

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 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, April 26, 2002.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner Jeff Rayno gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
 Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
 Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
 Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
 John J. McMasters, District Three
 Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
 David M. Gellatly, District Six
 B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

ABSENT: Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight

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

[NOTE: The absence of Commissioner Thomas was an excused absence following surgery.]

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ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Hair said, before we get into the agenda this morning, I'd like to request unanimous consent to make two adjustments. One is to add an item for Commissioner Rayno on the tax fee for the Board of Education and the other is to move at the request of Commissioner Kicklighter Item #6 under Individual Items, which is the SPLOST continuation project list, up to right behind the Commissioners' Items. Does anybody object to those two changes? [NOTE: No response was made.] Chairman Hair said, okay. Without objection.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PRESENTATION TO FORMER COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY PELOTE.

Chairman Hair said, the first thing we have on our agenda this morning is something that's a pleasure for us to put it on our agenda. I had the privilege of attending Representative Dorothy Pelote's retirement ceremony a couple of weeks ago, and I wish everyone could have been there to see the outpouring of feelings for this lady and all that she's done, and I'm going to ask her if she'll join me down front this morning. We have a special presentation for her this morning. Commissioner Murray asked, Dorothy [Pelote], you're not really retiring, are you?

Chairman Hair said, I've known this lady for many, many years. I worked with her at the school system and I've worked with her in all of her capacities. She served on this Commission for many years and then, of course, she's been in the Legislature for a good number of years as well. And so it's really an honor for us to present to her this morning a little token of our appreciation for her service and I'll read it:

In appreciation for outstanding leadership, dedicated service and numerous contributions made to the Chatham County community while serving in the Eighth Commission District from January 1, 1985, to April 20, 1990, we extend best wishes upon her retirement from the Georgia House of Representatives, District 149.

Representative Pelote said, thank you very much. Good morning, everyone. It is a feeling of sincere gratitude that I take this opportunity to first thank Almighty God and to thank the County Commissioners, those that I served with 18 years ago. Mr. Rivers, Joe Rivers and Frank Murray, they're the only two left, that I left there and they're still here, and those who I know so well that I didn't have the privilege of serving with. And Mr. —, Dr. Hair is one that I have known so long, and then Mr. Abolt, Mr. Monahan and so many others. Piccolo [Pierce], he was here. He knows more about County government than a lot of us do. They're here [indicating Montine Earls and Ken Earls] and, of course, my friends here, and any number of those who are still working that I left here. Mr. Al St. Lawrence, hello. He's been elevated since I left, I believe. It's really a pleasure to be here this morning and for you to give me this beautiful plaque. You know, serving as a County Commissioner —, oh, I forgot, my daughter is here, Deborah, and then my colleagues, Representative Ann Mueller and Senator Regina Thomas, are here with me this morning, and it's a pleasure to have them with me. You know, Ms. Mueller used to be my ride-mate and then I divorced her and picked up with Regina —, Senator Thomas, and Senator Thomas would come up there with those big fine cars, and I said I think I better get in a big fine car to drive up, ride to Atlanta.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I didn't think they let Ms. Mueller drive any more. Do you still drive? Representative Mueller said, absolutely.

Representative Pelote said, serving on the County Commission, serving here helped me to be a stronger legislator because there's so many things that we did here in the County —, County government that just transferred right on to the State government. And I'm not saying all that for some of you to get the idea to run against some of my colleagues, but it does help. It really does. And again I thank you from the bottom of my heart and my you continue to do good things for the people of Chatham County. God bless you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. What Representative Pelote didn't tell you that came out in her retirement ceremony was the reason she switched from riding with Representative Mueller to Senator Thomas is that she gets to Atlanta much quicker with the Senator. So that was one of the —, I found that out at the retirement ceremony. But we really do appreciate your service and appreciate your friendship very much.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. We could let her act as honorary and sit in the Eighth District seat, sit back in her seat down there.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Pierce would like to say something. Chairman Hair said, yes, Mr. Pierce.

Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, our representative, Dorothy Pelote, she's a nice lady. She represents the House, and she —, all of the —, House of Representatives. She brought the bacon home, and when you bring the bacon home to Savannah, we'd live to have more understanding of Dorothy Pelote and the House of Representatives and all of them. Let us support the House of Representatives. You know, she can't do it by herself. She can understand things by herself. So God be with her as she steps down, and things like this. Let's make something or other —, a statute or something like that and let her know we recognize her. May God bless you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Mr. Pierce.

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2. INDIGENT DEFENSE FUNDS (DANNY DELOACH).

Chairman Hair said, the next item on our agenda is Indigent Defense Funds. Mr. Danny DeLoach is here, I think, to make a presentation.

Mr. Danny DeLoach said, first, before you go, Ms. Pelote, I'd like to –, what I'm about to give Chatham County is a part of your effort. It's a check for the Indigent Defense Council that our local delegation was able to secure in a grant for indigent defense. So on behalf of the Superior Court judges and the other judges of Chatham County, I'd like to present a check for \$109,234.45 to help offset certain indigent defense costs in Chatham County.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much, Danny [DeLoach]. We appreciate that. Just give that to the Manager there. Don't give it to the lawyer. You never give checks to lawyers. You give the check to the Manager.

Commissioner Rivers said, see you later.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. REMINDER: BUDGET PRESENTATIONS WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Chairman Hair said, just a reminder the budget presentations will begin immediately after Executive Session today.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION ON WHICH ADVISORY BOARDS TO KEEP. *Postponed from meeting of April 12, 2002.*

Chairman Hair said, we postponed this at the last meeting because the County Attorney was not present. He is prepared today to make a presentation. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, I think the memo fairly well speaks for itself. Several months ago the Clerk and myself were tasked to try to go through all the various committees that this Board is responsible for making appointments to and look at how many of them we really need. And unfortunately we did a breakdown based on whether it was an active or inactive committee and whether it was required by State or some type of Federal law and tried to outline its general function, and that's pretty well our outline within the memo. And when you go down through the group of committees, they for the most part all serve some type of function, and the function is something that is either very active, such as something like the County Board of Tax Assessors, or something that is relatively inactive, such as the Building and Adjustments and Appeals Board [sic], which reviews the decisions about the zoning –, the building official. Now that's required and you've got to provide for a process of appeal from that by State law, and that committee's only active when there's a question about interpretation of the code whether the building official is making the correct decision or not, and it meets very inactively. About once every three or four years we'll have an issue come up like that.

County Attorney Hart said, in going through the entire list and trying to find something that we could eliminate, you know, there are some –, there are some choices here you could make, but I don't know that you want to eliminate them. I'll give you examples of the ones that might be considered to be eliminated. You could eliminate the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau. There's no requirement that we have that, but certainly it provides the Commission with an opportunity to participate in something that's very important in the community. So I don't know that you want to give that up. You could eliminate the Development Authority of Chatham County, and that's a State –, that's Item G –, that's a State-authorized entity that basically provides for a means when you have some type of an economic project, development project, or whatever, that needs special tax-exempt financing or some type of mechanism to give them an advantage or incentive to come to the community, and it's fairly inactive, but about once every two years it's called up to actually, you know, help with bringing something in in industry, and I don't think we'd want to give something like that up. You've got your Emergency Medical Service Advisory Council, but that's become fairly important, especially since we've privatized the EMS services, and it sort of gives us the opportunity to have feedback through that committee. You could do away with the Handicapped Grievance Committee. There's no requirement it's State law or Federal law that

we have that, although it does serve a function. It allows people to come into the –, it's fairly inactive, but occasionally we'll have something come up, and if it involves a public facility and if it's a public facility in which someone has raised something up under the Handicapped Act, the Grievance Committee gives us an administrative means by which to address that without having to resort to a more formal proceeding or otherwise. If we have that committee in place prior to filing an EEOC charge, they are –, they are required to exhaust their administrative remedy, and in the past four or five years ago one of these things came up, you know, and the situation was able to work out there. So I don't know whether you want to do away with it. Keep Savannah Beautiful, we could eliminate that. We've got one appointee to it. It's a committee that talks about how to make our community look better. We've got the Gateway Services Board Committee, which we have to have by State law. There's some legislation –, and I don't know the final outcome of that. We'll probably get the printout on that next week. There's some talk about how they're going to –, may restructure that. The Mosquito Control has a board. We set up Mosquito Control years ago and there was questions about, at that time, whether you could have that type of authority, so they created it as an authority. The board doesn't –, it more or less now functions as a department within the County, but it still has the board because that's the way it was set up. Technically, we could probably do away with the board, but to do away with the board you'd have to get a special act of the Legislature and at the same time that board had –, has always had four or five members on there that are sort of citizens of the community that help within that organization to provide insight to the information and needs of the community. But, you know, that's something you could certainly do. When you get past that and start reading what these other boards do, there's not a lot to eliminate. There's the Veterans Council for Chatham County. It's not required by State law and does provide veterans the opportunity to have input in government and has no specific purposes and has been fairly inactive. There's the Solid Waste Advisory Board.

Chairman Hair said, pardon me. Commissioner Kicklighter has a question, I think. County Attorney Hart said, sure.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Attorney, I appreciate all of your hard work and from listening to you, based on your advise, I make a motion to keep all the advisory boards in place like they are now.

Chairman Hair said, motion. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

Commissioner Murray said, I think that since we voted to keep all these boards in place, we need to take, and if we have to have a special meeting to do it or if we just set time aside at a meeting to fill these vacant positions. I'd also like to see that if we're going to keep these boards, that we have them meet at least twice a year those that don't meet on a regular basis. Chairman Hair said, well, some of them, I think, are on an as needed basis, like the Handicapped Grievance Committee, who would meet when we had a grievance, I believe. Is that correct? I mean, some of them are just sort of on actions –. Go ahead, Mr. Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Gentlemen, you'll remember back the first part of March you –, this really began or came to a head with this concept of a pool of candidates, and so this was the first step. Staff did not want to be about advertising periodically for vacancies or recruiting folks and then giving them the array of opportunities and then some of them would not be legitimate. So you all do this and then we'll be about making it known, and then probably every six months we'll have an academy of some sort to brief on. But the only issue of consequence you have to make today –, decision –, has to do with would you only take people from the pool, and that can be important down the road.

Chairman Hair said, I don't think we should. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, this pool situation as a whole has been bothering me altogether. Personally I would rather submit that if we have candidates that are not selected, we can leave them in the file and then find out from them if they want to continue to submit their name, but I think it should be submitted on an as needed basis, and then someone don't have to resubmit somebody that's already been –. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with you, Commissioner Rivers. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, the only reason you would have somebody –, some kind of an academy would –, you would give them the education of what it's all about to be on boards. They could be, after they take the course, that they don't want to be on the board. They find out the work involved, the time, and the effort. And, sure, you don't have to pick people from the pool, but I sure would feel a lot better with somebody who's been through some kind of an educational process because they know what they're getting into.

Chairman Hair said, yeah. I think that most of us agree with you. I think there's nothing wrong with the academy idea as long as we don't absolutely say that the person has to come from –, because, you know, you might have somebody who's been in public for 20 years and clearly understand. Why should they have to go to an academy, you know, to learn something they already know. Commissioner Rayno said, I agree. Chairman Hair said, and they shouldn't be excluded from being appointed just because they didn't go through the academy. Commissioner Rayno said, I agree with you. Chairman Hair said, that's the only thing we're saying. I think everybody's in agreement on that. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that we keep the County's board and committees in place as they presently exist. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. REPORT ON THE GEORGIA CANCER COALITION (COMMISSIONER ODELL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I tell you what the Georgia Cancer Coalition is, I'm going to take a few moments with the assistance of staff and just update everyone on the problem that the State of Georgia faces as far as cancer. First slide please. It is important to note that every day in Georgia 90 people are diagnosed with cancer. 38 people every day in Georgia die from cancer. We spend --, 2.1 million is spent on cancer each day. Next. Almost 14,000 Georgians died last year from cancer. 31,000 Georgians were diagnosed with cancer last year. Georgia ranks 12th in new cancer diagnosis, and I think after we institute some of the programs that are diagnosis will increase, which I think it's a good thing in that it will mean that we will be catching the cases soon enough so that hopefully we can make a difference. When you talk --, next slide. When you talk to any individual, they think that --, that the odds of them having cancer is almost remote, but for the members of the Commission, one out of two men will develop cancer. One out of two. One out of three women will develop cancer. So, as you can see, the odds are not one in ten, the odds are not one in twenty. One out of two men will develop cancer. Next slide. Georgia's annual cancer cost is 750 million direct dollars, 1.2 billion lost in productivity, and so forth and so on. Thanks to our Governor and our Legislators, who were here --, next. The vision of Governor Barnes was to make Georgia the national leader in cancer prevention, treatment and research. Next. How that was to be achieved is to reduce the mortality, [inaudible] mortality rate, increase cancer preventing behavior, provide statewide access to cancer education, detection, treatment and [inaudible]. We have currently, nationally, over 630 different cancer medications that are currently in trial and some of the potential effects are just staggering. We want to develop the state-of-the-art cancer research and treatment program. How that will --, next. How that will be achieved is that we are --, the State of Georgia will commit 300 to 400 million dollars on the tobacco settlement. We'll leverage State dollars, public and private partnerships, non-profit organizations, and the Georgia Cancer Coalition we're attempting to maintain a very small staff so that the administrative cost will be minuscule compared to the overall cost of the program. Next slide. What's the goal? The goal is that of prevention, screening, treatment, education, research and economic development. Now we get --, next slide. Now we get to the Georgia Cancer Coalition. The purpose is to build regional systems of cancer care, and these will be based upon the principles of public health, and those principles are prevention, detection, intervention. The underlying principle therefore will be based on science. The ultimate goal --, next --, is to reduce the number of cancer deaths in Georgia.

Commissioner Odell said, we had our first meeting of the Cancer Coalition last week. We had only planned to meet for two hours. It ultimately lasted most of the day. Some of the people on the committee include the President of Eastern Air Lines. I'm indeed honored to have been appointed by the Governor, considering the fact that my law partner for 12 years --, I know that Joe [Rivers] remembers him --, Michael Pratt, died of colon cancer. There is some good news beyond that, and the good news beyond that is that I got a news flash yesterday that says that we have dedicated 3.5 million dollars to provide for cancer treatment for indigent population, those people who cannot have health insurance, et cetera. The impact of which is that through research and development, as of now, if you are diagnosed with cancer, and I think one of those House of Representatives said this, they had to go to another state to be treated. I mean, the treatment here is okay, but the treatment here is not state-of-the-art. Hopefully, within the next two to three years the cancer treatment, the cancer research and the pharmaceutical trials that we in Georgia will move from the dark ages to --, and this is a word that's often overly used. I think it's appropriate here. We will be state-of-the-art. And as we continue to meet and information is developed, I will report to the Commissioners.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, I think --, I commend you for serving on this. I know you were appointed by the Governor. We also are still in the running, as I understand it, for one of the research centers. There's going to be three in Georgia. Is that correct?

Commissioner Odell said, right. Hopefully, there will be four. As of now, they're planning three research centers, and I think we're very fortunate. We have Bob Colvin, who's President of Memorial Medical Center. We have Paul Hinchey at St. Joe's/Candler. I met with both Paul [Hinchey] and Bob [Colvin], and the message is that for South Georgia it should not be just Savannah. We need to look at Statesboro, we need to look at Brunswick, Darien, Hinesville, the outlying areas, so that when we speak to Atlanta, we're speaking for South Georgia. Any conflicts that, as far as the program should be here or the program should be there, we need to resolve those in-house. Ergo, we've appointed --, I think most of the community know, Dean Repella, former Dean of Allied Sciences at Armstrong. He will serve as the Regional Facilitator to ensure that we put the best foot forward and we coordinate programs and that there's no conflict in Southeast Georgia.

Chairman Hair said, very good. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. I would also like to thank Commissioner Odell for what he's said because I am one of those two men that has had cancer. Seven years ago --, a little over seven years ago I had prostate surgery based on cancer, and I want to tell you the medical situation in Chatham County at the time I thought was good because I had

an opportunity to go off for the second and third opinions in other places, to cancer research centers. I chose to stay with the doctor that I had because I'd been going to him for quite a while. I do know that we can improve what we have, and they're making improvements on all cancer research daily. And the key to it right now is that everyone have regular checkups, and that's the only thing that saved me with it because I have some friends of mine that have died from the same cancer I had because they didn't get it checked. You've got other people that I feel like they do have a form of cancer and they're scared to go to the doctor and get it checked, and that's a mistake. I don't think we can stress enough the need for regular checkups, and I don't mind going and paying whatever it costs to have that checkup for them to tell me everything's fine. But I just --, I'm glad that we have somebody on this Commission sitting on that new board that's been appointed and that hopefully we can move things further --, farther in the future within Chatham County, and I think the medical, especially the hospitals and the centers that we have in Chatham County right now, are moving in that direction, and you see more and more advertising on cancer research going on here in Chatham County.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Murray.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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3. NEXT STEP IN CREATION OF METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT (COMMISSIONER MURRAY, ET AL).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I guess the reason that #3 and #4 have my name on it is that we were --, there were four of us here for the workshop we had earlier in the week, and we could not with just four of us being here give any direction on what we needed to do with the police consolidation, and I think that the Manager just needs direction on what the next step would be. I personally think we should have another workshop because I still think there's some unanswered questions, especially with the packet I got last night. I feel like there have got to be some changes made in the proposal of how it's being proposed. It should not be all or none. I think there's got to be some room for some adjustments. I don't know that we need to sit there and say we've got to do it July 1st if we're going to do it. I think we need to take our time and go through it and if everything meets the approval of the majority of the people, then we move forward. If it doesn't, then we do away with it and go on as we're going, but I don't know why we have to have a July 1st deadline on it.

Chairman Hair said, I would agree we need to give direction, but I don't --, I think we need at some early stage we need to go ahead and decide what the wishes of this Board is. If the wishes of this Board is not to do this, I don't see any need to go and spend another two or three months studying something that there's not five votes to do. On the other hand, you know, we could go forward with the hearings, but it --, I think we need a pretty early test of whether or not it's the wishes of this Board to do this. But I do think --, personally I have some problems with it, and so stated. So --.

Commissioner Murray said, I would agree with that, Billy [Hair], but I don't know if we can say that we definitely are in favor --, or some of us can definitely say that we're in favor or opposed to it right now because there's still some areas that if they make some adjustments or change, we would probably support it. If they can't make those changes, we probably won't support it. And I think that's why I wanted to go a little bit further as far as what the two Chiefs and their two staffs are looking at. If they can make those adjustments, fine.

Chairman Hair said, I have no objection. I was just saying if the wishes on this Board is not to do it --. Commissioner Murray said, well, I don't think we [inaudible] move forward with it. Chairman Hair said, I don't think we need to waste a lot of time --. Commissioner Murray said, I agree. Chairman Hair said, you know, going to meetings and going to hearings and wasting staff time if ultimately --. Commissioner Murray said, well, I agree with that. Chairman Hair said, there's some Commissioners --, the majority of this Board feels that it's not something that we need to do and move forward with, then --. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, one of the items that was the, I guess, main --, main argument or reason that I oppose this, I don't even believe they're considering working on, is the fact that our City --, I mean, our County Manager would have absolutely no authority over the --, this proposed merged police department, and they're not actually working to do that to fix that problem. And the simple fact of the matter is the way this proposal is structured, when I get a phone call or anyone gets a phone call about problems in the unincorporated area, we will have zero authority to enforce the law in that area. And, you know, I have a big problem being held accountable for something that I cannot control. If I can be held accountable, then it's my fault that something's gone wrong. But the way this proposal is, we would not be able to fix a problem with crime in the unincorporated area because we would have zero authority. Based on that, I make a motion to stop moving forward on this discussion at all.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion. Do we have a second to that motion? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. Any discussion of that? I totally agree with Mr. Kicklighter. I have --. Commissioner Rivers

said, I have some discussion on it. Chairman Hair said, okay, certainly, Commissioner Rivers. And then –. I'm sorry. Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Rivers. He had it earlier. Commissioner Rivers said, the proposal –. Chairman Hair said, let's get Commissioner Gellatly first, Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Gellatly, he'd already said –. And then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Gellatly said, my concern was that the first meeting that we had, the first workshop that we had, I had requested, with the full support of most of the other elected officials, that we see an organizational chart of the new department, proposed department, and to this date I have failed to receive that. And I don't know how in the world we could move forward on something we don't have a clue what it's going to look like. I think there's a lot of blind faith here. I agree with another concept is that we're not under any emergency deadline of when we have to do this. I mean, I think the concept has merit, but there's just far too many things to –, many questions that haven't been addressed in enough detail, so I have problems with it at this point.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, sometimes we can make things so complex, and if we have an objection to anything that's a part of that proposal, not saying that I'm for or against, then we pass that on to those who are in consultation on it or who are responsible for making adjustments. We make a mass mountain out of molehill, and it doesn't have to be. If there's some objections to certain parts or components of that, then let's voice that, let's get them taken care of, let's look at the whole proposal, and then when we are through with that, let's put it on the table and vote yea or nay whether we want to go forward with it or whether we don't want to go forward with it, but at least give them the opportunity to correct or bring back an organizational chart, to discuss the fact of whether we want the County Manager. If that's a sticking point, then let's put that in there. If you can't do this, then we aren't ready to entertain this, so they know our objections and we know their objections and they can meter this out and we look at it in toto.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, we've never been closer at this point of consolidating two departments ever probably in the history of this County, and the beauty of this plan, as flawed as it is, is the fact that we have input at this point in time. Let's say we, in your wisdom, as a consensus vote to shoot this thing down today that four years down the road on the State scene the whole fabric of the Legislature shifts and they decide that service delivery of the plan looked pretty good, let's force government to consolidate, and then all of a sudden you're in a crunch situation. You'll have very little input, and at that point in time we're going to be in big trouble. Why not do what Mr. Rivers said? Take the time and talk. Talk is cheap. It doesn't cost us anything. We can give our input, and when the day is done, we can vote up or down on the plan. But just because Mr. Kicklighter is against the concept of consolidation, which we know he is, I don't think we should stop it now. Talking is not going to hurt anything.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, then me, then Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair recognize Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I share Dean's [Kicklighter] concerns, and those concerns are that the County Manager reports directly to us. Under the proposed system the County Manager would have no line responsibility for the new metropolitan police department. That gives me some concern. But that's one concern. The other concern is, if it's not broken, then why fix it? If this is in response to a problem, then let's identify the problem. I don't want this to be, okay, let me choose my next dance partner. I don't want to dance with the Sheriff, I do want to dance with the new City of Savannah Police Department. No offense to you, Al [St. Lawrence]. I don't want us to do that just because of that. I practice law and I have a chance to see our police officers in court and I have a chance to get a fair amount of feedback. We would be taken over, so philosophically the good things that we have, and there are a lot of good things that we do in the Chatham County Police Department. I think our approach to citizens are different than the current philosophy with the City of Savannah. Not to be critical. And that concerns me. I think consolidation is good if it serves a purpose, but if it does not serve a purpose, then why do it. And while we cannot predict what will happen three, four years, in response to Mr. Rayno's inquiry, that may well happen. But I agree with Dean [Kicklighter], we have the juice now and we can make that determination. If it's not going to benefit us, we shouldn't do it.

Chairman Hair said, I have a couple of comments and then we'll go in order. I think Commissioner Kicklighter made an excellent point a while ago when he said if you're talking about studying something –, if you're going to study something that can be fixed, that's one thing. If you're going to study something that's just a philosophical thing that can't be fixed, then you could study it for six years and you're still not going to agree because philosophically you disagree. You know, I make a living advising companies on how to become more effective in terms of organizational development, and this –, everything I've seen and everything I've heard violates every tenet of good organization. You're separating authority from responsibility, and that's the one thing that I believe you cannot correct. I mean, you could study that, but if you're still going to separate authority and responsibility, you could –, study is not going to help that. And you could look at different structures, but, you know, another thing that really bothers me is how this thing was brought about. It seems to me that the people that think that this is the best thing since sliced bread were the same people who vehemently opposed, vehemently opposed consolidation of the Sheriff's Department and the Police Department, which makes much more sense to me than this. And so –, I mean, I think Commissioner Odell was correct. I mean, you know, that was different dance partner and we didn't want that dance partner, but we want another dance partner, and I think that's a good analogy. But there are just a lot of things here. I just think that if the majority of this Commission does not want

to move forward, I don't see any need to waste staff time doing that. If the majority of the Commission does want to move forward, then we should study it for as long as we need to study it. But I don't see any need to study if the majority of the people are philosophically opposed to this and they believe that it's, you know, inherently flawed and the things that are flawed can't be corrected by study. Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner McMasters. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple other points. Number one, I think we have one of the best police departments anywhere in the State of Georgia. Unfortunately, which I've said this before, but this all does, it hits me pretty personally. Unfortunately, I had a brother that was murdered in 1987. Fortunately, if this makes any sense, he was murdered in Chatham County's jurisdiction, where I think we have the finest, best detectives of anyone around. Had he been murdered in Chatham County with this combined police department, you have a much higher murder rate in the City of Savannah, so there's a good chance that the hours that was dedicated to solving his murder could not have been dedicated and the man could have been walking around free to this day. It's —, our system is not broke. They've stood up here and they've told you it will not save a penny. So basically we're deluding our police force. And I've said it before about CNT, we concentrate all the man hours in the City of Savannah. The great majority. You merge this department, it's going to be concentrated in downtown Savannah. It's going to dilute the patrols out in the unincorporated area. When an unfortunate murder or something happens out in the unincorporated area, it's going to be right there investigated with a pool of other murders. It's going to dilute the time that they can spend on murders in the unincorporated area. This is a bad thing to do. It's like someone just said, if it's not broke, don't fix it. All we're doing with this if we move forward, is giving up our authority to have any say-so whatsoever, but we'll be held accountable. It's really one of the worst ideas I've ever —, ever heard. I mean, it's amazing. I encourage all of you —, and they can keep talking. You know, we both know that that don't mean they can't keep talking and come forward in six months and say we've figured out how Chatham County Commission can have some kind of authority in this because without it they can do whatever. They can concentrate all of their efforts in the City of Savannah and the crime rate can raise throughout the unincorporated area, and they can vote all of us on out because we let it happen. And it will be our fault. I encourage you to vote no.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Gellatly. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner McMasters and then, I'm sorry, I forgot I had a list. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, where I agree with some of what Commissioner Kicklighter was saying, I disagree with some of what he was saying also. There's a lot of concern about us not having any authority. We still control the budget that they operate under. I believe that what they have proposed as far as if I get a call and I call the County Manager and he calls direct to the Chief, we do have some authority and say-so within that. I don't remember ever having anybody from the City come to me upset because the County Manager was over CNT, who operates mostly in the City of Savannah. It's worked real well. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's free. Commissioner Murray said, well, free or not free, that's not the point. I would like to see us move forward with these talks because I still feel like that we have just gotten into the working stages of it. I feel like that the more we find out —, if we can't support it at a certain point, then, yes, I think we need to cut it off and be done with it. But I think we need to go further with it. I also would believe that we should have some type of sunset in this contract so that if we come back and evaluate it and it's not working properly or not doing what we thought and we don't have the authority that we thought we were going to have, then we can do away with it. It's not costing us any additional money to do it. We aren't saving any money. If it's going to put more officers on the streets within the unincorporated area and it's going to benefit the majority of our officers, then I think it's something we need to look at. So I think we need to continue the discussions right now a little bit further until we get some of these other questions answers.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, I agree with Mr. Murray that this warrants our continued analysis and testimony. I'm personally asking why there isn't an economic savings to the plan, but I understand that —, from the testimony that has been provided in the workshops that a greater level of efficiency and service would be provided to the citizens, and that has a value. And there also seems to be, at least amongst those that came forward from the Chatham County Police Department, a trend towards this is a good thing for them. So if you've got citizens who are supporting greater efficiency and greater service without economic savings, that's a plus. The fact that you've got a volume of staff coming forward and saying that they would —, they're committed to their jobs and they're committed to this merger if it happens, I think is good. Historically, as Commissioner Rayno pointed out, this is a milestone for Chatham County, so I don't think we should be throwing the baby out with the bath water at this early date. I concur that more study and discussion and dialogue needs to be our proper path.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Odell. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think that right now my biggest concern is that the deadline for this and the decisions that need to be made with a lack of information is improper and I would at this point in time vote that we —. The concept is good, it just isn't thought out properly right at this point in time. You know, I understand our concern that we need input, but I have a real serious concern with a new chief of police reporting to two bosses, and I think some way or another that has to be overcome. Whether that's —, you overcome that with a police commission or what have you, at any rate, that hasn't been properly addressed yet. And I think that —, I think that with a lot of thought, and we've got some good minds

out there, that we can have the best of both worlds, but that process hasn't been presented to this body at this point in time.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then me.

Commissioner Odell said, just some concepts, gentlemen. No increase in funds, okay. That's a principle. Increase in service. That's another principle we've been told. And that's analogous to the check's in the mail. That just can't happen. There's no way that that can happen. That is a smoking mirror. No increase in funds, increase in service. How can they do that? Third element: no reduction of force. I mean, the check's in the mail. I think if we believe that if we consolidate and two or three years down the road we're unhappy then we can reconstruct, then we also believe that we can take a sausage and recreate a pig. You just cannot do that. I mean, it will be lost to the wind. Again, how can a City of Savannah police officer patrol in the unincorporated area and there not be a cost associated with that? What we are saying or what we are lead to believe is that the City of Savannah is going to subsidize the unincorporated area, and if you talk to the City of Savannah, they will say that is not a dog that will hunt. They're not going to do that. Just as the incorporated area is not going to do it. So no increase in funds, increase in services. The check's in the mail. Commissioner Rayno said, it's going to be more money. Commissioner Odell said, more money.

Chairman Hair said, the –, also, there are two issues again that I think are fundamentally flawed, and I don't see any amount of study dealing with this. You know, some of the Commissioners have talked about you can't report to two bosses. This proposal doesn't have the person report to two bosses. They have a person reporting to one boss because the hiring and firing authority is within the City Manager's authority. The way it's said is that, well, he'll, you know, the County Manager could call him if he needs to talk to him about County stuff and the City Manager will talk to him about City stuff, but the real bottom line is what gets measured gets produced, and the person that does the hiring and firing is the City Manager, not the County Manager. And so who do you think has the ultimate authority? So he's not going to really be reporting to two people. He's going to report to one. That's going to be the City Manager. The second issue about the sunset provision, I mean, you could put all the sunset provisions in this you want to. You can say one year, two years, three years, or at will, but after you go through and spend tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of dollars repainting police cars and re–, putting new uniforms on everybody and then two years later we want to get out of this marriage, I mean, this divorce is going to be expensive. You know, this –, you know, divorces aren't cheap and this one's not going to be cheap either. So even if we're allowed to divorce two years from now, it's going to cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars to go back and do this. I just think there's some fundamental flaws in this thing, and all those people that were opposed to consolidating the sheriff's and the police department are now saying this is the –, this is wonderful. And to me the premise is very simple.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, you know, there are some of us that –, fortunately, there are some of us against. I want it to be known as a fact right now, I'm neutral. And I think that, in talking to most of the City folks, they're not convinced that this is the best thing since sliced bread. And it's not for the reason that we want this to happen. I want to look at all the nuances of it. If there's objections, if there are things that Odell is saying that there's going to be more money, yes, let's clear all of that out. Let's look at it, let's take an analysis, and this is no study. The proposal is before us for adjustments. There ain't nothing about studying it. It's no study. It's before us for adjustments and then, after the adjustments, final action. So we're not talking about studies going on from year to year to year, and I don't want you to make people believe that that's the case because all we've got to do is sit down and make this thing very simple, and when it comes back we all may object to it. And right now I'll tell you –, right now looking up here, you know, and I've been looking up here for a long time, we can cut off this argument and go ahead and vote because what it is, it's going to be a four/four motion. So we can cut that off. Chairman Hair said, well, let's do it. Chairman Hair said, I'm going to call the question.

Chairman Hair said, call the question. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Murray asked, would you restate the motion? Chairman Hair said, the motion is to discontinue –. Restate your motion, Commissioner Kicklighter. I don't want to –. Commissioner Rivers said, discontinue the –. Commissioner Rayno said, he just wanted to stop the process. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes, the process. Stop the process. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Rivers said, all right, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, and you want to reconsider? Commissioner Rivers said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay, reconsideration at the next meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, you're the man. Commissioner Rivers said, for the next meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, reconsideration man. Commissioner Rivers said, by that time we'll come up with another action because there's another Commissioner that sits down there.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the County stop all discussion on the merger of the City of Savannah and Chatham County police departments. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters

and Murray voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

2. Commissioner Rivers requested reconsideration of this issue at the next meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

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4. MEETING WITH CHAIRPERSONS OF GRANTS-IN-AID COMMITTEES (COMMISSIONER MURRAY, ET AL).

Chairman Hair asked, do you want to talk about grants-in-aid?

Commissioner Murray said, I think we ought to do away with grants-in-aid. I'll make a motion to do that. Chairman Hair asked, does that have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Commissioner Odell said, discussion. Commissioner Murray said, it just keeps costing us money.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to understand from my colleague his rationale for doing away with the grants-in-aid. If he'd be so kind to share that with me. Commissioner Murray said, well, I've said this many, many budget sessions, grants-in-aid to me is not something that we as a government should be funding. I know that it's gotten now that a lot of people expect the government to take care of everybody and everything that comes up regardless of what that might be. And, yes, there are some good programs out there. I have not replaced the two people for my appointments on the grants-in-aid committee because I was hoping we were going to be able to talk about that during this budget session, and I just don't feel like right now the County has the funding to put into the grants-in-aid programs. I think when it comes to your museums and the other programs that we run throughout Chatham County, that the private sector needs to be more involved in it and do that, and we should not be putting tax dollars into these programs. That's why I feel this way. That's why I've always felt this way. I doubt that the votes are going to be there to do away with it, but to me I think we should. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Murray said, that's not why this was on the agenda though. It was on the agenda because the other meeting lasted too long and we weren't able to meet with these people.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, my –, I've always thought that you have to view government in a –, just a broader perspective than police power, taxation; that government should set the tone for a community. I think that our community should be measured as to how we treat the least of the citizens. There are many programs that we fund through grants-in-aid that provide substantial services to citizens in this County. I think to do so without at least a year's notice so that they could seek other funding would be devastating to those nonprofit organizations. So I adamantly oppose it on that. Secondly, if we are to get out of the grants-in-aid business, I would hope that we would have some type of program that we could assist, not financial, but intellectually assist those organizations in locating substitute grant funds, if possible, or foundation funds or state funds. The kind of thing that Jeff [Rayno] has talked about in the past. Commissioner Murray said, I think that's fine. Commissioner Odell said, but it just –, I don't think that it's compassionate or in the community's best interest if we just lop them off. If we give them a year and we say we're going to do it in a year, then they can plan for it, but most of them have already set their budget. Commissioner Murray said, they don't know what they're getting from us yet. How do they set a budget when they don't even know what they're going to be given or if they're going to be given anything?

Chairman Hair said, let's stay in order please. Let's stay in order. Commissioner McMasters, Commissioner Kicklighter and then myself. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, while these grants-in-aid may provide substantial services, this County is in a very difficult position financially. These are, in my opinion, not entirely essential services. We have a runaway financial train that has got to be stopped. Temporarily we need to make some changes and some adjustments. If a little time is necessary so that these organizations can relocate funding, either in the private sector or elsewhere, that's certainly compassionate, but I think action is necessary. I think there's a lot of wisdom in this given the financial condition of this County, so I certainly would support this.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to agree with Commissioner Murray and Commissioner McMasters. There's a lot of wonderful nonprofit organizations out there helping out the community. They do a great job. This is something tough to do, but this is something when the government has the money to help, yes, it's good to help, but again we are financially in trouble here, and I believe it's the right thing to do. The taxpayers out there, they ought to have the option to donate to nonprofits themselves and get the tax reduction for themselves rather than the government taking their money and telling the citizens that we know what to do with their money better than they do. And at this point we're taking their money and donating it for them. They're not getting the tax reduction, and we're not smarter than the people. Let them donate to the nonprofits and charities that they want to and get their own tax reduction. And also I'll state that the State

and Federal governments normally donates to these nonprofits also, so it's not leaving them out in the cold, but it's a stand that we must take to move forward.

Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm next. First of all, I think that we need to realize that it's easy to sit up here and talk about that this is going to save X-number of dollars, but we're not being consistent as a Commission. I'd like to see us be consistent. We're spending hours and tens of hours having people stand in that well and telling –, department heads, and telling us why they need the money they need. I would submit to you that if we have every grant-in-aid person do that and we vote on everyone of them differently, I would promise you they will not be the votes to cut those grants-in-aid off for some. For most. So I'm saying, you know, to sit here and not hearing from those folks that are going to be hurt by this, I think is not a good thing and I think we need to be consistent. If we want to –, we say we're not going to cut anybody's budget until we hear them; we want to talk to them; we want to hear their side of the story. Well, let's do that with the grants-in-aid folks. Let's have everybody stand in that well and look you in the eye and then you push that red light or that green light when you find out what they do. But I think that to categorically say that we're going to cut out everything, we're going to take this one-size-fits-all mentality and we're going to take everyone of those grants-in-aid and we're going to say they're equally important or equally unimportant, I think, is irresponsible. I just don't think that's the right thing to do. If you want to have those folks come and vote on each one of those individually, I welcome that. Let's vote on every one of those grants-in-aid, a separate vote, and that's the way to do it. But have the folks here that tell you what that money's being spent for because that's what we say we want to do with department heads. We don't want to touch anybody's budget until we hear from them. That's been the big thing here. Let's hear from everybody. So yet now we want to vote today to cut off grants-in-aid and we haven't heard from a single person and we don't know how that money's going to be spent. We don't know who that money –, that's going to hurt. Let's find that out and then if we can in good conscience vote to oppose it, that's fine, wonderful, and we can sleep with ourselves at night. Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Odell said, we have a budget crisis and the reason we have a budget crisis, especially for our new member, Mr. McMasters, is that since 1996 we have reduced the millage. We have reduced it a minuscule amount each year. The impact of which is it's like a two mill reduction over that period of time. Concurrent with that we have taken from the unsecured fund, which we had about eight to twelve million dollars, we've taken from the catastrophic fund. We put us here. We put us here on the good intention that the money was better off if we could get by, if we could get by, we would reduce the millage rather than I having the money on our side of the street, then the citizens would have the money on their side of the street with the full expectation at some point we may have to come back and restore it to the millage rate it was in 1995 or '96. Unfortunately, things change. We got Rayno, Kicklighter and Gellatly now and those who envisioned that are not here. So we put us here. We, the Commission, put us here. Russ Abolt and his staff did not put us here by mismanagement. The constitutional officers, Al St. Lawrence did not put us here. We put us here. We did something that no business would do. I operate a business. I am not a governmental entity, I've never worked for the government, but I know I have to have sufficient money to operate a business. We did that. So grants-in-aid, I still believe and I think I heard it best, if you don't want to pay taxes or pay for services, then move to Ludowici. You don't get anything, you don't pay anything. Move to Ludowici. Commissioner Murray said, Ludowici [inaudible]. Commissioner Odell said, Frank [Murray] knows Ludowici. Chairman Hair said, make sure you're recording that as just one Commissioner's opinion, okay. Commissioner Odell said, that was a group decision led by Dr. Hair. Chairman Hair said, I like Ludowici myself. Commissioner Odell said, I won't fly over Ludowici. Not unless I can put on a white face, I ain't going through Ludowici. Not being brown. But on the serious side, and I don't mean that to Ludowici, and I didn't mean to disparage Ludowici, but my point is that if you live in a civilized, urban community –. Chairman Hair said, it's getting worse. Commissioner Odell said, no, but if you live in a community, you're going to pay taxes, and I think what we need to do as a Commission, is look at all of the things that we fund and then as a body –, this is a new body, make a decision as to things that we should not be funding from a precedent standpoint. And I know, Dean [Kicklighter], you have some. But we make a decision that will eliminate that from the budget. We can give those people notice and we can move forward. But just to cut them off, the Chairman is right on point. Let's have those people who –, and Frank [Murray] is right, they don't know how much money they're going to get, but they expected some funds –, that we have them to come before us and we look them in the eye, listen to their program, and we vote to cut or not cut because to do it otherwise says all things are equal and they're not equal.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was about to call, so I'll just –. Chairman Hair said, well, Commissioner Murray and then we'll call the question.

Commissioner Murray said, if it's all right with the second, since we're being labeled as not being compassionate, I would like to change that motion that we take out half of the funding in this new budget coming up and then the next year the funding is gone totally from it. If that's okay with the second. Chairman Hair said, second –, who seconded the motion? Commissioner Murray said, Jeff [Rayno] seconded the motion. Commissioner Rayno said, that's fine. Chairman Hair asked, Jeff [Rayno], do you accept the second? Commissioner Rayno said, that's fine. Chairman Hair said, okay the motion is –. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, and I understand what Harris [Odell] was saying about wanting the people to come up and talk, and I don't know that that's important at this point if we're not going to allow the police to come back and talk anymore based on some, so I don't know why we need to allow these other groups to come up and speak. It's fine if we do away with the budget workshops altogether and we just come up with a budget if that's what everybody wants to do.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion –. Commissioner Murray said, passes. Chairman Hair said, passes. Commissioner Murray said, so the grants-in-aid when you figure your budget will be half of what it was, Russ [Abolt].

Commissioner Rivers said, the budget is going to be half, cut in half. Chairman Hair said, the grants-in-aid budget they just cut it 50%. Commissioner Rivers said, they cut it 50% last year.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that for the FY2002-2003 budget grants-in-aid will be half of the amount budgeted for FY2001-2002 and that the grants-in-aid will be totally excluded from the budget for FY2003-2004. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Odell voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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5. FEES CHARGED TO BOARD OF EDUCATION (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, we're doing a lot of study on –. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno has the floor please. Commissioner Rayno said, the County has been incurring a lot of cost over the many years trying to collect revenue for different governmental entities, and one of those is the School Board. And the cost of running the BOA, starting there, and hiring more people to do re-evaluations and then sending the information over to the Tax Commissioner, and the cost of postage, and then appeals that have been going to the BOE, the cost of this government has been astronomical and other municipalities around the State have gone to the idea of charging for the full 2½% of the property tax collection cost. I make a motion right now that we apply to the School District a 2½% property tax collection fee. Commissioner Murray said, second.

Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I want to ask that y'all allow me to recuse myself on this thing because my wife is employed at the Board of Education and I –. Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion we recuse Mr. Kicklighter. Commissioner Murray asked, how do you feel about it? County Attorney Hart said, that is fine. Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion to recuse Commissioner Kicklighter. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second for discussion. Chairman Hair said, go ahead.

Commissioner Odell asked, are you saying that that is a legal reason for recusal? County Attorney Hart said, he can ask himself to recuse himself –. Commissioner Odell said, I know he –, I understood the question. But my question to you –. County Attorney Hart said, the weight is –. Commissioner Odell asked, and my attorney is whether or not that is a legal reason? County Attorney Hart said, you do not have to have a legal reason. You have to request the Commission to allow yourself to be recused and then it is up to the remaining members of the Commission to decide whether they wish –. Chairman Hair said, you have to –. You don't have to have a conflict? I thought you had to have a conflict. Commissioner Odell said, that's my impression. Chairman Hair said, I think –. You don't have to have a conflict? County Attorney Hart said, if you have a legal conflict you're automatically go to recusal. Chairman Hair said, but we've always voted on recusals in the past when they had a conflict.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, well let me, if I could on this, Mr. Rayno has been recused many times because he had a financial –. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, I'm not fighting you on this. Commissioner Kicklighter said, whatever. I have a –, in a sense, a financial. Half my income comes in from what y'all are about to vote on, so I would appreciate –. Commissioner Odell said, no, I'm going to vote with you, Dean [Kicklighter]. I just need to know what the foundation of the –. Chairman Hair said, I'm going to vote to recuse him, too, but I think, Mr. Hart, we need to be consistent about this. In the past the decision has always been we had to have a conflict to request recusal and it had to be –. County Attorney Hart said, well, I think he stated one though. Chairman Hair said, well –. County Attorney Hart said, that's my point. If the way you make your living is not a financial interest, I don't know what is. Commissioner Odell said, the way he makes his living, not the way his wife makes –. Commissioner Murray said, but his wife is fine because –. Commissioner Odell said, I don't care. I'm going to vote for Dean [Kicklighter] to recuse himself.

Chairman Hair said, all right, we're going to have –, we have a motion and second. This is to recuse Commissioner Kicklighter. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Now we have a vote to go to 2½% with a second.

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, before you proceed I just want to remind the Commission that this will require an amendment to the Revenue Ordinance. Commissioner Rayno said, that's fine. County Attorney Hart said, it will

require a first and second reading, but the action, you know, the motion is good. I just want you to know we'll have to come back with first and second readings. Commissioner Murray said, we can have the first reading next meeting and second reading -. County Attorney Hart said, yes.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes unanimously.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved that he be allowed to recuse himself from this issue because his wife is employed by the Board of Education and, therefore, has a financial interest. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved that the Board of Education be charged the full 2½% allowed by law for the property tax collection fee. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was recused from voting; Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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ORDER OF AGENDA

Pursuant to previous consent by the Board of Commissioners, Item IX-6 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

1. **BOARD CONSIDERATION OF FEES TO BE CHARGED AT TYBEE PIER AND ANALYSIS OF OTHER OPTIONS. Reconsideration requested by Commissioner Rivers at March 8, 2002 meeting. Tabled at the meeting of March 22, 2002.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not untabled for consideration by the Commissioners.

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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: AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,120 CONFISCATED FUNDS TO THE COUNTER NARCOTICS TEAM FOR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, A TRANSFER OF \$1,400 FROM THE 1993-1998 SPLOST, UNINCORPORATED ROADS RESERVE TO THE HUMANE SOCIETY PROJECT AND AUTHORIZATION FROM SSD CONTINGENCY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000 FOR TEMPORARY PUBLIC WORKS HEADQUARTERS.**

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

Commissioner Rayno asked, could we separate out the SPLOST thing for the --? Chairman Hair said, well you can --. Commissioner Rayno asked, Humane Society? Chairman Hair said, sure.

Commissioner Odell said, move for approval of the balance. Chairman Hair said, okay, balance of Item #1. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Unincorporated Roads Reserve to the Humane Society project and authorization from SSD Contingency in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for temporary Public Works. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, as I've said before, we should be paving County roads that need to be paved before we're paving the parking lot of a not for profit agency.

Chairman Hair said, John [McMasters], you need to vote. You have to have a vote. Commissioner Murray said, no, that's me, I didn't vote. What were voting on, I was talking? Commissioner Rayno said, it's an illegal use of SPLOST as far as I'm concerned. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a motion? Do you want to deny it? Make a motion to deny. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, anybody can make a motion. I don't --.

Commissioner Odell said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Do I have a second? Commissioner Murray asked, what are we --? Chairman Hair said, Unincorporated Roads Reserve to the Humane Society project and authorization from SSD Contingency in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to --. Chairman Hair said, I don't have a second so we don't need to --. Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute. That \$55,000 is going to move the --. Russ [Abolt], exactly what is that money going to be used for? I knew we had some problems over there, but aren't we getting ready to move them out of there pretty soon? Commissioner Rayno said, we're talking about the Humane Society right now. Commissioner Murray said, I thought you were on the \$55,000. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this money is to make a parking lot. County Manager Abolt said, to answer your question we have --, no, no. We had two issues. We do have a very serious issue in Public Works. Commissioner Murray said, it says Public Works headquarters. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we approved that. Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we've approved that one. But this issue is, what, transferring the money to build a parking lot at the Humane Society. Right? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. No, sir. What --, Mr. Chairman, may I speak? Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, thank you. You'll recall this was an issue that involved a great deal of evaluation on this Board's part having to do with not only constructing the facility at the Humane Society, but also at the Bamboo Farm. And at that time we were trying to work out something that would be appropriate for this Board to fund and not go too

far. Tom Coleman with GDOT had made certain offers relative to picking up the cost of the improvements at the Humane Society –, excuse me, at the Bamboo Farm. It was a global solution. At the same time, we committed to do more work at the Humane Society. You realized that there would also be benefit from the general public to the County facilities to the animal shelter. So the global solution was, in effect, which was global and by definition the Humane Society and Bamboo Farm, you all gave us direction to make a project, two projects that were complex but legal, and this is the consummation of a little bit of that project where, in effect, now through a change order we're doing what you told us to do.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell asked, Russ [Abolt], isn't this the same program that State Representative Ann Mueller came to us and spoke to us about? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and we, in essence, made an agreement with the State of Georgia if you'll do this, then we'll do this? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and we consummated that with Ann [Mueller]? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, that was all done. Commissioner Murray said, we're talking about the \$1,400.

Chairman Hair said, I need a motion. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed –. Commissioner Murray asked, are you making a motion to approve the \$1,400? Is that right? Commissioner Odell said, no, the \$55,000. Chairman Hair said, the \$55,000. Commissioner Rayno said, no. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, that was \$1,400. Commissioner Murray said, no, no, no, no. That's Public Works. \$1,400 is what it is out of SPLOST for the Humane Society. Commissioner Odell said, Unincorporated Roads Reserve to the Humane Society project and authorization from SSD Contingency in an amount not to exceed \$55,000. That's my motion. Chairman Hair said, that is the motion. That is the correct motion. Commissioner Odell said, and that is the agreement that we had made with the State of Georgia, we consummated with Ann Mueller who came before us, and we said, yes, State Representative Mueller, we will do this. Well, this is the time to do it.

Commissioner Murray said, I've got a question on the \$55,000 then. What is that \$55,000 going to be used for? County Manager Abolt said, temporary trailers to get our employees out of very serious –. Commissioner Murray asked, it's not going to have anything to do with the Humane Society? County Manager Abolt said, nothing at all, sir. Chairman Hair said, no.

Commissioner Rayno said, we've already approve that one anyhow. All I pulled out was the \$1,400. Commissioner Murray said, \$1,400, that's what I thought. County Manager Abolt said, and if I may, the \$1,400 is not the full amount of the change order. In managing the overall project, Mr. Bungard has to shift in \$1,400 to cover a total change order that he has, you know, money to do with the exception of that amount, but your change order is actually for just shy of \$17,000.

Commissioner Murray asked, let me ask. Has this work already been done? County Engineer Bungard said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, the work has already been done? And you do it and then come back to us and ask for approval? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's what you're doing. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Yes, sir, but you gave us the okay. You know, you all gave us the okay, as Commissioner Odell said –. Commissioner Murray said, we didn't give you a blanket check. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, but you told us to build certain things and that was before we knew the actual cost. This actually results in the actual cost.

Commissioner Rayno said, well, we shouldn't be doing projects not knowing what the cost is, and I said that before and I told you I'd like you to have a cost in hand and then come to the Board and ask for permission. But instead like he's saying, you do projects and then come back and say, oh, we've done it, approve it. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. No, sir. I disagree completely. Because in effect conceptually we were up here months and months and months and months ago, and the issue was will the County pay for parking lots, and we said no. What will the State of Georgia pay for it? Representative Mueller was here and there was a compromise, and former Senator Coleman came forward and was very generous. And the way the global solution was worked, you all gave us direction, and we said, okay, in the case of Bamboo Farm we'll do certain amount of money –, certain amount of work, and in the case of the Humane Society we'll do a little bit of work too. We described the project and there's no way of knowing, particularly when the initial contract was already let, what the exact dollars would be. We came up \$1,400 shy of the actual cost. Commissioner Rayno asked, well, isn't it amazing when a person has their driveway paved they can come up with an exact cost of what it's going to cost to pave that driveway? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. It's two different things. They're two different things because, in effect, you're talking months and months and months ago about a compromise and you always give us the –, the wiggle room, if you will, not to go out and bid something, not to go out and construct something in advance of you telling us it's okay to construct.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following: An appropriation of \$15,120 Confiscated Funds to the Counter Narcotics Team for protective equipment, and authorization from SSD Contingency in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for temporary Public Works headquarters. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following: A transfer of \$1,400 from the 1993-1998 SPLOST, Unincorporated Roads Reserve, to the Humane Society project. Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A CONTINUING RESOLUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2002, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003, TO ENABLE THE COUNTY TO CONTINUE TO FISCALLY OPERATE UNTIL THE FISCAL YEAR'S 2002-2003 BUDGET IS ADOPTED AND APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE BUDGET CALENDAR.**

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a continuing resolution for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, to enable the County to continue to fiscally operate until the fiscal year's 2002-2003 budget is adopted and approve amendment to the budget calendar. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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3. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE MILLAGE LEVY CALENDAR FOR TAX YEAR 2002 AND INFORMATION ON GEORGIA CODE § 48-5-32.1 EFFECTIVE 2000 ON "ROLL-BACK RATE."**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Commissioner Murray asked, so we're going to wait until July, the end of July of this? County Manager Abolt said, the motion you just passed –. Commissioner Murray asked, we'll be doing a continuing resolution? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. The motion you just passed, you're adopting the same position you've taken since you've had the new fiscal year. That's because you all want to in one meeting adopt the millage and also adopt the budget.

Chairman Hair said, the budget at the same time. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Rayno said, I never voted. It was never reset. Commissioner Odell said, it looks the same to me. Chairman Hair said, it looks the same to me. I didn't see the lights change. Commissioner Rayno said, I just like pushing the button.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the millage levy calendar for tax year 2002 and acknowledge receipt of information on Georgia Code § 48-5-32.1 effective 2002 on "roll-back rate." Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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4. **REVIEW OF FACILITIES RENTAL POLICIES. *Staff report will be distributed on Wednesday.***

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Mr. Monahan come forward on this. At I believe your last meeting you did decide to go back to what it was prior to a vote a few weeks before that when you said everybody will pay for the use of County facilities. And we did take your direction immediately and we implemented what had already been in place as far as your rental policies. And you also wanted us to come back and, in effect, describe for

you what those policies were. We have done that and that's what we're here today to either have you review at your convenience today or at a future time. We found some shortcomings as far as one of the community centers, but essentially we're just doing what you asked us to do. And the opportunity is for now you'd give us direction to do it differently or just receive it, knowing full well that "as is" is what we're now doing.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have any problems with it as is? I've looked it over. I think it's -. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't have any problem with going back to our regular process on that with that same structure that we had when it was on that list. Where I am having a bit of problem is going back and rewriting the usage ordinance for the -, to extend out into the community centers and everything else. What we're getting ready to do is eliminate people from using those facilities that have been using them since they were built just because of their title, and I think it's wrong to do that. They aren't in there campaigning, they aren't in there with a lot of controversial things going on. But just because a particular group that has been using the Whitmarsh Island Community Center, and has been using it since that center was built, if this policy is rewritten as it's going to be written, then they will be told, no, they cannot use that facility any more, and that's going to eliminate a number of people from using those facilities. So I'm opposed to going back and rewriting as that -, the way I understand it's going to be rewritten.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Patrick Monahan.

Mr. Monahan said, I think the question that Commissioner Murray raises relates to the use of the Whitmarsh Island Community Center for certain groups and actually what -. Commissioner Murray said, that's the one I'm aware of. Mr. Monahan said, what we're trying to do is liberalize that a little bit. In our application form we will state what the Commission's policy has been for the use of this meeting room for certain non -, not to allow certain religious uses and not to allow certain political uses. All we're asking the groups to do is to certify that the purpose of their meeting is not. For example, if the Democratic Club or the Republican Club wants to use the meeting [sic], and it's a general information meeting -, for example, if they have a guest speaker, if they invite the legislative delegation and all of them, that is -, that is a meeting that serves a public purpose. All we're asking them to do is say that it is not a politically -, the intent is not for some sort of political activity.

Chairman Hair said, you can't pass out campaign literature and things like that. Mr. Monahan said, right. That's what we're saying. For example, the Republican Club wanted to sponsor a training session for poll workers. That doesn't matter whether they're any political affiliation. That type of use should not be excluded. That's what we're saying.

Commissioner Murray said, all right, so either the republican or democratic or independent parties, whatever party they might be. Mr. Monahan said, right. As long as it's not for political purposes. Commissioner Murray said, and they don't have their regular business meetings in there. Mr. Monahan said, right, as long as it's for non-political purposes. That's all we're asking them to do is to sign a -. Commissioner Murray asked, who will interpret this because it's a different interpretation because it was interpreted to them wrongly because of what's in there right now? Mr. Monahan said, we're asking them just to -. Commissioner Murray said, and it only pertained to this building at the time. Mr. Monahan said, if the group signs it and there's not a question -, the County Manager would have the ultimate say-so on it, but normally it would just go to the -. Commissioner Murray said, well, I just want to make sure that if we agree to approve something like that and we've approved it, that you don't come back and interpret it a different way and say, "Oh, you can't use that." That's already happened. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Commissioner Murray said, yes, sir, it has happened. County Manager Abolt said, no, no -. Commissioner Murray said, you know it does and I know it does. County Manager Abolt said, I'm trying to disagree with you. I'm saying if -. Commissioner Murray said, well, I hope not. County Manager Abolt said, my intent was to communicate to you if a person puts their name on the line it's going to be used some way, I choose not to take exception with their veracity.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, any other questions? We're not asking for a vote today. We'll just bring it back. County Manager Abolt said, you all at the last time when there was that motion we're going to go back and charge, you also wanted to see what we were charging, and that's all we're doing. Chairman Hair said, right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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5. BOARD CONSIDERATION REGARDING BUDGET CONSULTANT.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, this was an issue that the Board asked us to be about soliciting for -, for the first time, namely -. Commissioner Odell said, some of the Board. Chairman Hair said, yeah, some of the Board. County Manager Abolt said, the majority of the Board at that time had asked us -. Commissioner

Murray said, I thought we still worked with a majority –. Commissioner Odell said, yeah. Commissioner Murray said, vote was what we went with. Maybe it's different than that. I don't know.

Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Mr. Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, a while back you –, some of you asked us to be about soliciting for budget services for you. This was the first time this was done because in the past obviously there has not been the introduction of any type of outside consultant to advise you in your budget deliberations. We did issue an RFP, which was appropriate based on the intent that we understood from a majority of you. The results of a solicitation are before you. Essentially, what we have is, for reasons that we attempt to record, the submittal of only one proposer. We have identified, as you will note in the staff report, a way in which you might be able to pay for that with an understanding that the services you receive would be relative to an essential in your mind to the budget you would adopt and that the expenditures of the cost of the consultant could be attributed to that budget. I do have, and Mr. Hart has addressed my concerns, but I still have a concern only in the standpoint of my responsibility, to advise you the only proposer, and it's a legitimate proposal from the standpoint of it's content, happens to also be our external auditor, and I just have a tad bit of uneasiness when it comes to an auditor who I've always felt –, not this auditor, but any external auditor –, should be apart from and certainly be at least arm's length from any type of audit work that he or she might contribute to from the standpoint of advising you on how to spend dollars.

Chairman Hair said, you know, we've had –. Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman. I'll save you time. I want to reject all proposals and all bids and drop the matter. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to reject all proposals and all bids and drop the matter of obtaining the services of a budget consultant. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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6. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A MASTER LIST OF PROJECTS FOR INCLUSION IN THE CONTINUATION OF THE ONE PERCENT SPECIAL PURPOSE LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (SPLOST) AND HOW TO INVOLVE OTHERS.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes. Thank you, Dr. Hair, gentlemen. This, as you recall, is the step following your initial consensus vote that you would like to proceed with submitting to the voters prior to October of 2003 another iteration of SPLOST. Staff has compiled for your reference a list of projects. By no way is this project list a recommendation. It's more or less of an inventory. There are substantive policy issues at hand. The first is how you choose, if you do choose, to solicit projects from municipalities, and then the second major issue, if you were to look at precedent, would you desire to have a public hearing or maybe a series of public hearings wherein the community might come forward and also suggest projects.

Commissioner Rivers said, you've got more projects on here than the law allows.

Chairman Hair said, I'm quite frankly more concerned about how we winnow the list than I am of how we increase the list. I mean, you know, at some point there's going to have to be some judgments made as to which ones to include and which ones to throw out because Commissioner Rivers is correct, but you're going to have a lot more project than you're going to have money. And so I think that's a more critical process is how do we take the project that are listed or the ones that Commissioners might add, and how do we objectively go through there and see which ones are going to get five votes and which ones aren't.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, let me –, I know the Chairman's wrestling with this. We have taken at staff level a very different task from last times, and that's five years ago and then five years before that. In the past staff has been passive, and the fact it's usually been someone else. It's been a special interest group and it's been other communities saying that we've got to do something in certain areas. And then staff, along with that solicitation of projects, has said, oh, listen to us, listen to us, we've got some projects. In this case, because in a lot of people's opinion I don't want to be self-serving, that has been short –, it has been shorting the County as an organization and as a government. So this time we come forward with our list in advance, and that's the only reason it's here now.

Chairman Hair said, I would suggest the way to move forward is that individual Commissioners, I think, probably have projects that they would like to add to the list, and let's make sure that that opportunity is given first, and then we have

a list that I think we could go to public hearings on at that point, and then try to take the input from the public hearings and then decide which ones stay and which ones go. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I've always been opposed to SPLOST because of the huge amounts of pork that have been added into the programs, and I think the most important thing for this County is infrastructure. And I would make a motion today that we would go with just roads and drainage with the exception of adding in the Tom Triplett Park simply because it's a project that's been included in past ones, it's hugely underfunded and in disrepair right now and needs to be fixed because of the roads on the Westside, so my motion is that just include roads and drainage and also the Tom Triplett Park program, and we need to probably put a cap on the amount of money on the Tom Triplett Park, no more than what was spent on past referendums.

Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, if I may –, I will second it if I get you to add will –, in that motion say roads, streets and bridges and drainage. Commissioner Rayno said, yeah, that's fine. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, because that covers all sections of that. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, sir. That's fine. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and second. Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Rivers first.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, you know, when you single out one park and you have several other parks that has been in here since the beginning that needs funding, Mother Matilda Beasley Park is no way entered in here, and that is a beginning project, unfinished project, and it'll be an ongoing project, so when you start considering and singling out one park versus the other and other projects, then I don't agree with that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. I think it needs to be kept to a minimum this time also, and the roads, streets and bridges and drainage. I notice, Russ [Abolt], under "Open Space, Greenway & Bikeway" that some of those items that would be covered, I think one of them has got Triplett Park under there, Phase III, but on all of the items except for one, it says, "Cost estimate not provided." What kind of cost do we have estimated? County Manager Abolt said, sir, what we've done is we just –. Commissioner Murray asked, do you have costs? County Manager Abolt said, you take –, I don't want to go [inaudible] what she's going to say because I have not seen it. It's not our intent to do a detailed analysis as to cost unless we get some direction. We literally could spend hours and hours and hours of time assuming that certain things might be included, and that would be a waste of time. My preference would be, if you're going the way the Chairman and others have suggested right now is, if you limit to certain categories, then we'll then devote the time to being relatively more specific than we are right now, but I would prefer that you would not assume that today, either through myself or anybody else in the audience, who could give you good figures. That's the mistake you made –. Commissioner Murray said, well, I will assure you, I'm not going to assume anything on this one. County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Commissioner Murray said, and, you know, you've got County Bikeway Program. Before I can vote for something like that, I want to know what –, where this bikeway program's going to go, what we're going to have on it and where it's going to cover. Tom Triplett Park, Phase III, I want to know what it's going to cost to do Phase III. So, you know, those are the ones I would support right now, but I would not support certain projects being on there until I know what the cost is going to be on those projects and where certain projects will be done.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I think that in order for SPLOST to be passed, then you have to have a broad segment of the community that see it a personal benefit. I am personally concerned that the way the motion is stated as far as Tom Triplett Park, I've got several parks in the Fifth District, but I can't support the motion the way it's stated. I think it's geared to eliminate services for a lot of the districts. If that's the desire, then fine.

Chairman Hair said, I also will oppose this motion. I just think that if you want to –, if this motion passes today and is upheld two weeks from now, I can guarantee you SPLOST will be defeated at the polls. And if that's the purpose of the motion, then fine, but I will promise you that if this motion passes and if it's upheld two weeks, SPLOST will not pass the voters. Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Kicklighter. Commissioner Gellatly said, Billy [Hair], I was –. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think when we look at projects throughout the County, I think what Commissioner Odell said is a key part that –, of my thinking that he didn't even realize he said. He has several parks in his district. I have one nasty, Port-o-Let filled park out on the Westside that was supposed to be a nice thing. One out there for all those cities on the Westside. Now we have the other park out off of Bush Road there, but that's not any of the four cities out on the Westside. I have one park that Chatham County's done. And I want to state this. If we move forward coming up in the future on some suggestions I've heard of no canal maintenance and no letting the cities pay to put the people in the jail, those Westside might as well become their own county because all they'll get is mosquito spray and dog catching. That's all their taxes will be going for. I'm here to tell you, and that's honestly –, it's no laughing matter. We get nothing, we get zero out of Chatham County on the Westside. We don't. We don't have five parks out there. We get, you know –, so you started a project a while back on the Westside, you said it was going to be nice. I ask you to please let's –, in the future let's let this one thing become decent at least. And, I mean, you know, whatever we have to cut, let's finish what you started. Y'all didn't go payments and segments on your Aquatic Center

in Savannah. You finished it. You didn't do your segments on your beautiful park out --, what's the name of the pretty park out there, the nice one? Lake Mayer. It's great. You didn't phase in the pier out there. You didn't build it and then wait ten years to put a roof on it. You know, you phase in the Westside projects, and now you're talking about stopping my project. Let's complete my project and, you know, move forward.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Gellatly. Commissioner Gellatly said, no, I didn't have --. Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, oh, you didn't? Commissioner Gellatly said, I was trying to make sure that --. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, okay. Commissioner Odell?

Commissioner Odell said, just for the record and to clarify so that Dean [Kicklighter] will understand. We have several parks, but only one park was built by the County. The other parks in the Fifth District were built by the City of Savannah. The County has only built one and that is in Tatumville. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I was jealous. I share that. Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, Commissioner --? Commissioner Odell said, I'm not finished. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, I was asking if you were finished. Go ahead. Commissioner Odell said, I'm not. We need to make a decision as to whether or not we want broad base support. I think that we do need to look at roads, bridges, canals, but this is an opportunity for projects to be achieved where visitors will pay upwards of 50% to 60% of the cost of those projects. And I think, and I think historically it's shown that you will need a broad base support. I do not think that this motion provides that broad base support. And I think if you only expect to fund one park, then --, although I've not been active politically in the past, I will actively seek to defeat the passage of SPLOST.

Commissioner Rayno said, you could join STOP. Commissioner Odell asked, pardon me? Commissioner Rayno said, you could join Stop Taxing Our People. Commissioner Odell said, no, they don't take --, no.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, are you through? Commissioner Odell said, no, I'm not through. I've finished though, but I'm --. Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, I certainly spent a lot of time in District Three recently and the assessment that I get from those residents or the things that are important to them are infrastructure. The park in these financial times is something that they're not willing to stand up for, vote for and advocate. So you can advocate as much as you want against it. The people that I've spoken to are very concerned about the financial integrity of this County and the way we manage ourselves. If they want to tax themselves, I'll tell you, it's only for must-have things. That's the prevailing trend and feeling. That may change as we bring our County back to financial balance, but for the time being, this is what I perceive for my district. I'll work hard for it. I want to commend Commissioner Kicklighter for fighting for his district for something that was started that wasn't finished. It was mishandled, and I have no problem supporting that.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay. Let me --, let me first say this. I'd like for everybody to understand the SPLOST, and I'm going to ask Jon [Hart] for a legal question. Is that park without that fifth year penny, can we do it? Can we add a recreational project to the four-year run of bridges and roads? Do you understand what I'm saying? See, the SPLOST, the first four years would be for roads and bridges. The separation of that fifth year penny is for recreation and cultural projects or whatever we may want to do. Am I correct on that? Chairman Hair said, you are correct, Commissioner Rivers, I think that's a very good question. Commissioner Rivers asked, we don't have that fifth year penny anymore that --? Give me some clear [inaudible]. County Manager Abolt said, that's a very valid question. Chairman Hair said, it certainly is. County Manager Abolt said, we would have to research. I don't think it's as you describe it. I don't think it has to do with collecting the fifth year exclusively for that, but I think it allows you to extend a five-year collection period if you include more than just roads and drainage. County Attorney Hart said, and bridges. County Manager Abolt said, that's a major gotcha there. We have to check that. County Attorney Hart said, yeah, and you may be able to --. Commissioner Rivers said, I would like to know because when --, initially it was roads and bridges --. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Commissioner Rivers said, that's it. County Attorney Hart said, for four years. Commissioner Rivers said, four years, roads and bridges. And if I'm wrong on that, then I need to be corrected. County Attorney Hart said, we need to look at that. That's a very valid point. They rewrote part of that act. Now, in deference to Triplett Park, you still might be able to fit it under that cultural/historical situation because that land --, tract of land when we acquire it, if you recall, had a large section of it where Sherman's army camped for months and they actually have tent grounds and all that out there. Part of that will never get developed, but part of that plan includes walking tours and things of that nature. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. County Attorney Hart said, but you're correct about --. Commissioner Rivers said, and we go back to the point of --, you see, and I have to come back to history for you new folks. See, we were developed --, supposed to develop two parks, two large major parks. One on the Westside and one on the Eastside. The land was given to us by Union Camp. The one on the Eastside was negated because the residents didn't want it out there. So that left an emptiness out there as far as recreation goes. We got Triplett in, we got Runaway Point in, Phase One. Phase One over here. I've got a park in my district, Mother Matilda Beasley Park, Phase One. And if we're going to look at phases of parks, then we need to look at all of those parks that were Phase One, going to Phase Two, going to Phase Three. That's --, that's justification. Okay? Now I will tell you in my district and in the City of Savannah they felt very left out on projects done within the inner city, the beneficial [sic] of inner city children. And if we don't get anything out of SPLOST to benefit children, and you talk about cutting grants-in-aid, which means you're going to cut some funds out of vital places that we take care of children and preoccupy children, then we're going to have problems in other places along the line. Nevertheless, we still have to do what we're going to do. Triplett, what is good for the goose is going to have to be good for the gander.

Chairman Hair said, you know, it's interesting that –, how this discussion is going forward. I made the statement a while ago that if this motion were to pass with roads, bridges and drainage without Triplett Park, it would fail. So isn't it interesting that we add Triplett Park to get a vote to pass, and it'll pass now because we've got a vote, but we did –, if we didn't need that vote would we have put Triplett Park in there, because without Triplett Park Commissioner Kicklighter is going to vote against this, but with Triplett Park he's going to vote for it. That's exactly what's going to happen to the voters. That's why I said it's a sure thing this will go down in flames, and if that's –, that's fine if that's what the voters want, it should go down in flames. I have no problem with that. But I think we're playing games up here that we all of a sudden have a motion that's a pure motion of roads, bridges and drainage, but all of a sudden to get one more vote to pass, we throw in a park. And we say we're opposed to pork, but that's what it is. It's pork, but it just happens to be pork in a certain district and pork to get a vote to pass this motion. The motion's going to be five to three. Commissioner Rivers asked, what's wrong with [inaudible]? Chairman Hair said, but, you know, that's the point that I'm making, you know, and it just verifies what I said a while ago that if this motion passes, even with Triplett Park, it's still going to go down in flames. And that's fine, but I just want to make sure everybody knows what we're doing here, and that's exactly what we're doing. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to say I don't look at it as pork, I look at it as equality. Equal districts. Chairman Hair said, well, if it's equality, then why don't we add a park in the other districts? Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, because I believe we –, we have brick pavers in here for Savannah. We do little projects like that all the time. We have soccer complexes in Savannah. We have swimming pools in Savannah. We have all kinds of great things. Weightlifting facilities that annually cost us \$800,000 a year to run three different facilities. Pork, pork, pork. Chairman Hair asked, why do these –. Commissioner Kicklighter said, let's finish something in West Chatham County. That's equality. It's not going to cost more to maintain because we're already mowing that grass out there. That's not it. This is sheer to bring equal treatment into the districts here.

Chairman Hair asked, everybody ready to vote. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, you know, I would like to know, and I want to know when we will get the information, on what will stipulate a four -year or a five-year referendum. I'm not opposed to going back to a four-year referendum to do these projects that are essential to this community. And if we decide later on we need to move it on to the fifth year, the next referendum can be done that way. I don't know whether the votes are there to do that or not, but I'm certainly willing to go with strictly those projects that we have to do on a four-year referendum, which are roads and drainage and those type things, but I want to know an answer on that, and I think we need to know that answer before we vote on this today.

County Attorney Hart said, and I'm going to look at it. That's all I can tell you. Commissioner Murray said, so I would move that table this until the next meeting. Commissioner Rivers said, second.

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

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart. County Attorney Hart said, one other issue in regard to this matter that I would invite the Commission to look at between now and the next Commission meeting is a memo that I did of March 21, 2002, to the City Manager –, oh, excuse me, County Manager in regard to the SPLOST referendum and possible refinancing and restructuring some of our debt, and primarily that we have an opportunity, if we elected to do, is to bring in some of the money from the Mighty Eighth and from the Henderson Golf Course and consider the possibility of refinancing that through SPLOST. Number one, it may give us the opportunity to lower the amount of debt service on that; and, two, it would wipe out a recurring debt that you have in your budget every year; and, number three, about 40% of that debt structure would be financed by tourists and out-of-town people. So I would invite you, and I'll make copies after the meeting of that memo, to look at category one. It's a memo of March 22nd from the County Manager to y'all. That's something that's going to need some consideration and some further study on our part, but in order to do it we need to really think about it. That's all I have to say.

Commissioner Rivers asked, do we need a motion to do that? Chairman Hair said, we don't need a motion to do that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to state, Mr. Chairman, if there's parks that were started with phases on there, I'm not –, won't oppose finishing any project like that started. Chairman Hair said, well, we have –, we'll discuss it in two weeks. It will come back up in two weeks. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well, that's –. Chairman Hair said, and you can add whatever you need to add.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved that SPLOST referendum just include roads, bridges and drainage and Tom Triplett Park. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion.
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table this issue until the next meeting. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMaster voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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7. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE ABATEMENT OF DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES ON 39 PARCELS OWNED BY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN THE TREMONT PARK AREA FOR CONVEYANCE TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH FOR DRAINAGE PROJECTS. [DISTRICT 8.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize abatement of delinquent property taxes on 39 parcels owned by Habitat for Humanity in the Tremont Park area for conveyance to the City of Savannah for drainage projects. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair said, that takes us to the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rayno? Commissioner Odell asked, Jeff [Rayno], which ones? We wait. Commissioner Rivers said, Martin -, oh. Commissioner Rayno said, there's no comparison. Chairman Hair said, go ahead, Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Murray said, I would like to move that we pull everything? Chairman Hair asked, which ones? Commissioner Murray said, all of them. Commissioner Rayno said, D. Chairman Hair asked, you want to move them all -, vote on all of them individually? Commissioner Murray said, well, he just -, no, no, no, no, no. Chairman Hair said, that's what I just said, which ones do you want to pull? Give me which ones you want to pull. Commissioner Rayno said, D, please. Chairman Hair said, D, okay. Commissioner Rayno said, G. Chairman Hair said, G. Commissioner Rayno said, and -, that's it.

Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Murray, which ones do you want to pull? Commissioner Murray said, I didn't. I was making a motion to approve. Chairman Hair said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, motion to approve -. Commissioner Rivers said, second. Chairman Hair said, go ahead.

County Manager Abolt said, please. I wanted to point out, only because of the currency of the subject, you'll notice on Item 4 you are approving your grants-in-aid contracts for this year. You've already given direction on the allocations. It's taken a while for the agencies to execute those contracts. But only because of your discussion a few minutes ago, I wanted to point out to you that fact I also want to point out for you on your purchasing report that we're doing as Commissioner Murray requested on those construction projects where in effect there was SPLOST inclusion. We have identified to the best of our ability and scribed the genesis of any project that the folks voted on and how the cost of the project is now what it is. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to pull L also.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Let's go ahead and vote before some more are pulled. Motion and second to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 1 through 11-N, with the exception of Items 11-D, 11-G and 11-L. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2002, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 12, 2002, as mailed. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 17, 2002.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 4, 2002, through April 17, 2002, in the amount of \$1,467,991. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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3. COMCAST MERGER RESOLUTION. (NOTE: Mr. Autry, General Manager for Comcast, will be present.) NOTE: This item will be postponed until County's consultant completes review.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to receive as information a status report on the plans of Comcast Corporation and AT&T to combine their cable systems into a new company, AT&T Comcast Corporation. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE GRANTS-IN-AID CONTRACTS FOR THE FY2002 APPROPRIATIONS FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCIES AND EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM 90 TO 180 DAYS FOLLOWING THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the following grants-in-aid contracts for the FY2002 appropriations for Cultural Affairs and Human Services agencies and extend the deadline for submission of audited financial statements from 90 to 180 days following the end of the fiscal year: Cultural Affairs - Coastal Heritage \$1,700, Community Change for Youth Development \$4,750, Georgia Historical Society \$9,320, Greater Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame \$850, Historic Savannah Foundation \$1,600; King-Tisdell \$5,000, Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum \$1,450, Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum \$3,900, Savannah Sailing Center \$3,600, Savannah Symphony \$15,650, Science Alliance \$1,6;50, Telfair Museum \$8,100, Tybee Arts Association \$1,040, Tybee Island Science Center \$4,250, Veterans Council \$2,000, Total Cultural Affairs \$64,860; Human Services - Ashtree \$5,000, CARC \$5,000, CASA \$1,000, Citizens Advocacy \$5,000, Coastal Children's Advocacy \$4,000, Community in School \$5,000, EOA \$15,950, Fair Housing Council \$1,000, Frank Callen \$8,000, Georgia Legal Services \$8,000, Hope House \$2,500, Hospice-Savannah \$4,000, LIFE \$10,000, MedBank Foundation \$13,000, Open Arms \$4,000, Parent & Child Development \$18,000, Rape Crisis Center \$15,000, Royce Learning Center \$2,000, Safe Shelter \$5,000, Salvation Army \$4,000, Savannah Association for the Blind \$10,000, Savannah Runaway Home \$5,000, Second Harvest Food Bank \$5,000, Senior Citizens \$10,000, STEPS \$5,000, Summer Bonanza \$3,000, Union Mission \$4,000, Wesley Community Centers \$5,000, West Broad YMCA \$9,000, West Chatham YMCA \$8,000, Youth Futures \$60,000, Total Human Services \$259,450. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE ANNUAL RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF THE E-911 AND WIRELESS ENHANCED E-911 CHARGES.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the annual resolution to reaffirm the necessity of the E-911 monthly charge of \$1.50 per exchange access facility and the wireless enhanced E-911 monthly charge of \$1.00 per wireless connection. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION TO BE THE LEAD APPLICANT ON BEHALF OF THE COASTAL GEORGIA GREENWAY STEERING COMMITTEE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS FOR REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve a resolution to be the lead applicant on behalf of the Coastal Georgia Greenway Steering Committee to the Department of Community Affairs for regional assistance program funding. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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7. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: BELINDA F. FLANIGAN, D/B/A THE CRAB SHACK AT CHIMNEY CREEK, LOCATED AT 40-A ESTILL HAMMOCK ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Belinda F. Flanigan, d/b/a The Crab Shack at Chimney Creek, located at 40-A Estill Hammock Road, for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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8. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: NANCY LUCKEY, D/B/A DOC & BENNIE'S LOCATED AT 216 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Nancy Luckey, d/b/a Doc & Bennie's located at 216 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for renewal of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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9. REQUEST FOR BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING AND SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: HERMAN RUDOLPH SHIRA, JR., D/B/A THE ISLANDER, LOCATED AT 221 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Herman Rudolph Shira, Jr., d/b/a The Islander, located at 221 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for beer, wine and liquor pouring and Sunday sales license for 2002. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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10. REQUEST FROM TAX COMMISSIONER FOR BOARD APPROVAL OF QUITCLAIM DEED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to execute a quitclaim deed on the following property, the indebtedness to Chatham County on delinquent taxes having been satisfied: Herbert Owens, PIN 20063-28021, \$2,400.63. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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11. 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. Third renewal option to annual contract to provide wrecker service	•Fleet Operations •Police	Sapp's Wrecker Service	No charge for County vehicles	N/A
B. Declare items as surplus and authorize disposal in accordance with policy	Purchasing	N/A	N/A	Revenue Producing

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
C. Software and hardware maintenance service agreement	ICS	Xiotech (sole source)	\$13,095.75	General Fund/M&O - ICS
D. First renewal option to annual contract to provide auditing services	Finance	Karp, Ronning, Arkin and Tindol	\$105,000	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
E. Software modification	Assessor	Terra Soft Systems	\$16,640	General Fund/M&O - Assessor
F. Contract for the construction for the Technology and Engineering Campus Road at Crossroads Business Center project	Engineering	Triangle Construction	\$2,072,360.35	•GDOT •SEDA •City of Savannah (100% reimbursable)
G. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Humane Society paving project for additional work	SPLOST	ARCO, Inc.	\$16,924.88	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Roads Reserve (pending Board approval of transfer)
H. Change Order No. 16 to the contract to perform hydraulic analysis of the Pipemakers Canal for additional services	SPLOST	EMC Engineering	\$10,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Pipemakers Canal
I. Contract for the pruning of 57 trees in the southern and western portions of the County	Engineering	Historic Tree Preservation	\$23,660	Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance
J. Professional services contract to provide instruction to and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court in a community service work program	Juvenile Court	Rhonda Ancrum	\$14 per hour	Supervision fees collected by Juvenile Court
K. Self propelled riding slope mower	Public Works	Kut-Kwick	\$38,679.12	CIP - Fleet Operations
L. Four (4) 40-yard open top containers	Solid Waste	Lewis Steel	\$10,940	Solid Waste Restricted Expenditure
M. Annual software maintenance	ICS	Palmetto Micro-film Systems (sole source)	\$14,923	General Fund/M&O - ICS
N. Change Order No. 8 to the contract for Hutchinson Island Utilities for additional services	Hutchinson Island Water and Sewer	Southern Champion	\$22,163	SPLOST (1993-1998)

As to Items 11-A through 11-N, except 11-D, 11-G and 11-L:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 11-A through 11-N, except Items 11-D, 11-G and 11-L. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

As to Item 11-D:

First renewal option to annual contract to provide auditing services; Finance; Karp, Ronning, Arkin and Tindol; \$105,000; General Fund/M&O - Various, SSD - Various.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, last year at the same meeting at this time Commissioner Murray and I were the only ones that voted against this company. I know that Mr. Kicklighter was pleased with the services in Garden City, and Martin Jackel commented at the time that because they were local and they were around, we could ask them questions, but my concerns about this company was the fact that they were the higher bidder at the time. The other company came in \$40,000 less than what they did. The scoring system that the staff used scored this firm higher simply because they've used them in the past, which is an unfair scoring system, and if you took that score away, they would have been equal competitors for the bid, and \$40,000. And it was my contention at the time that the company known as Moore, Stephens and Tiller would have been as good if not better than this current company we're using simply because it would be a fresh set of eyes to look at the budget and tell us where things are wrong. And if you look at these CAFR's, which is what they're responsible for doing the auditors, they're basically the same document year after year, and for the life of me I

can't figure out why it costs this company \$40,000 more to have something that's pretty much a template for them and they fill it in. It's like going to my accountant, he fills in the blanks and my taxes are done at the end of the year. For the auditors it's the same thing. Why does it cost the auditor \$40,000 more when a competitor can come in and do it for \$40,000 less with a fresh set of eyes? And they keep pointing out the same things every year in the criteria section that there's decentralized problems with the collection of revenue, which happens in the courts. If they're around all the time, why don't they go over to the courts and keep an eye on that and fix the problem? And they also talk about many other things, like reconciling the books, our Finance Department wasn't reconciling the books until the end of the year, which caused us a little bit of a budget problem. Didn't it? Why weren't they around to stop that problem from happening? With a fresh set of eyes and not so comfy with all the staff, people are going to be a little bit on edge and if you want to shake up the system, you bring in new people. That's why I think it's wrong to go back with this firm one more time.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno, I think it's unfair to the staff to say that --, to make a statement that they're --, this might be comfy with the staff when we have no evidence of that. I think it's unfair to the staff to make that statement.

Commissioner Odell asked, may I ask Jeff [Rayno] a question? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Odell said, the current proposal is this year \$40,000 less, Jeff [Rayno]? Commissioner Rayno said, no, it was the first year --. Commissioner Murray said, no, it's not put in [inaudible] this year, it doesn't look like. Commissioner Rayno said, we went with the one that was higher. It was an option for two remaining years after that to go with the firm, and they went up --, they increase their value every year. I think it was based on CPI, if I'm not mistaken.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, so are you recommending that we rebid this or something? Commissioner Rayno said, yeah, I'd like to rebid it. I mean, they can come back and rebid again if they'd like, but we only had two proposals last year.

Chairman Hair said, just make a motion. Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion we rebid this. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Commissioner Murray asked, what was --, what was the total they charged us last year? Commissioner Rayno said, \$97,500. County Manager Abolt said, yeah, the actual proposal you received, as said in the staff report, covered a three-year period of \$310,700.

Chairman Hair said, all in favor of rebidding vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Kicklighter 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: Commissioners Gellatly and Thomas were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

* * *

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, just a procedural, we need specific action on your part. Mr. Kaigler regarding the re-proposing on audits --.

Mr. Michael Kaigler said, yes, sir. Because of the length of time it's going to require to get this solicitation out and get an approval, I need authorization to request that they go on a month-to-month until we get a new contract in place. Commissioner Rayno said, that's fine.

Commissioner Odell said, so moved. Chairman Hair said, so moved. Commissioner Rivers said, second. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

As to Item 11-G:

Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Humane Society paving project for additional work; SPLOST; ARCO, Inc.; \$16,924.88; SPLOST (1993-1998) - Unincorporated Roads Reserve (pending Board approval of transfer).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, we should not be paving parking lots when we could be paving dirt roads that exist in the County.

Chairman Hair asked, do you want to make a motion to deny? Commissioner Rayno said, no. Chairman Hair said, okay. Make a motion to approve then. Somebody needs to --. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve and I'll state the reason. We've committed to do this --. Commissioner Rayno said, it was a wrong commitment. Commissioner Odell said, I agree. But, nevertheless, we did and we did it for Ann Mueller, our State Representative, in consideration of other things. I think it's fair we honor our agreement. Commissioner Murray said, second. That's for the --, to extend the pavement on up to the County property on a County building, wasn't it? Chairman Hair said, that's correct. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

As to Item 11-L:**Four (4) 40-yard open top containers; Solid Waste; Lewis Steel; \$10,940; Solid Waste Restricted Expenditure.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, at the time when the Commission by consensus voted to expand the Sharon drop-off center to a larger facility, I asked the purchasing person at the time where it was and he didn't even know where it was, and at that time I voted against this facility because I didn't think they had any justification at the time we expanded the facility, and so the fact that they want 40-yard open top containers I continue my opposition to them expanding this facility. I go out to the one on Wilmington Island now. They've expanded that. It works great out there, but I don't have the same kind of feeling for the Sharon Park drop-off center.

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

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion. What district is this? Commissioner Kicklighter said, mine, Seventh. Chairman Hair said, seventh, yes.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, is it highly used? I mean -. County Manager Abolt said, yeah, we're expanding -, well -.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kaigler [sic] -. Mr. Kaigler said, it's in the -. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Kaigler, I'm sorry. I elevated you. I think I demoted you actually, but -. Mr. Kaigler said, it's in Commissioner Kicklighter's district. It's off of Highway 80 on Kelly Hill Road.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Drewry, you've got -, he's the Public Works. Okay, we have a motion to approve and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The Clerk asked who seconded the motion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll second. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 11-A through 11-N, except Items 11-D, 11-G and 11-L. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to rebid Item 11-D. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Kicklighter 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: Commissioners Gellatly and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner Odell moved that, as to Item 11-D, the current contract with Karp, Ronning, Arkin and Tindol continue on a month-to-month basis until a new contract is bid and approved. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
4. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 11-G. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
5. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Item 11-L. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

Proposed changes to ordinances must be read or presented in written form at two meetings held not less than one week apart. A vote on the following listed matters will occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Comments, discussion and debate from members of the public will be received only at the meeting at which a vote is to be taken on one of the following listed items.

- 1. THE PETITIONER, HORIZON INDUSTRIAL PARK, LLC, NICK E. BELL, MANAGER, IS REQUESTING REZONING 3110 OGEECHEE ROAD FROM AN M (MANUFACTURING) CLASSIFICATION TO A B-C (COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) AND I-L (LIGHT-INDUSTRIAL) CLASSIFICATIONS TO ESTABLISH A GROCERY STORE, CONVENIENCE STORE, WAREHOUSES, OFFICE SPACE, AND HIGHWAY BUSINESS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-020206-52314-1
[DISTRICT 8.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

- 1. A TEXT AMENDMENT TO AMEND SECTION 2, DEFINITIONS, SECTION 4-1, ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS, SECTION 4-6.5, PLANNED DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, AND SECTION 4-6.6, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-001212-53756-1

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve a text amendment to Section 2, Definitions, Section 4-1, Establishment of Districts, Section 4-6.5, Planned Development District, and Section 4-6.6, Planned Unit Development Ordinance, of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance pertaining to the establishment of planned development districts in the Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 2. AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW EXISTING ACCESSORY STRUCTURES TO BE USED SECONDARY RESIDENCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH A MEDICAL HARDSHIP. THE MPC RECOMMENDED DENIAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-011228-55053-1

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion to deny it. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to **deny** an amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to allow existing accessory structures to be used as secondary residences for individuals with a medical hardship. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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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 reports received as information.

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4. **STATUS OF THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS.**

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 Kicklighter and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 10:55 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:38 a.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:39 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