) WHITEMARSH ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER TO CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM, AND A TRANSFER OF \$8,740 FROM CONFISCATED FUNDS POLICE CONTINGENCY FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT.**

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

Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Rayno said, discussion. Commissioner Murray said, I'll second it with discussion. Chairman Hair said, okay, motion and second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], on the transfer from Whitemarsh Island Community Center to Civil Rights Museum out of the SPLOST money, how much more –, what was that money staying in the Whitemarsh Island budget for to begin with? It was just strictly there for construction, is that right? Chairman Hair said, yes, it was extra money. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. You just hadn't closed out –. Commissioner Murray asked, how much is in that budget? County Manager Abolt said, I wanted to defer to my crackerjack budget people, but they're not here right now. I'll find out for you. Commissioner Murray said, the only reason I asked that I think that once a project's completed and all the funds have been spent on that that we need to for the construction phases of it, it should go into some type of fund, an escrow account or something, where it just stays in one separate account under SPLOST and not continue to stay in the account where we don't even know it's there. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed –.

Commissioner Rayno said, I had discussion please, thank you, Billy [Hair]. Chairman Hair said, oh, I'm sorry. Commissioner Rayno said, why are you in such a hurry? I stopped by the Civil Rights Museum yesterday –, actually two days ago because I wanted to make sure that I talked to them about this transfer of funds, and I found that they are doing a great job down there and they're such good stewards of the money. I was just so impressed. I was with the Science Museum for eight years and I never saw that level of commitment to taking dollars and putting them in such a –, I mean, an incredibly well-used fashion to the point where they won't even sign off on a project until they know it's right. And they never see the money that we transfer to them. It goes into a County account and the County does the

work and they never see the money, so it can't be commingled into anything they've got. They've never asked the County for operating funds, unlike other museums in this County, and I asked them a very pointed question. I said, "What are you going to do when the SPLOST funds run out?" and they said, "Well, this will put us to a new level where we can get Federal and State funding that we've never been able to get before and that we might not even need to have SPLOST funds in the future." So they're very positive and they're doing great things down there and I was just tremendously impressed, and Russ [Abolt] will tell you I'm a very hard person to impress, aren't I?

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the following: General Fund M&O budget amendment to recognize a \$500 contribution from the Rotary Club of Savannah South for the Aquatic Center, \$3,290 reimbursements due to the Youth Commission, a transfer of \$10,500 from SPLOST (1993-1998) Whitemarsh Island Community Center to Civil Rights Museum, and a transfer of \$8,740 from Confiscated Funds Police Contingency for purchase of equipment. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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2. CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR USE OF THE TRACK AROUND LAKE MAYER FOR AN AMPUTEE MARATHON.

Chairman Hair said, this is pretty much –, I don't think anybody would oppose this. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

County Manager Abolt said, we had –, we'd like to give them some options. We feel that the venue site of Lake Mayer might be terribly disruptive to other users of the track and the facility, and we would like to afford them the choices of Triplett Park and/or Wright Stadium at the campus of Savannah State. Chairman Hair said, it will be their decision. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir.

Chairman Hair said, all those –, we need a motion and a second. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was to present; District Three was not represented.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to offer PIPO Missions, Inc., their choice of the use of the asphalt trail at Tom Triplett Park for the two-hour "Walk, Roll, Run 2K Marathon" on either May 11 or May 18, 2002, with notification being given by the Parks and Recreation Department beginning two weeks prior to the event that the track in question will be closed to the public during the event, or in the alternative the use of the track at Savannah State University's Wright Stadium for the "Walk, Roll, Run 2K Marathon." Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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3. INITIATING LOST NEGOTIATIONS.

Chairman Hair said, the County Manager and I have had several discussions about this. It is time to do this and we discussed it briefly earlier about the impact of this. I would suggest to my fellow Commissioners, and the County Manager is in agreement with this, that we initiate this, that the Commission authorize myself, Mr. Abolt and Mr. Hart to serve as the lead negotiators. Certainly, we are not in a position to approve anything. It would have to go back to this full Commission to approve anything, but it's difficult to negotiate with nine people, and we would have a framework mandated by this Commission to do that, and we would present the framework to the Commission in advance of any negotiations if there was any concern about anything somebody had. But what we're asking for is that the Commission would authorize the three of us to begin LOST negotiations with the Mayors and City Managers.

Commissioner Rayno said, I would like to include Joe Murray Rivers in that if you would agree to do that because he showed up to the ACCG meeting on LOST negotiations, as I did, and I think he's well versed in all these issues.

Chairman Hair said, without objection. I have no problem with that. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to designate Chairman Hair, Commissioner Rivers, County Manager Abolt and County Attorney Hart to begin LOST negotiations on behalf of Chatham County. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL TO REDUCE THE CHATHAM-SAVANNAH COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM (CNT) FUNDING LEVEL SO THAT THE COUNTY WOULD FUND ONLY ONE (1) OFFICER PER PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY, THEREBY REDUCING THE SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENT'S REPRESENTATION FROM FOURTEEN (14) SWORN OFFICERS TO ONE (1) OFFICER.**

Chairman Hair said, this item has been tabled.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was tabled pursuant to the vote taken on Item VII-1.

=====

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? Commissioner Rayno? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, thank you; 23 please. Chairman Hair said, okay. Anything else? Commissioner Rayno said, and A, Item 24. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, and H on 24. Chairman Hair said, okay. Anything else? Commissioner Rayno said, no, that's it. Chairman Hair asked, anybody else want to take anything off the Action Calendar? I'll entertain -. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 23, 24-A and 24-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly 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.]

=====

- 1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2002, AS MAILED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 8, 2002, as mailed. - Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

- 2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 31, 2002 THROUGH FEBRUARY 13, 2002.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period January 31, 2002, through February 13, 2002, in the amount of \$3,277,597. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

- 3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT FROM THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) TO ASSIST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRUMAN LINEAR PARK [DNR PROJECT #:NRT-97(7)], EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLETING THE PARK. [DISTRICT 2.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve an amendment to the grant from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist in the construction of Truman Linear Park [DNR Project #: NRT-97(7)], extending the deadline for completing the park. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

- 4. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A VACANT LOT ON PINE BARREN ROAD IN POOLER, SET A MINIMUM BID VALUE, AND PROCEED WITH SELLING IT THROUGH A SEALED BID PROCESS.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to declare as surplus a vacant lot on Pine Barren Road in Pooler, set a minimum bid value, and proceed with selling it through a sealed bid process. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

- 5. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS AND OFFER FOR SALE A SUBSTANDARD SIZED LOT IN SAVANNAH ON DODGE AVENUE, WHICH CHATHAM COUNTY ACQUIRED INTEREST THROUGH TAX DEED.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to declare as surplus and offer for sale a substandard sized lot on Dodge Avenue, which Chatham County acquired interest through tax deed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

6. GEORGIA INDIGENT DEFENSE GRANT APPLICATION.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the Georgia Indigent Defense Grant application for funding to assist with the operation of indigent defense programs. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

=====

7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: CHERI STOKES KELLER, D/B/A JANIE ARKWRIGHT'S KITCHEN, LOCATED WITHIN KELLER'S FLEA MARKET AT 5901 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Cheri Stokes Keller, d/b/a Janie Arkwright's Kitchen, located within Keller's Flea Market at 5901 Ogeechee Road, for renewal of Sunday Sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A FRANKLIN CREEK ACTIVITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 900 FRANKLIN CREEK ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Franklin Creek Activity Center, located at 900 Franklin Creek Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: WILLIAM J. YOUNG, D/B/A PIZZA INN, LOCATED AT 313 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of William J. Young, d/b/a Pizza Inn, located at 313 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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10. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: MATTHEW K. STARLING, D/B/A BONA BELLA MARINA, LOCATED AT 2740 LIVINGSTON AVENUE. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Matthew K. Starling, d/b/a Bona Bella Marina, located at 2740 Livingston Avenue, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 11. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: HARRUP KAUR SINGH, D/B/A PAPA DAV PIZZA, LOCATED AT 10-B QUACCO ROAD.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Harrup Kaur Singh, d/b/a Papa Dav Pizza, located at 10-B Quacco Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 12. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: WILMA LEA WEAVER, D/B/A CHEER'S TO YOU LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 135-B JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Wilma Lea Weaver, d/b/a Cheer's to You Lounge, located at 135-B Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 13. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE, AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, D/B/A WILLIAMS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 8010 TYBEE ROAD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Thomas W. Williams, d/b/a Williams Seafood Restaurant, located at 8010 Tybee Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 14. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: ELEANOR M. COURSEY, D/B/A GRANTS CROW BAR LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 205 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Eleanor M. Coursey, d/b/a Grants Crow Bar Lounge, located at 205 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002.

Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 15. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: BRYAN LEE HALE, D/B/A SOUTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, LOCATED AT 415 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Bryan Lee Hale, d/b/a Southbridge Golf Club, located at 415 Southbridge Boulevard, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 16. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A OAKRIDGE CLUB, LOCATED AT 11 WESTCROSS ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Oakridge Club, located at 11 Westcross Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 17. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A PLANTATION CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 COTTONWOOD ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Plantation Club, located at 1 Cottonwood Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 18. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A DEER CREEK CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 DEER CREEK ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Deer Creek Club, located at 1 Deer Creek Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 19. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A MARSHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 PALMERS DRAW, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Marshwood Country Club, located at 1 Palmers Draw, The Landings, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 20. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: STEPHEN C. SIMS, D/B/A SANDFLY BAR AND GRILL, LOCATED AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD. [DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Stephen C. Sims, d/b/a Sandfly Bar and Grill, located at 7360 Skidaway Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 21. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: PANAGIOTIS A. KIRIAKOS, D/B/A SNAPPERS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 104 BRYAN WOODS ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Panagiotis A. Kiriakos, d/b/a Snappers Seafood Restaurant, located at 104 Bryan Woods Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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- 22. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: MICHAEL FOSTER, D/B/A WILMINGTON ISLAND CLUB, LOCATED AT 612 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Michael Foster, d/b/a Wilmington Island Club, located at 612 Wilmington Island Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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23. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: HARRY KYRIAKIDES, D/B/A UNCLE HARRY'S BAR, LOCATED AT 12 NORTH LATHROP AVENUE. [DISTRICT 8.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, Uncle Harry's is a strip bar and they want to serve liquor on a Sunday. They've no history of whether or not they're going to have 50% food sales so we're going to have to guess if they're going to do this or not. I'd like to put them under some kind of a probation period to know that they're really going to have 50% because, you know, I don't think most people go to Uncle Harry's to get chicken wings.

Chairman Hair said, I would assume that this is -, I would assume that this has already passed all the muster of our staff and the police reports and also I think if a business, whether we like it personally or not, I think we're obligated as public servants to approve something if it meets the test of the law, I think we should vote for it. That's my position on it and I would assume, Mr. Abolt, am I incorrect? They've met all the tests? County Manager Abolt said, we can't push it any further, sir. Chairman Hair said, that they've met all the test, so -. Okay, you're certainly entitled to make a motion or whatever you want to, but -.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the petition of Harry Kyriakides, d/b/a Uncle Harry's Bar, located at 12 North Lathrop Avenue, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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24. 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. Used Kodak digital document archive writer and used digital microimage scanner	ICS	Imaging Solutions and Services (sole source)	\$38,691.80	CIP - NetPlan 2000 projects
B. Contex scanner and related items	ICS	Scantastik, Inc.	\$16,315	CIP - National Guard Renovation
C. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum Building Renovations for additional renovations	SPLOST	C. E. Hall Construction	\$18,400 (County portion \$10,500)	•SPLOST (1993-1998) - Extension Fund (pending Board approval of transfer)
D. One-year maintenance agreement to provide preventive maintenance and inspection of the HVAC equipment	Aquatic Center	Boaen Mechanical Contractor	\$12,087.96	General Fund/M & O - Aquatic Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E. Change Order No. 3 to the annual contract to provide monthly and biweekly pest control service to various County facilities and to add pest control service for the Whitemarsh Island Community Center	Parks and Recreation	Ideal Pest Control	\$420	General Fund/M & O - Parks and Recreation
F. Terminate and re-award annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one-year terms for security services at the Bull Street Library	Library	• <u>Terminate with:</u> Pioneer Security Services • <u>Award to:</u> Four Star Security Service	\$70,350	General Fund/M & O - Library
G. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one-year terms to provide title abstract service	Tax Commissioner	Coastal Title and Abstract Company	\$27 per abstract	General Fund/M & O - Tax Commissioner
H. Excavator	Public Works	L. B. Smith Company	\$33,835	CIP - Vehicle Replacement - SSD
I. Change Order No.1 to the contract to provide custodial services for the increase of scope of services required	Weightlifting Center	Team Savannah	\$18,936.72	General Fund/M & O - Weightlifting Center

As to Items 24-B through 24-I, except 24-H:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 24-B through 24-I, except Item 24-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

As to Item 24-A:

Used Kodak digital document archive writer and used digital microimage scanner; ICS; Imaging Solutions and Services (sole source); \$38,691.80; CIP - NetPlan 2000 Projects.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I just wanted to thank Carlton Blair for making me initially aware of the fact that there's an old documenting system where we had to use papers and microfilms that was causing a storage problem and Eric Johnson also for having the foresight to provide the legislation last year to make this possible that we can do this and make storage space a lot easier and share documents. And thank you, Mr. Leonard, for your foresight in putting it all together. Motion to approve.

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: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

As to Item 24-H:

Excavator; Public Works; L. B. Smith Company; \$33,835; CIP - Vehicle Replacement - SSD.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. I just wanted to ask Mr. Drewry, if he's still here -. Chairman Hair said, yes, he's here. Commissioner Rayno asked, will this go into the small ditches like the one out on Burnside Island where you couldn't normally go in with hand tools and clean it up? Mr. Robert Drewry said, that's probably going to be the primary focus. Commissioner Rayno asked, and bring it to grade level? Mr. Drewry said, that's correct. Commissioner Rayno said, we'll get rid of that complaint. Mr. Drewry said, we've got a bunch of them out there. Commissioner Rayno said, all right then. Motion to approve.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.] Commissioner Murray said, it was not just bought for that [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Rayno said, I don't care. That's the one I'm concerned about.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 24-B through 24-I, except Item 24-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]
- 2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 24-A. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]
- 3. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 24-H. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly 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.

- 1. **PETITIONER: CHRISTOPHER A. ZIPPERER, AGENT FOR JOHN R. TURNER, OWNER, IS REQUESTING REZONING 418 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD FROM A P-I-P (PLANNED INSTITUTIONAL-PROFESSIONAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION TO A B-N-1 (NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS-LIMITED) CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT AN ALTERNATE ZONING DISTRICT, P-B-N-1 (PLANNED NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS-LIMITED), BE APPROVED. THE MPC ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT A CHANGE IN THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM COMMERCIAL OFFICE TO COMMERCIAL RETAIL BE APPROVED.
MPC FILE NO. Z-011220-60254-1
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

=====

XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD AMEND THE CHATHAM COUNTY EMPLOYEE’S RETIREMENT PLAN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW FOR THE CONVERSION OF SICK AND/OR ANNUAL LEAVE TO CREDITED YEARS OF SERVICE UNDER THE PENSION PLAN ORDINANCE.**

Chairman Hair said, I’ll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. Commissioner Kicklighter said second. Chairman Hair said, this is a very good idea. The School Board has done it for [inaudible] years. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly 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 Employee’s Retirement Plan Ordinance, effective January 1, 2002, to allow for the conversion of sick and/or annual leave to credited years of service under the Pension Plan Ordinance. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 4. **INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2002 YOUTH COMMISSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC, AND NEW YORK, NY, ON March 3-7, 2002.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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- 5. **UPDATE ON S&O CANAL.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 10:52 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

=====

ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present; District Three was not represented.]

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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 11:21 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2002

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK