

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 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, August 9, 2002.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Chairman Hair 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 Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two John J. McMasters, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five David M. Gellatly, District Six B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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Chairman Hair said, I want to make an announcement prior to getting in the public hearing. For the first time today our meetings are being broadcast live and they also will be broadcast repeatedly on the scheduled days. I want to thank Pete [Nichols] for this. He put a lot of work in this effort, and I think it's a good service to the community having our meetings broadcast live.

Commissioner Murray said, we can't have it edited before it goes out. Chairman Hair said, that's correct. That's mainly the reason I'm putting it out there.

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**PUBLIC HEARING AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE ON THE COUNTY'S 2002 MILLAGE LEVY. *This must be held at 9:00 a.m.***

Chairman Hair said, now according to law, I'll open the public hearing as required by the State on the County's 2002 millage. We'll be discussing the budgets later, but this is a hearing on the millage increase. Would anyone like to speak to the millage rate? [NOTE: No one responded.] Chairman Hair said, hearing none I'll declare the public hearing closed.

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## V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### 1. PROCLAMATIONS TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY 14 AND UNDER FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, it is important that we recognize talented youth in our community, and in that regard, we salute with great pride, team members of the Chatham County 14 and Under Fast-Pitch Softball Team; and

**WHEREAS**, on Saturday, July 13, 2002 the All Star Team, composed of core members of the Chatham County Hurricanes, a team that has played together for four years, won the GRPA Class A State Championship in LaGrange, Georgia; and

**WHEREAS**, this Chatham County All Star team is the first Chatham County all star team to win a State Softball Championship since 1992; and

**WHEREAS**, the head coach, David Elliott, assistant coaches George Richter and Thurman Watts, are to be commended for producing a winning team of this caliber; and,

**WHEREAS**, Lynette Black, Margaret Elliott, Jaynes Franklin, Amber Haupt, Jessica Hodges, Jessica Lady, Meagan Leary, Victoria Richter, Emily Roche, Jessica Sherrod, and Amanda Watts, team members, are the first Chatham County All Star team to win a state fast pitch title.

**NOW THEREFORE**, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Commissioners of Chatham County, do hereby proclaim Friday, August 9, 2002, as:

#### **"FAST PITCH CHAMPS DAY"**

in Chatham County and extend an invitation to all citizens to join us in extending our congratulations to the Chatham County Hurricanes.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August 2002.

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Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Mr. David Elliott, Coach, said, my name is David Elliott and my claim to fame so far up until this point was coaching Dean Kicklighter in football back in the early 80's. And I'd like to take the –, you can blame me for the way Mr. Kicklighter has turned out, my coaching him on the football field. Dean, it's good to see you. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it's good to see you. Coach Elliott said, I know you've been going through the budget process and I know budgets are tight. They're tight everywhere. My plea is just to –, the future of Chatham County is in the youth, and we may have some County Commissioners here, like Mr. Kicklighter was several years ago. My plea is just to remember the future. These young people are our future and we're molding today what they will be facing tomorrow. So I'd like to thank Mr. Lipsey with the Chatham County Recreation Commission [sic] and Vicki Blumberg. Let's see, I don't want to leave anybody out. Frank Dewitt, who traveled with us to LaGrange. They have bent over backwards for me as a coach. Anything I've wanted, they've always been there for us, and I just want to commend them on the great job that they're doing with the limited budget they have the Recreation Department. Mr. Hair, we'd like to present you with one of our championship jerseys. At the next Commission meeting we're going to be watching on TV to make sure you're wearing it. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. I appreciate that. Commissioner Rivers asked, are you going to let him play? Commissioner Kicklighter said, he has time to go change now. Chairman Hair said, they don't want me playing, I can tell you that.

Coach Elliott said, this journey started for us several years ago. It was –, the girls were five and six years old. You know, what it takes in today's world to raise a family is involvement and we've had great parental involvement. I know these parents. We're like one big family. It's kind of like, Mr. Hair, you're the coach here and the way you form a successful team is you get good people around you, and I see that now. I see good people around you and, you know, you don't do what's best for the coach, you don't do what's best for your daughter, you don't do what's best for individuals. You do what's best for the team –. That [the team jersey] looks good on you. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, it fits too. Coach Elliott said, good. Thank you. But the –, the ingredient that we used was surround yourself with good folks, just like you have, and do what's best for the team. We may have had a girl who was pretty good as short stop, but she was needed in another position and she unselfishly, you know, moved elsewhere and helped this team win the State. I just want to thank the Chatham County Commissioners for your support, Chatham County Recreation, Mr. Lipsey, for your support. And, parents, thank you for having your girls there when you probably didn't want them there. Girls, thank you for all your hard work. Not only did we have the best playing softball team, we had the best looking softball team in the State. Our parents are on the back wall there and on the side wall. If y'all will just raise your hands, we'd like to thank y'all too. Mr. Hair, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. I hope this jersey is going to bring me good luck on the budget presentation. I hope I become a champion like y'all are. Thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, David [Elliott], I want to thank you, too, for being involved with the young people for years. I know when you started coaching me, beings I was in Little League, you probably were only about 11 years old. Coach Elliott said, I was real young. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we appreciate it. Thanks and congratulations.

Coach Elliott said, I almost forgot one more thing. Mr. Lipsey, if you'd stand up. I want to present this to the Chatham County Recreation Department. This is our State Championship Trophy. So –. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see Vicki [Blumberg] back there. Vicki, get up here. Mr. Lipsey said, Vicki [Blumberg] is our Recreation Supervisor. Commissioner Rivers said, she's been around a long time, too. Coach Elliott said, y'all, she has –, let me tell you something. She has bent over backwards for us. I know you get a lot of complaints from –, you have in the past about recreation, but Vicki [Blumberg] has done nothing but work with us and bent over backwards for me as a coach, and I want to thank you, and it gives me great pleasure to present this to the Chatham County Recreation Department.

Mr. Al Lipsey said, I would like to thank Coach Elliott, his coaching staff, his team and the parents for bringing this championship to Savannah. I only have one request. That we do a repeat next year. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank y'all. Congratulations.

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## **2. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO SIX PARKS AND RECREATION MAINTENANCE WORKERS: VERNON FRANCIS, ALFONZA MCCLENDON, JERMAINE JONES, BOBBY KIRKSEY, REGGIE N. EDWARD AND MELVIN LANE.**

Chairman Hair said, we will now present presentation certificates to our six Parks and Recreation maintenance workers, if they will join me and Al Lipsey.

Mr. Lipsey said, Mr. Chairman, if I may. Prior to the retirement of Jim Golden, he implemented a Maintenance Worker's Recognition Program to recognize individuals or entire crews for exemplary service and performance. Today the Eastside maintenance crew, which is behind me here, will be the recipients of that recognition, the first recognition.

Chairman Hair said, the first one we will give to –, is awarded to Vernon Francis. Chairman Hair read the certificate as follows:

In Recognition of Outstanding Performance in Maintenance  
and Care of recreational facilities in  
Chatham County

This the 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2002

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Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

Mr. Lipsey said, he's out. Chairman Hair asked, he's out? Okay, if you'll take that. The next is Bobby Kirksey. Bobby, congratulations. Melvin Lane, Reggie Edward, Jermaine Jones, and last, but not least, Alfonza McClendon.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hair, gentlemen, a while back you challenged us to do a much better job of putting emphasis in the rewarding excellent performance by staff in the area of maintenance of our parks and services. As Mr. Lipsey said, Mr. Golden initiated that, and Mr. Lipsey with his continuation of the legacy of that type of incentive program continues. I'm very proud to be able to call on a person like Mr. Lipsey to fill the void after Mr. Golden's

retirement. He truly has done wonders. He's put the emphasis where you want it and where we want it, and for that I say thank you. Mr. Lipsey said, thank you.

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## **VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

### **1. \$40,000 FOR NEW MOSQUITO CONTROL FACILITY FURNITURE.**

Chairman Hair said, I respectfully request that we approve \$40,000 for new Mosquito Control facility furniture. You'll recall about a month ago we had an item on here for some \$54,000 that was defeated. We asked the staff to go back and make their list shorter and also make sure that it was only essential items, and I think Dr. Lewandowski and Mr. Abolt have done that, and I think this is a very fair request today to approve and I would ask my fellow Commissioners to make a motion to approve.

Commissioner Odell said, I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, I'll second it. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, well, all --. Any discussion? Commissioner Rayno said, wait a second. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Commissioner Rayno said, I thought we were going to have some kind of a revised proposal. What was it? Commissioner Odell said, it's less. Chairman Hair said, it's less.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Lewandowski can respond with specificity, but essentially it's less furniture. Chairman Hair asked, Dr. Lewandowski, would you answer Commissioner Rayno's question?

Dr. Henry Lewandowski said, yes, sir. Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hair and gentlemen, thank you for this opportunity. We've brought our proposal down from \$56,000+ down to \$36,825.99. What I'm asking for, what we believe we have here is low end, good quality furniture that will be durable and last in the new facility. We've eliminated new furniture for myself and the Assistant Director and the chairs in the conference room. So this package includes office furniture for 13 staff members that have fairly intensive computer applications. This is in the main administrative building only, so it's something that will blend and look nice in the building that the public will be observing primarily. We don't otherwise have --, and it also includes the break room furniture, which we don't otherwise have any at the time. So again this provides us a good working space for these 13 individuals. We still need a few chairs and I'm otherwise not planning to buy any new furniture for 14 active and three vacant positions. We will transfer in the usable furniture from our present facility to the shops in the new facility that now don't have furniture. I've worked with Harry McDonald and staff to find good quality furniture around the County they can move into the new facility.

Commissioner Rayno asked, will this come out of this year's budget or the one that we approve today for next year? Dr. Lewandowski said, this comes out of the construction budget, sir. County Manager Abolt said, this in effect will be part of our first major installment to the Airport Authority to retire the debt.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request for an appropriation of \$40,000 for new furniture for the Mosquito Control facility. Commissioners Murray and Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to two.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. STEVEN DAY AND ROBERT SHARPE REGARDING ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, we've addressed this issue at the last two meetings, and I got a call this past week from Robert Sharpe requesting that he and Steven Day be able to come up and explain what they were actually asking for and the changes they were asking for because evidently there's some confusion about what they felt like was needed versus what we were interpreting was needed to make changes in that Zoning Board of Appeals. So, Mr. Day, Mr. Sharpe? Chairman Hair asked, anybody here? Commissioner Murray asked, they're not here?

Commissioner McMasters said, may I say that I spoke to Mr. Day and he suggested that he was coming in on the agenda, and I told him with the budget and everything that was occurring that it would probably be a very, very busy schedule and that perhaps our attention on the subject might be best had at a future meeting. I didn't realize that

anybody –, we had not withdrawn it from the agenda, but I did have that conversation and I know that they do want to address the subject, but it will be at a future –.

Commissioner Murray said, I was not aware of that because when Mr. Sharpe called me, he was wanting to come to this meeting, but that's fine if we just table it to the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, this is a Commissioner's item, we don't need to table this. It's not an action item. Commissioner Murray said, yeah. We'll just put it off until the next meeting. Chairman Hair said, just have the Commissioner who wants to put it back on at some future time, and we'll do that.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Mr. Day and Mr. Sharpe did not appear. This issue will be placed on a future agenda.

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 9:17 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

The Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 10:45 a.m.

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An unidentified gentleman said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to talk about a CAT item or a Commission item? What item do you want to discuss? The unidentified gentleman said, the revaluation item. Is that what y'all are calling reval? Chairman Hair said, we just approved a motion just for the CAT to take it to the full County Commission now to consider the reval for the CAT. It's already been considered for the County Commission. They've already been –, you know, that's going to be a part of the budget discussions. The unidentified gentleman said, I thought you were going to talk about the reevaluation that the County is going to do, and in the paper it says it will be like a five point something percentage or –, and my property the taxes have been from 262% and you say, well, maybe this property hasn't be reevaluated recently –. Chairman Hair said, we need you to wait until the Clerk gets here to get your name for the record.

Chairman Hair said, we'll be glad to listen to your comments, but if you're talking about appraisal of your individual property, that's something that needs to be addressed to the Board of Assessors and not us. We have no control over that. We'll be glad to listen to you, but that's –, you know, you're talking to people that can't help. The unidentified gentleman said, I understand, but I don't know whether y'all have reviewed some of these things because you keep saying it's only a 5% increase that was in the paper. Chairman Hair said, that's just the total digest. That –, obviously a lot of properties went up probably more than yours did. The unidentified gentleman said, well, 360% this year and in 1998, I think, is when they reevaluated it again and it went up at that time 300%. Chairman Hair asked, have you addressed this with the Board of Assessors, sir? The unidentified gentleman said, yes, we have and –. Chairman Hair said, well, I just want you to understand we can't change that. We don't set values and we can't change values. The unidentified gentleman said, as long as y'all understand though that it's not just a 5% increase –. Chairman Hair said, yeah, we understand that. The unidentified gentleman said, – to a person's property –, I mean, taxes because next year, or this year, the taxes will be three times what they –. Chairman Hair said, yes, sir. We clearly understand that, sir.

Commissioner McMasters asked, Mr. Chairman, can I ask –? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner McMasters said, the gentleman a question. Sir, is it your home? Is it your business? What sort of property is this? The unidentified gentleman said, it's just woods. It is not industrial property, it is not commercial property, it's just woods that we maintain and grow pine trees on, and it is not adjoining a public road. It's off the road. Commissioner McMasters asked, is it a family business? The unidentified gentleman said, no, it's just family-owned property that we've owned since '50, 1950. Commissioner McMasters asked, is it in West Chatham County? The unidentified gentleman said, yes, it is. Commissioner McMasters asked, did you appeal your '98 value? The unidentified gentleman said, yes, we did and it did not do any good. We didn't get no reduction at all. And this is not just one piece. This is three different pieces of property that we're talking about and it's around 60 acres apiece. Commissioner McMasters asked, have you –, are you familiar with the website for the Board of Assessors? The unidentified gentleman asked, SAGIS? Commissioner McMasters said, and SAGIS. The unidentified gentleman said, [inaudible] SAGIS. Commissioner McMasters asked, have you looked at the value of the properties surrounding your property? The unidentified gentleman said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, did you find them to be uniform with your value? The unidentified gentleman said, no, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. The unidentified gentleman said, they're not. They weren't as of last year whenever they updated SAGIS last. Commissioner McMasters said, I know I'm going to get cut off here shortly, but your concerns are heard here in this Commission, and it's a problem that does manifest at the Board of Assessors, and we are currently trying to address that as effectively as we possibly can, and I thank you for coming. The unidentified

gentleman said, you know, I was just wondering if maybe they got the decimal point shifted over one position too much.

Chairman Hair said, it would be nice if it were that simple, sir, but I'm not sure that happened. But we appreciate you coming, sir. The unidentified gentleman said, thank you, sir.

Commissioner Rayno asked, can you contact John [McMasters] after the meeting and give him the PIN number because he did a study for the -. Commissioner Odell said, Dean [Kicklighter] is getting with him. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir.

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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 ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS FEE SCHEDULE. Note: At meeting of July 26, 2002, item was tabled for more information. Staff requests this not come off the table until the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.**

### ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not removed from the table.

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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. **ADOPTION OF BUDGET IN CERTAIN SEQUENCE:**
  - A. **REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE FY 2003 BUDGET RESOLUTIONS FOR CHATHAM COUNTY. (Decisions on various balancing options must be made first.)**

Chairman Hair said, the first is the adoption of the budget in a certain sequence and, of course, it follows that we've got to first do the budget and then do the appropriate millage levy to follow the process. I'm going to call on -, Commissioner Rayno, who's going to present y'all's budget, your budget of five? Who's going to present that? Commissioner Rayno said, I'll present it. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, we started with an initial deficit and then we added back in the COLA increase and came up with a figure of \$9,993,701 and we added in the cost of the Board of Elections machines, which is mandated by the State and we go to a new voting system unfortunately because of what happened last time in West Palm Beach. That's \$153,000 added back in. You have to add in the training to use the new system, which we'll all have to become accustomed to, for \$20,000 and then because of the events on 9-1-1, our insurance premiums, as have premiums around the country, increased by \$380,000, for a new deficit of \$10,546,701. We deducted out the healthcare savings by switching over to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield plan, and that came out to \$1,031,720, for a balance of \$9,514,981. We reduced general government by \$1,012,490 for a balance of \$8,502,491. We took out the Trade Center payment for \$765,000, which we paid for with other money -.

Chairman Hair asked, can I ask you some questions about that? If you're using the sale of surplus property for that? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chairman Hair said, correct. Okay, I just wanted to make sure.

Commissioner Rayno said, balance of \$7,737,491. Subtract out the digest growth at \$4,814,310 for a balance of \$2,923,181. Subtract out Indigent Defense Grant. There's additional revenue that we hadn't seen before, \$50,000, bringing it to \$2,873,181. More revenue in Animal Control licensing, which is \$48,000, reducing the deficit to \$2,825,181. More revenue in Fine Surcharge 10% JCA, which was \$104,520, reducing the deficit to \$2,720,661. Subtracting out increased revenue for housing of prisoners, which is \$140,000, for a balance of \$2,580,661. Subtract out the automobile tax where there's additional revenue of \$139,960 for a balance of \$2,440,701. Subtract out interest on investments, which is \$130,000, for a balance of \$2,310,701. Identified miscellaneous revenues that we haven't seen before, which is \$44,690, giving a balance of \$2,266,011. Taking out the School Collection Fee, which is \$1,370,740, for a deficit of \$895,271. Took out the AIM program, which the obligation is ended, \$50,000, for a balance of \$845,271. And the last

part of this to balance out to zero, we're directing staff to deal with current or future vacancies at their discretion to come to a zero balance.

Chairman Hair asked, how many vacancies are in that \$845,000? How many vacant positions are you eliminating? Commissioner Rayno said, we're giving that to staff's discretion right now. We're going to Russ [Abolt] discretion. Chairman Hair said, as far as which ones, but how many are included? Commissioner Rayno said, it's up to Russ to deal with it. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Abolt, do you know how many positions that would be? County Manager Abolt said, it would be a combination of slow filling, no filling. We have a target, as I understand it, of that amount of money. At an appropriate time, I'd like to have a chance to respond. Chairman Hair said, let's get questions first of the Commission and then we'll ask the staff to respond. Do any of the Commissioners have any questions about this proposed budget from the five Commissioners?

Commissioner Thomas said, you know, on personnel I'd like to know where they're coming from. Chairman Hair said, well, that's my concern. Just to have a number out there -. Commissioner Thomas said, I want to know before I vote on any proposal here today, I want to know where they're coming from. I mean -. Commissioner Murray asked, can I address that? Chairman Hair said, certainly, Commissioner Murray. Commissioner Thomas said, I mean, those who made the cuts -, I mean, the proposal here should be able to tell me where those cuts are coming from.

Commissioner Murray said, we are not suggesting that we tell anybody what positions to cut. We felt like that each department will have X-amount of money to operate with, and those departments can spend that money however they decide to spend it, whether it's personnel or whether it's operations or what. I know we met with the Tax Commissioner the other day and worked out an agreement with him, so we don't have any hiring freeze on. The hiring freeze would be off. That would be up to staff or, I guess, Russ [Abolt] as the Manager to decide when and if certain positions should be filled and which ones were the priority to be filled. And I know, just like the Finance Director or some of the department heads and stuff like that, that have to be hired, I mean, that would be in his discretion. So I don't -, I think basically it would be the same as we have in the present budget that we don't have a hiring freeze anymore. It's up to each individual department head to do what they need to do with their personnel or whatever in their department.

Chairman Hair asked, any other questions from the Commissioners? Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Hair and gentlemen, I would direct your attention please to the budget workbook which was distributed with the agenda packet. I have had the opportunity to spend an extensive time with Commissioner Rayno and others who had interest in the direction that's been taken by this proposal. My two very serious reservations that I'll bring to your attention deal with the line items that have been read to you and you've already had a chance to review in days past, namely the general government reduction and then the use of vacancies. And my concern here is the lack of discretion and, more importantly, the consequence of kind of the luck of the draw brings to this policy decision. My druthers would be, as I expressed to Commissioner Rayno last evening, would be that you would give me maximum discretion, that you would not base your column called "General Government Reductions" on numbers that are not final, on numbers that do not represent and reflect the true cost of what it took to do business the last 12 months, and more particularly, with your permission, please look at page 23 of the workbook. I'll allow you time to get there. If you look at what amounts to the fourth column, it's labeled "Savings Projected Five Commissioners." Since this debuted officially at your last meeting, I asked Mr. White and the analyst to go back through, and again realizing the numbers are not final, but to perfect them as best one can given the fact the expenses are still being recognized and some bills will be forthcoming. Even with that analysis you see -, we see a variation from a million -, almost \$1.6 million down to \$1.4, just a tad less than that. If you add to that, and I realize in this case there is some discretion on the vacancies, but still the numbers I will show you in that column, second to the right, are very consequential and I'll use something that is directly involved with the operation of the County Commission. If you look at those adjusted savings, and this is the very top line, we have in effect adjusted those savings and, again, incomplete, but we're showing \$76,000 there. If you move over to the column entitled "Frozen Positions," which is second from the right, we have a figure of almost \$53,000. That's from a position not filled. The consequence of considering both of these is that in effect we're double counting, namely that the \$76,000 did include the \$52,000. So, in effect, when you look at that 24% cut in your own department, you're looking at a hit that would total \$129,000. We're also looking at some of the more extreme, and again some of this I realize is because of the time of the year in which some of the costs to process as we did indicate to you in those costs running June did not reflect that a pay period that spanned two weeks went into the month of July, but one that is very near to you I realize from the standpoint of one of the goals you want to accomplish in the next 12 months has to do with our ICS Department, and as our told Commissioner Rayno, and I know all of you are aware, this chart of accounts is not reflective of departments. There are expenditure categories that have some history to them, but they're not departments. An example I will point that out with is Mr. Leonard's department of ICS -, Information, Communications and Services. It also includes Admin Services. These are the folks that print the agendas, do all of our printing, do delivery for us, but they're also our records management. Everything within the judicial courthouse and the consequence of having inappropriately filed or untimely filed records are a function of Admin Services, so if you look at Admin Services and look at -, by the numbers run and the numbers we've given you of 156-, \$157,000, that's a portion of the ICS Department. You go down that third to the right column and go down to ICS, in addition Mr. Leonard is taking a hit in his department of almost \$113,000. That's why I've attached for your reading the demonstrative plea from Mr. Leonard that explains that to us, and I'm not -, we're not making excuses. What I'm in effect requesting is that if this be the wish of the Board, that rather than trying to hem me into the type of figures that are incomplete, that you would give maximum discretion among certain departments to still meet the overall goal, which I tally up to be approximately \$1.8 million, if you look at the presentation by Commissioner Rayno, and in effect give me latitude and not identify general government reductions or vacancies, but rather tell me you want me to find approximately \$1.8 million among all or certain departments, and that will allow us to get back from the numbers,

which aren't a fair representation of programs or program responsibilities or their cost, and have me come back with a plan that will make you hit that target.

Chairman Hair asked, would you also include constitutional departments in that? County Manager Abolt said, that would be your choice, sir. You give me that direction. Chairman Hair said, well, I think that's a big decision because, you know, that's approximately 55% of the budget. If you exclude that, then you're only talking about taking the whole hit out of 45% of your budget, which is going to make the cuts even more dramatic. County Manager Abolt said, that is your choice. Chairman Hair asked, can I ask a specific question about the \$1,012,490? This is to both Russ [Abolt] and to Reese [White]? Is it your professional opinion that that's a real number or not a real number? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. No, sir, it's not for the reasons I've given you. Chairman Hair asked, it's not a real number? County Manager Abolt said, I'm not saying -, I'm not saying it's a false number. I'm indicating to you it's an incomplete number. Chairman Hair said, it's an incomplete number. And that number could go down by about \$200,000? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. If you even look at the page 23 for that reference, we've shown that in effect where we've had slippage there just by looking at that. Chairman Hair said, that's roughly \$200,000 that doesn't match up. County Manager Abolt said, based on the -, yes, on a more recent analysis. Chairman Hair said, and it could be more or less depending upon the audit. Mr. Reese White said, yes, depending on the -, what we run through the system and what the auditors do, and that's going to be quite some time before we know what that is. Chairman Hair said, okay. Any questions by anybody else? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to remind everyone that this budget does not include anything that the Chairman and Commissioner Murray and Commissioner Rivers are currently negotiating with the municipalities. If this three member panel is remotely successful at what they intend to do with those negotiations, we're going to be able to get some much better money added to the budget. So this is a start, and I know I have full intentions to continue to look at the budget as we go throughout the year and make some tougher cuts and actually put some money into the fund balance, and I believe the five people that presented this budget, we all kind of agree on that. So this is not an end all. This is a nice peaceful beginning that we will be fine in the future. No, we are, you're right, we're working on unaudited numbers, but that's the best that we can -, the best that we can come up with. We've asked staff to provide us with the numbers and, you know, we're working with something that we don't have an exact, but we will work throughout the year to continue to cut other areas where we can actually -. County Manager Abolt said, if I may. Commissioner Kicklighter said, - cover any lack of -. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, that is not my argument. My argument is to appeal to you to give me discretion. You can adopt a budget today if you wish by designating a figure, \$1.8 million, but the analogy I used with Commissioner Rayno last night has to do with, you know, medicine and the bitter taste of medicine. This is not tasting well. You'll give me the option hopefully to spread the dosage over more folk and that will not then, number one, be based on incomplete figures nor, number two, will it do the type of damage that I've been able to hopefully illustrate for you in those couple of departments.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner McMasters and then I have a question -, comment.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just wanted to make a response to something that Dean [Kicklighter] said. I have asked to be -, I have requested to be removed from that LOST negotiation panel for certain reasons, and I'm no longer a part of it. Chairman Hair said, yes, he's no -, yeah. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Billy [Hair], how about characterizing for us your impression where LOST is going because I hear what Commissioner Kicklighter is suggesting relative to those negotiations, and I think that's pivotal to our fiscal year as we go through. What -, where do you see us going? Chairman Hair said, I'll be glad to do that, but let me make a prefacing remark before that. I think we are making progress, but I -, you know, everybody talks about what's responsible and not responsible. I don't think -, since we don't have a clue what that number is going to be, I don't think that any budget should include that, and yours doesn't include that and I agree with that. Commissioner McMasters said, it does not include it. Chairman Hair said, but I -, correct, and neither does mine. So I think that -, I want to make sure we understand that. There probably will be some money, but since we don't know what that money's going to be, neither budget proposal on the table today include that, so I want to make sure everybody understands that. I think the -, and Frank [Murray] can comment if I say anything that he doesn't agree with, but I think that we've made some real progress with the cities. Initially they were just adamant that they weren't going to, you know, even talk about jail costs and those kinds of things, and they've gone from that stance to, you know, well, we realize, you know, we might need to look at that, but we want to make sure we get real numbers and, you know, those kinds of things which we -, and I -, Col. Holmes and the Sheriff have been to the meetings and they've provided data. Where it stands is that we narrowed down at the last meeting the two parameters that will be negotiated. One will be the percentage of collections, which we currently get 19.22. The City's proposal was that we get 15.51, and the other parameter we'll be discussing is the reimbursement rate. The first proposal on the table was \$45, which was based on the real number from the Sheriff, which is \$44.92, I believe, and the City's first proposal on the table was \$10 a day. So I believe the final analysis will be somewhere between 19.22 and 15.51 and somewhere between \$45 and \$10, and that's where we stand. Those are the two outside parameters currently on the two issues that we still have to discuss. Frank [Murray], would you want to add anything to that?

Commissioner Murray said, I agree with that and I think that we will end up doing fairly well with this. I noticed at our last meeting this past week they did not bring the Special Service District into it as they have in the past. I've got a letter right here that was sent out by the City of Savannah to all the people that play tennis on their courts talking about they need to basically pressure us into giving in to what they're asking for or they wouldn't be allowed to play on these courts without having fees and stuff, and those kinds of things, which is absolutely not true. But the real process started when they started talking about how the people in the Special Service District benefit from the municipalities. Well, that works both ways. I think we offer them things and they offer us stuff, so that to me is not part of the negotiations and, besides,

the Special Service District doesn't receive one penny of that money, so -. But as far as negotiations, I think at the last meeting things did turn around a little bit. I feel like the smaller municipalities are realizing too that there's a chance that at 12 o'clock midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>, if they can't come to an agreement, that that tax will go away totally and they won't have this \$44 million a year to spread out to those people, so that is another option that we have that we can utilize, but I think that it benefits all of us to be able to work it out, and I think we're heading in that direction and the jail is the main -, main sticking point right now and those numbers are going to have to be right whether it's based on percentages or the per diem per day or how that's done. We have got to make sure that we are covered in it this time, and I would like to commend the Sheriff and Col. Holmes for their participation, the numbers and the time that they've put into it trying to work those numbers out for us, because I feel like they do have accurate numbers. So -, but I think it's moving along well.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Does that answer your question, Commissioner McMasters, or do you have -? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, sir. I'm optimistically positioned. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to make a motion we accept the budget as presented. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. Does the Commission want to seek any other options or do you want to go ahead and vote? Commissioner Rayno said, no, sir. I've learned how to count.

Chairman Hair said, I want to comment before -, I want to comment before we take a vote on this. Commissioner Murray said, I think we're having to listen to the options. Chairman Hair said, I think we will listen to the options or at least listen to what I've got to say. I think that this budget proposal has a tremendous number of holes in it, and let me start with the first one. This budget as proposed, that apparently has five votes, gives the employees of Chatham County a 1½% pay raise. I think that's unconscionable. I think to give the employees that work so hard for the citizens of this community, to give them a 1½% pay raise is a slap in the face. I don't know how that 1½ was arrived at. My budget proposal has a 3% pay raise, and I'll tell you how it was arrived at. It was arrived at by looking at what the City of Savannah, the School Board and all the other folks in Chatham County in government are getting in Chatham County, and that 3% is in line. I don't know where the 1½ came from, but you're talking about \$1,500,000 of this balanced budget comes on the backs of the employees of this County because that's what you're talking about. The difference in 1½% pay raise and a 3% pay raise is \$500,000 per percent, so \$1,500,000 of this \$11,000,000 comes from the County employees that are only going to get a 1½% pay raise if this budget passes. So that's my first major concern.

Chairman Hair said, the second major concern I have is this budget proposal includes over \$1,000,000 from an anticipated lawsuit. We know before we vote on this budget today that the decision to charge the School Board, which I fully supported, is in the Supreme Court. They estimate that that decision will come down some time six months from now. So we're going to look at January, February we're going to get a Supreme Court ruling. You pass this budget today, we lose, where are we going to come up with \$1,100,000 [sic] in February without making dramatic cuts in services to the people. My budget proposal includes -, does not include a dime of that money. If we get it, fine, let's put it into fund balance, but we're not balancing a budget on a number that we don't have a clue what the number is going to be. We don't know if it's going to be overturned. We've already been told by the legislative delegation that even if the Supreme Court rules in our favor, that they're going to get a change in January anyway. Okay. So we're using a number -. You know, we can put numbers on a page and we can balance anybody's budget. We just had the County Manager tell us that \$1,000,000 of this is \$200,000 off, more or less. We know that we're including a million from the School Board we may or may not get. We know that we've got \$1,500,000 for school -, for employees of this County that we just cut the rates. We just -, well, why don't we just cut the whole 1½% out and cut -, you know, add something else to the budget? I just don't think it's fair. Now another point I want to make, and since this came up earlier in the meeting, you know, it came up early in the meeting about people making promises and people not keeping promises. Well, I find it very interesting that this budget proposal includes \$765,000 from a sale of surplus property. This Board in April of 2001, and Commissioner Rayno made the motion and Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion that any money that we get from property sales would go half to the budget and half to the fund balance, and here we've got a proposal, they made the motion and voted for it and everybody on this Commission voted for it except Commissioner Rivers. Everybody. Commissioner Rayno said, you're fully aware -. Chairman Hair said, \$550,000 is the maximum we should be using. They're using \$765,000. So there's another \$265,000 that we're going against our own policy that we voted on in April of 2001. Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's policy not campaign promises. Commissioner Rayno said, and that property is SPLOST property. It doesn't go back in the M&O budget. Chairman Hair said, I didn't interrupt you. Commissioner Rayno said, I know, but you said the truth is -. Chairman Hair said, you'll have -, you'll have a chance to -. Commissioner Rayno said, it's hard to deny. Chairman Hair said, but I think this budget has -, I think we're going to live to regret this budget just like we lived to regret the budget last year that cost us \$100,000 in legal fees after we were sued. I just think we need to be honest with the public and admit that this budget if -, and apparently it's got the votes to pass and that's fine, but I'm going to tell you, you will revisit this budget many times during the year, and you're going to have to make some very painful decisions that we could have avoided. Commissioner Rivers first and then we'll get everybody. Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Rivers said, I just want to remind my fellow Commissioners of one thing, that next year you'll be back at the same spot. You see, whether it's SPLOST money -, and I know you're going to respond to Billy [Hair] being it's SPLOST money -, it doesn't make no difference where it comes from, it's nonrecurring. And if you put it in there, next year it will fall out. So when you look at those things that you're doing, you've got to look real hard and have a little vision. Secondly, what we're doing in the reval is we're taxing commercial property, which includes a lot of rental property, and those folks who have not -, they don't have the exemption. So here we are again, and that's why I said one thing on the CAT thing that we are taxing poor folks with a double whammy. So, I just want y'all to be cognizant

of those couple of things and –, so when you do it and it comes back next year, we'll know that we were responsible for doing whatever it is.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner Murray, and Commissioner Rayno. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just –, I get kind of a little offended that we're the bad people for giving a 1½% raise when, I believe, you've been Chairman for six years and the employees have received maybe two raises during the entire six years. Chairman Hair said, three. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, three? Well, you know, that's nothing to get you employer of the year right there. And, you know, what we're trying to do here is at least show a sign to the employees that we care and we're trying –, at the same time we're trying to show a sign to the taxpayers in Chatham County that we care about them too. And keep in mind that you can give a 10% raise, but then have to increase the taxes so much that our employees would lose that raise paying their taxes. And, you know, it's a delicate balance. I'm thrilled that we were able to include a 1.5% raise because I don't know how the employees stay with us. I think that over the years you have been treated terrible, and I feel for you and I appreciate you sticking around because I don't know that I would want to work for Chatham County in the capacity you do. I appreciate you. We're doing the best we can do here. We're trying not to raise taxes and also trying to show you that we do care a little bit. And, you know, I appreciate it. It's great that the Chairman after six years wants to be the savior of pay raises, but, you know, let's not badmouth the others. We at least made an attempt here. A 1.5% pay raise is nothing you want to write home or call your family about, but it is a little bit of a sign that we care. You stick with us, bear with us, we'll make strategic cuts throughout the year, things will get better by next year, and we'll continue to get this County back on track the way it should be. We'll learn to treat the taxpayers good and the employees good at the same time, but it starts with being a little conservative with the spending, and that's what we're doing now and we will get this County back in shape like it should be.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. First of all, I will say this budget proposal that we've put out there is not perfect. I don't think any budget proposal that anybody puts up is going to be a perfect budget proposal. I think it's a start and I think it's a place we need to start with, and I feel like that throughout the year we will be able to do the things we need to do. The other issue I'd like to address in that that's just come up is the \$765,000 that would be a payment to the Trade Center. First of all, we do have a policy that any non-reoccurring money that comes into the County, 50% goes into a fund balance. Now, 50% of this money cannot go into a fund balance because this was SPLOST money. It has to be used on SPLOST projects. The Trade Center was a SPLOST project. That \$765,000 payment is a one time thing, too, so that's not a reoccurring either. So it's a washout on that. As far as some of the numbers, yeah, some of the numbers are going to be off, but I feel like that I'm willing to give it the benefit of the doubt this time to see if in fact these things that we are projecting in the proposal would take place throughout this year happen. If they do, then the County will be in much better shape and we'll be able to continue to put money back into a fund balance. If those things don't happen, then certainly we're going to have to come back and readdress it. The Chairman has presented a budget, it's not a bad budget either. There's some things in there that could come back to get us also, but nevertheless a budget is a projection for us to go by and to work with on this County throughout the year. It does not mean that everything that's approved today is set in concrete. If these things do take place and those funds come in that we expect to come, we can always go back and amend that budget to pick up some of the stuff that has been cut out. But at least it gives us, as a Commission who's responsible for it to begin with, the option to do those things and try to keep the millage as low as we can. Now that's why I'm supporting it. There's been a lot of work put into it. I know staff has put a lot of work into a lot of budgets. I know the Chairman has put work into it and other people have put a lot of work into the budgets –, budget proposals, but I feel like right now that this proposal that we've got is a good proposal. Yes, it does have some flaws in it, just as any others are going to have, but I'm willing to take that chance and take that risk right now, and I feel like that we can get through the year without having the same problem come up again next year if certain things do take place, and then maybe we can give a higher percentage of a raise next year, we can do some other things that we would like to do, but we are not cutting out everything as everybody predicted would be cut. And, yes, we are using some numbers that –, I think all of us right now have to use numbers, Russ [Abolt], because we don't have an audited –, any audited numbers to go by, so we have to use projections on what we think. So that's –, I'm going to support it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, without any objection from any members of the Commission, I'd like to have this young lady in the front make some comments, and I'd like –. Chairman Hair asked, what? Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to have this young lady up front make some comments and then I'd like my time back after that. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Ms. Debra Selman said, thank you. My name is Debra Selman. I was here a couple of weeks ago and spoke with y'all and I'm quite sure I heard Mr. Kicklighter and Mr. Murray say that they were for taxation across the County. No? Commissioner Kicklighter asked, taxation across the County? Ms. Selman said, across the County for the bus system. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, you've never me –. Commissioner Rayno said, Frank Murray did. Commissioner Murray said, no, what I said was that I felt like that our State Legislators should redo the charter for the CAT bus service so we can do a different funding mechanism and we don't have to charge just to get a service. Chairman Hair said, and also, ma'am, I just want to remind you that we're talking –. Commissioner Murray said, this is not the CAT budget. Chairman Hair said, this is not the CAT budget. Keep your comments to this budget please. Ms. Selman said, okay. And also, recently the Department of Justice came to town, if I'm not mistaken, and if I'm not mistaken, weren't there supposed to be a lot of money put toward making the City more accessible, and is that in the budget? Commissioner

Murray said, no, that would be the City of Savannah. Ms. Selman asked, and has that been put in the budget? Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's the City of Savannah. County Attorney Hart said, there's an agreement between the City of Savannah, I think, and the Justice Department dealing with some issues that run the gamut of accessibility. Chairman Hair said, that's not a County issue. Ms. Selman asked, it's not a County issue? Chairman Hair said, no. Ms. Selman asked, so you mean I have to bring the County in –, the Department of Justice in on the County? Okay, thanks.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno said, call the question please. Chairman Hair said, I have a call for the question. All those in favor vote yes –. Commissioner Murray said, there's some people out there wanting to speak. Commissioner Rayno said, it's not debatable. Chairman Hair said, the call for the question is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, we now need a resolution clarifying the millage rate. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, please. Chairman Hair said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, we need a lot more than that. I need patience and I know you'll have it. First of all, may I interpret the motion you just adopted to, number one, allow me to find the million dollars and change from those accounts on page 23? Chairman Hair asked, anyone want to make that motion? Commissioner Rayno said, no, sir, that's not what it was. Chairman Hair said, okay, nobody allows that. Commissioner Rayno said, \$845,000 be taken out of current or future staff vacancies –. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, that was not my question. Chairman Hair said, he's asking if he –. County Manager Abolt said, what I'm saying is these are not real numbers, I've told you that. What I'm trying to get is at least the opportunity to raise the \$1,012,290 –. Commissioner Rayno said, you need to work off this sheet here. County Manager Abolt said, what I'm telling you is those are not real numbers. Commissioner Rayno said, sir, you are going to have to work off these sheets at your discretion. Chairman Hair said, okay, you're not going to allow the Manager to [inaudible]. Is that correct? Commissioner Rayno said, he has to work off this sheet. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], I don't know if we are –. Commissioner Thomas said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray asked, can I speak now? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner Murray said, we are talking about –. Russ [Abolt], the only thing I would ask on that is that we don't go out and make a lot of cuts in departments or anything else just to come up with a million dollars when, in fact, I believe that million dollars is going to be there soon, once we finish some things. County Manager Abolt said, my –. I don't mean to frustrate it, because I respect it and really I sympathize with what you're going through right now. All I'm trying to say is I am not going to do anything other than find the money, but I'm asking you at least the latitude, because there are some accounts for example like, you know, the audit. There's some work that was not done there. The numbers you're basing and showing reductions on have already been spent, and I'm not –. All I'm asking you is to understand, but to give me the discretion and, as I would interpret and I ask for the discretion is on page 23, which are the lists of all those accounts for which Commissioner Rayno and others have said there should be reductions, at least give me the latitude to find the one million and change among that universe. I'm not asking for more than that, but I need some –. Chairman Hair said, I think you need it as well. I can't make a motion, but I would make the motion –, it may not have the votes, but would anybody like to make a motion to give the County Manager latitude to make up the million –.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved, sir. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay. We have a motion and a second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, can we recess for about five minutes? Before we vote on this? I think that we can work something out to do that. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'll observe a five minute recess. You need to second that.

Chairman Hair declared the meeting in recess at 11:22 a.m. The meeting was reconvened at 11:28 a.m.

Chairman Hair said, the motion that was adopted did not include the reveal that was passed by the CAT Board, so that was not included in the budget. I just want to make sure everybody understands that. County Manager Abolt said, wait, wait, no, no, no. Two different things. M&O is a portion of your overall budget. Your overall budget is \$314 million of which CAT is a –, you're only talking about M&O now. Chairman Hair said, that's what I said. But that did not include the motion from the CAT Board previously. County Manager Abolt said, no, you have to deal with that in a moment. Chairman Hair said, well, we –. Okay.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'll make a motion that we give the County Manager the latitude as long as he restricts it to general government. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, and I interpret that as the departments listed –. Commissioner Rayno said, with the exception of Danny Powers, who we've already come to an agreement with. County Manager Abolt said, okay, and that's page 23. I understand that. Permit me again, and I appreciate your indulgence –. Commissioner Rayno said, and the figure for Danny Powers' budget is going to be \$2,550,510. Mr. White said, \$2,550,510. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, sir. County Manager Abolt said, Chairman Hair, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen. May I also ask, realizing that I've been given the discretion on the \$850,000 for vacancies, that you would allow the freeze to remain until I can sort that out. Absence that, they will be about filling positions.

Commissioner Murray asked, may I –. Well, that's fine, but we've already in our negotiations with the Tax Commissioners office allowed him to go ahead and do and hire and do what he needs to with those positions –. Commissioner Rayno said, it's in his budget. Commissioner McMasters said, and the Board of Assessors.

Chairman Hair asked, when we said we allowed it, who allowed it? Commissioner Murray said, yeah, it was –. Chairman Hair said, and I don't recall any motion –, I don't recall any –. Commissioner Thomas said, there's nine of us up here. Chairman Hair said, coming before this County Commission that approved any changes in the County Tax Commissioners office. Commissioner Murray said, I will explain it. There were three of us that met –, everybody on this Commission was given a notice that we were meeting with him and anybody up here could have come to that meeting. Commissioner Thomas said, [inaudible] have a quorum. Commissioner Murray said, we went to the meeting and discussed it. We came to a compromise with the Tax Commissioner and the three of us in there, which is included in the budget that was just proposed and the budget that was just voted on. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair asked, why did we have a meeting with the Tax –, why did y'all have a meeting with the Tax Commissioner and not anybody else? All other departments? Commissioner Rayno said, everyone was invited. Chairman Hair said, that's not my question. [Unintelligible comments were made when a number of Commissioners began speaking at the same time.] Chairman Hair asked, is that –, why did y'all meet with the Tax Commissioner and not the other departments? Commissioner Rayno said, the same reason you met with constitutional officers last year and assured us that if your budget was passed there wouldn't be any lawsuits. Chairman Hair said, and there wouldn't have been. Commissioner Thomas said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yes, we did get a memo indicating that there was going to be a meeting. However, it was emphasized very emphatically that you could not have a quorum. Chairman Hair said, correct. Commissioner Thomas said, and I did not want to get myself into that position, not that I didn't want to be there. So I want to make that perfectly clear. Commissioner Murray said, Dr. Thomas, the only thing I was trying to make clear that we were all aware there was going to be a meeting. Commissioner Thomas said, and I'm saying –. Commissioner Murray said, and you or anybody else –. Commissioner Thomas said, and I'm saying that because it was stated that it did not want a quorum, and I called to find out who all were planning to be there. That's all I'm saying.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let's deal with the motion on the floor first. We have a motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, wait, you had a previous motion or something. There's two motions. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to allow the County Manager flexibility for the million dollars. That's your motion, correct? Commissioner Rayno said, the general government with the exception of Danny Powers, who's budget is set at \$2,550,510. Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of that motion vote yes –.

Commissioner McMasters said, I have a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner McMasters asked, how are vacancies addressed under the scope of that motion? Commissioner Rayno said, the Manager is just asking to let the freeze remain until he can sort things out, which I think is appropriate.

The Clerk said, there was a previous motion made by Commissioner Rivers that was on the floor before the recess was taken. Commissioner Thomas said, exactly. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Rivers, do you withdraw that motion so we can get –, so that the –. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll withdraw. Chairman Hair said, okay.

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

Chairman Hair said, now we need to adopt the resolution for the SSD. I'll entertain a motion to approve as submitted. County Manager Abolt said, what I would ask there, Mr. Chairman, because there has been modifications in that motion, you would reference your action to page 2 of the workbook, which in effect brings it into balance. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion of that? I need a motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? This is for the SSD. All those in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno said, whoa, whoa, whoa. What's the motion, sir? Chairman Hair said, the motion is to approve the SSD budget as proposed, and we have a second. The Clerk asked, who was the second please? Who was the second? Chairman Hair asked, who seconded that? Commissioner Rayno said, I would like to make an alternative to that motion. Chairman Hair said, well, let's get this done first, Commissioner Rayno, before you make an alternative. We have a motion to approve the SSD. Commissioner Murray said, somebody made a motion a minute ago. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second to that motion? Commissioner Thomas said, I second it. Chairman Hair said, we have a second to that motion. Any discussion of that motion? Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Earls.

Mr. Ken Earls said, since you slammed through the M&O with no discussion, the five bullies here, would you at least please tell us what the SSD budget is? Chairman Hair said, I'd be happy to, sir. Mr. Abolt, would you –?

County Manager Abolt said, yes. Essentially it's contained on page 2 of the workbook with adjustments that brings the spending pattern into line. There would be the same adjustment in COLA as with the M&O budget. We're picking up and extending the health care savings as proposed by the previous M&O budget. We're also taking advantage of the revaluation and new construction plus we [inaudible] in our last –, at the end of the fiscal year revenue adjustments to pick up about \$300,000. The long and the short of it, by adopting page 2 of the workbook, you will realize an additional \$9,350.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Earls, do you have any specific questions? Did that answer your question? If not –. Mr. Earls said, I do have actually one. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. Earls said, with events of 9-11, most governments in this country have worked up and are having to fund additional homeland security plans. Do we have one and how

much additional funding and manpower will that take? And if we don't have one, why? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, really my expert is not in the audience, but as you know, at your direction as part of your horizon planning, you have tasked the CEMA Director with just that. A great deal of progress has been made so far beyond the commitments of funding for the CEMA budget, which you've already approved in M&O. We're relying upon and have confidence that the Federal government will be responding to our overall plan. There is a desktop exercise the Coast Guard is putting on next week that deals primarily with the port and the harbor. That's one reason why we're high on the list for receiving funding. That funding though at this point will not require an additional local match.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second on the floor to approve the SSD. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion fails. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rayno, what's your motion?

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to take Russ's [Abolt] proposal and then add additional things to it, which would be added to the contingency fund where he would be putting the \$9,350. Currently in three departments, Building Safety there was a proposed budget from the staff of \$1,344,100 and we would propose it to be \$1,340,000 for a savings of \$4,100. In traffic lights and water there was a proposal from staff for that to be \$160,000. We would like it to be \$120,000 for a savings of \$40,000, and Public Works there was a projected cost in that department of \$3,392,750. We propose \$3,200,000 for a savings of \$192,750, for a total savings of \$236,920 [sic] to be added to the surplus.

Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? Commissioners McMasters and Kicklighter said, second. 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 Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, we will now approve a resolution to clarify the millage levy for Fiscal Year July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003, as it was advertised in the paper.

County Manager Abolt said, again I apologize for asking for help here. We have a series of resolutions that will total the overall spending plan which you have just amended, but they must be passed in order. Now let's make sure we get --. Chairman Hair asked, which one of these needs to be first? Commissioner Murray asked, so we will take them all separate? Chairman Hair said, we've got to do M&O, SSD and CAT separate. County Manager Abolt said, yes, that's correct. Okay, let me for the sake of being able to interpret legislative intent, you've adopted an M&O budget, you've adopted an SSD budget. Chairman Hair said, correct. County Manager Abolt said, now before you are the administrative requirements to adopt the rest of the budget. If we could have your concurrence in the staff report in the resolutions because there are no changes that will prove legislative intent, you can make one motion for that.

Chairman Hair said, let's do that. Let's make that motion. I need a motion to approve the balance of the budget. Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Hart, please explain the motion. County Manager Abolt said, I can help you. In your --. Chairman Hair said, the second time he's explained it. County Manager Abolt said, -- staff report there's a bunch of pages, and this is required by law, where each fund has a resolution associated with it. This totals 314 --, almost \$315,000,000. Our focus is always on the M&O/SSD. You've resolved that, but you still have to act upon --. Chairman Hair said, that there was no controversy. County Manager Abolt said, yes. Chairman Hair said, all right, I need a motion to approve.

Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rivers voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**B. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION CLARIFYING THE MILLAGE LEVY FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2002, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2003.**

Chairman Hair said, next motion. County Manager Abolt said, Item B. In effect, you're identifying for the benefit of the audits and going forward that in effect we have a fiscal year, it's not a calendar. This is a pro forma motion, but you have to make it. That's Item 1.B. Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to approve 1.B of the staff report.

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

**C. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT YEAR 2002 CHATHAM COUNTY GENERAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS, SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT, CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND THE COUNTY OF CHATHAM MILLAGE LEVY RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO**

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County Manager Abolt said, and 1.C doesn't –, it just confirms it again from a different prospective, plus you're officially also embracing the Board of Education and other jurisdictions. Mr. White said, you're approving the millage levy in 1.C. Chairman Hair said, okay. Mr. White said, you're approving your millage levy. Chairman Hair said, that was the levy that was advertised –. Mr. White said, yes. Chairman Hair said, – in the paper. Mr. White said, and that –, as far as CAT's concerned, that's only the rollback millage. Chairman Hair said, that's correct.

Commissioner Rayno asked, so we're talking about General M&O being 10.367 –? Mr. White said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rayno asked, and we're talking about Special Service being 3.475 –.? Mr. White said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rayno asked, and we're talking about CAT being point –? Mr. White said, .82. Commissioner Rayno said, – .820. Mr. White said, yes.

Chairman Hair said, I believe we need separate motions for all three of those, do we not, Mr. Attorney? Or can we do them all in one? Commissioner Murray said, let's do separate motions. County Attorney Hart said, you can do them all in one in a single motion. Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to approve –. Mr. White said, you need a motion for the Board of Education also, Mr. Chairman. The Board of Education millage is here as well, 15.326.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno, Commissioner Murray has requested we take them separately. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Chairman Hair said, so let's do M&O first. This is to approve the millage for M&O. Commissioner Murray said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Odell asked, would you restate the motion please? Chairman Hair said, the motion is to approve the M&O millage rate. Commissioner Odell said, I understand. Chairman Hair said, 10.367, is that correct? Mr. White said, 10.367. Commissioner Rayno said, which is exactly what it was last year. Mr. White said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.

Chairman Hair said, all right. Now I'll entertain a motion to approve the SSD millage at –, what level? Mr. White said, 3.475. Chairman Hair said, same as last year. Commissioner Rayno said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.

Chairman Hair said, now I'll entertain a motion to approve the CAT budget at the millage rate of –. Mr. White said, .820. Commissioner Rayno said, which is exactly what it was last year. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Mr. White said, that's a rollback. Chairman Hair said, all right, this is to approve the School Board's millage. Mr. White asked, you want the number for the School Board –. The Clerk said, excuse me. Who made the motion on CAT? Commissioner McMasters said, Frank [Murray] did and he seconded it. The Clerk said, thank you. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we need a motion to approve the School Board millage at what level, Mr. White? Mr. White said, the total for the Board of Education is 17.550 mills. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I so move that we approve. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. All those in favor vote yes –. Commissioner Thomas asked, that was 17 –? Commissioner Odell asked, what was last year's millage? Commissioner Thomas said, yes, that's what I want to know. Mr. White asked, for the Board of Education? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Mr. White said, it was higher, sir. Chairman Hair said, it was higher. There was a rollback. Mr. White said, they did roll –, this is the rollback rate for the School Board, but I don't know –. Chairman Hair said, it was higher. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Chairman Hair said, okay, that completes all the budget resolutions, I believe. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

- A.1. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve his budget proposal as outlined. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioner Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]
- A.2. Commissioner Rayno moved to allow the County Manager latitude in finding the \$1,012,490 for general government reduction with the exception of the Tax Commissioners office, whose budget is set at \$2,550,510, and continue the hiring freeze until the County Manager sorts out the vacancies for the budget. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rivers voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present when this vote was taken.]

- A.3. Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the SSD budget as presented by staff. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Gellatly and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion failed by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
- A.4. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the SSD budget as presented by staff with the following changes: Building Safety be reduced from \$1,344,100 to \$1,340,000 for a savings of \$4,100; Traffic Lights and Water be reduced from \$160,000 to \$120,000 for a savings of \$40,000; and Public Works be reduced from \$3,392,750 to \$3,200,000 for a savings of \$192,750, with the total savings being added to surplus. Commissioners McMasters and Kicklighter seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
- A.5. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the budget resolutions for Fiscal Year 2002-2003. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rivers voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
- B. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve a resolution clarifying the millage levy for fiscal year July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Odell was not present.]
- C.1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve the FY2002-2003 millage levy as advertised for General M&O of 10.367 mills (net of sales tax rollback of 1.33). Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
- C.2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the FY2002-2003 millage levy as advertised for SSD of 3.475 mills (net of insurance premium rollback of .80 mills). Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
- C.3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve the FY2002-2003 millage levy as advertised for CAT of .820 mills. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to three.
- C.4. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the FY2002-2003 millage levy as advertised for the Board of Education of 17.550 mills (15.326 mills for maintenance and operations and 2.224 mills for G. O. Bond Debt). Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**2. IF NECESSARY, REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO WAIVE THE HIRING FREEZE FOR ALL VOTER REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT POSITIONS AND ONE (1) PROBATION OFFICER I (JUVENILE OUTREACH OFFICER) POSITION IN JUVENILE COURT.**

Chairman Hair said, we have a request to approve a waiver of the hiring freeze. We just put the hiring freeze on, so I don't know how we could waive it now. I think that's really a moot point at this point so we'll just leave that on.

\* \* \*

Commissioner Odell asked, did we decide we were going to do nothing with number two on the hiring freeze? Chairman Hair said, well, we just --, before you got here we made a motion to keep the freeze in place. Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt] asked to sort it out first before we removed it, so it's up to him. Commissioner Odell asked, we're not hearing from the departments? Commissioner Odell said, that was the motion that passed previous. Before you were here. Commissioner Kicklighter said, Russ [Abolt] asked to keep it in place for a little while so he could sort everything out. Chairman Hair said, that was the --. Commissioner McMasters said, Russ asked for additional time to --. Chairman Hair said, until he sorts out the numbers. Commissioner Odell said, okay. Chairman Hair said, that was the request of the County Manager. Commissioner Odell said, I understand, Russ [Abolt]. My only concern is that --, I understand the crucial need that existed [inaudible]. As anyone will tell you, juvenile crime is up and probation officers are crucial. I'd just like to know from Judge Beam if putting it off two weeks is going to be --.

Judge John Beam said, this is a grant position. It's --. Commissioner Odell asked, cost you nothing? Judge Beam said, it's reimbursed. It's a position that we have now. We're going to lose the grant at the end of September. We're struggling to find another grant to pick it up. It's reimbursable.

Chairman Hair asked, is that both of these? You have two of them. Judge Beam said, just one. Chairman Hair said, you have a Probation Officer --. Judge Beam said, that's the same one, it's just one position. Chairman Hair said, same one.

Commissioner Rivers said, I move that it be allowed. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second to allow Judge Beam to fill the Probation Officer. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Judge Beam.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request to waive the hiring freeze as to one (1) Probation Officer I (Juvenile Outreach Officer) position in Juvenile Court. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, Murray, Odell, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present when this vote was taken.]

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar. If not, I'll --. Commissioner Murray said, yes, sir, I'd like to pull off Item #7. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, and Item #9.

[NOTE: At this point Commissioner Odell asked a question regarding Item IX-2 and Chairman Hair returned to that item for further discussion and action.]

Chairman Hair said, all right, I need a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. We have two items pulled off, 7 and 9. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present when this vote was taken.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 7 and 9. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly 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 AND THE 6:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING OF JULY 26, 2002, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting and the 6:00 p.m. public hearing on July 26, 2002, as mailed. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JULY 18 THROUGH JULY 31, 2002.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period July 18, 2002, through July 31, 2002, in the amount of \$4,549,941. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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- 3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REQUIRED IMPROVEMENTS, ACCEPT THE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT, RELEASE THE ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE LETTER OF CREDIT AND INITIATE THE TWELVE MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD FOR LEGACY SQUARE, PHASES 1A AND 1B.  
[DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the construction of the required improvements, accept the maintenance agreement, release the original performance letter of credit and initiate the 12-month warranty period for Legacy Square, Phases 1A and 1B. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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- 4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A REQUEST FOR EARLY ACQUISITION FROM MR. AND MRS. CHARLES COURSEY AT 1305 GRACE DRIVE DUE TO THE WIDENING OF WHITFIELD AVENUE.  
[DISTRICT 6.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the request from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Coursey for early acquisition of 1305 Grace Drive due to the widening of Whitfield Avenue. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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- 5. REQUEST FOR NEW LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2002. PETITIONER: ROBERT G. MAHNKE, D/B/A DELEGAL MARINA, LOCATED AT 1 MARINA DRIVE.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the petition of Robert G. Mahnke, d/b/a/ Delegal Marina, located at 1 Marina Drive, for a new liquor pouring license for 2002. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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- 6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Stormwater Management Program Intergovernmental Agreement. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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- 7. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF REPLACEMENT WELL BY DR. GLENN HORTON AT 231 FALLIGANT.  
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, my question is why is this on the agenda? County Manager Abolt said, my answer, the reason it's on we erred on the side of caution. From the time you called me on the 30<sup>th</sup> until subsequent conversations with Mr. [inaudible], it became apparent that we need some clarification from the attorney's office, which we now have,

and going forward something like this will not be before you. We'll be able to issue Dr. Horton his permit this afternoon. Commissioner Murray said, what I'm saying though is we have a policy in place that we adopted a number of years ago on replacement wells. Excuse me? Mr. Jay Jacobs said, I'd like to make a statement. Commissioner Murray asked, can I finish, sir? Thank you. I'm on your side. And there were two placement wells in this same neighborhood within the last year to 18 months that did not go through this process. The doctor was told that he could --, everything was worked out, he could go pick up his permit. Then he was told he couldn't get his permit, it was going before the Commission. I don't understand all that and I don't understand why we can't get things right. County Manager Abolt said, well, we're getting them right now, sir.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, after you and I talked about this same issue, I discussed it with the County Attorney that if any --, we need to make any change in the ordinance so that it would be automatic for replacement wells, we need to do that. The County Attorney's already looking at that, but I agree with you that I don't see this coming before the Commission each time.

Commissioner Murray said, but my point is we had two that were done that didn't come before us and now we've got one in the same neighborhood that's coming before us. But anyway --. County Manager Abolt said, we understand. County Attorney Hart said, we've had --, we've had three rewrites of that ordinance. Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt], I know wants to speak, and that's fine. I'll make a motion to approve it. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, said. Let's go ahead --.

Mr. Jacobs said, my name is Jay Jacobs. I'm an attorney. You've got a huge problem here. Chairman Hair said, sir, you need to address this motion to approve Mr. Horton's --, that's what we're here to talk about. Is that what you want to talk about? Mr. Jacobs said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, I'm sorry, sir. We have a motion to approve it. Are you opposed to it? Mr. Jacobs said, no, I'm in favor of it. Chairman Hair said, well, we've got a motion and a second to approve --. Mr. Jacobs said, it needs some explanation. Mr. Murray brought it up and I think it's --. Chairman Hair said, well, we might not get approval if you keep talking. I'm just saying we're going to approve right now. If you want to keep talking, it's up to you. I mean, we're going to approve it in about 30 seconds here. You don't want it approved? Mr. Jacobs said, I didn't say that, sir. No, I just want to make a statement to this Commission. Chairman Hair said, make a brief statement, sir. Mr. Jacobs said, are you all aware that the amendment that was passed in 1997 is still not listed in the County Code book in the Law Library as of yesterday? It is still not available on the Internet as part of the County Code. The rule of law has been violated, grossly violated. Somebody is responsible for this and this should be corrected. What has to be done to get this law updated? Does somebody have to file a petition for mandamus in the Superior Court or State Court of this County? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think we're doing that now. Mr. Jacobs said, no, you're not doing it now. Chairman Hair said, we just --. Sir, I just said we've just directed the County Attorney to do that, sir. Mr. Jacobs said, well, I indicated that that amendment is not in the Code. Chairman Hair said, we understand that, sir, and it's going to be fixed. Mr. Jacobs said, that was not indicated in that motion. That motion was there specifically to approve the well. Chairman Hair said, that is correct, sir.

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion to update the Code. Chairman Hair said, there's a motion on the floor. Commissioner Odell said, we can give instruction. Chairman Hair said, yes.

Mr. Jacobs said, and the other point I have to make is this is just the tip of the iceberg. How many other amendments have not been put into the Code? Thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, sir. We've got a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request of Dr. Glenn Horton for a replacement well at 231 Falligant. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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#### **8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A REQUEST FROM BRYAN COUNTY FOR CHATHAM COUNTY TO BE A CO-APPLICANT ON A REGIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (RAP) GRANT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF BRYAN-RICHMOND HILL BIKE TRAIL.**

#### **ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve a request from Bryan County for Chatham County to be a co-applicant on a Regional Assistance Program (RAP) Grant for the construction of Bryan-Richmond Hill Bike Trail. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly was not present.]

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**9. SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, what is this resolution for? To put their tax bill on ours? County Attorney Hart said, this is Tom –, oh, yeah. Commissioner Murray asked, or is the thing about –. County Attorney Hart said, this is –, basically Tom Grey requested that be put on there because they set their millage last week and y'all have to approve the millage, which you did by another motion. It's just a resolution that confirms that that they'll send with your budget package to the State.

Chairman Hair said, it's a legal thing, I think. Isn't that correct? County Attorney Hart said, yes. Chairman Hair said, I need a motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the adoption and execution of a resolution authorized by the Board of Education for the assessment and collection of a tax levy for the payment of general obligation school bonds issued by the Chatham County School District. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**10. 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. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms, unless there is a price increase, to provide laser printer toner cartridge service	Various	•All Ribbons Express, Inc. •Media South Computer Supplies, Inc. •Mustang Computers and Supplies, Inc. Thresholds Rehabilitation Industries •A Toner Warehouse	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
B. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one year terms, unless there is a price increase, to provide damaged vehicle claims services	Finance	Owen Claim Services	•Regular Appraisal - \$85 •Total loss - \$100	Claims and Judgments
C. Annual software maintenance contract for the Records Management Program	Police	Admit Computer Services (sole source)	\$31,680	E-911
D. Construction contract for the Ridge Road paving project	SPLOST	Sandhill ALS Construction (MBE)	\$226,945	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Colt/Ridge/-Redgate Roads
E. Change Order No. 2 to the construction contract to widen Stephenson Avenue for water quality monitoring	SPLOST	APAC-Georgia, Inc.	\$19,800	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Stephenson Avenue Widening project
F. Annual maintenance agreement for the telecommunication switches	I.C.S.	Integrated Network Solutions	\$74,650	General Fund/M&O - Communication

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-F. Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Gellatly 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.

None.

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

None.

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**XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

1. **PROGRESS REPORT ON GENERAL FUND CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT - M&O AND THE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT (SEE ATTACHED). No report until budget is adopted.**

No report until budget is adopted.

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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. **TOPRESENT INFORMATION TO THE BOARD ON THE READVERTISEMENT OF THE YEAR 2002 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE-YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2002 MILLAGE LEVY AS REQUIRED BY O.C.G.A. §48-5-32 AND INFORMATION REGARDING DIGEST GROWTH.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Written report received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Murray, seconded by Commissioner Rayno and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:50 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

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**ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

1. **REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE SETTLEMENT OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA V. 2.055 ACRES OF LAND FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY AND EASEMENT AND 213.17 LINEAR FEET OF ACCESS RIGHTS; WILLIAM G. BARTON AND LYDIA M. BARTON, CIVIL ACTION NO. CV01-0636-FR, TRUMAN PARKWAY, PHASE IV, PARCEL NO. 19 (JON HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rivers moved to authorize settlement of Chatham County, Georgia v. 2.055 Acres of Land for Right-of-Way and Easement and 213.17 Linear Feet of Access Rights; William G. Barton and Lydia M. Barton, Civil Action No. CV01-0636-FR, in the amount of \$195,000. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE SETTLEMENT OF THE WHELEN ENGINEERING CASE (JON HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the settlement of Chatham County v. Whelen Engineering Company, Inc., and Littelfuse, Inc., Civil Action No. CV99-1302-BA, in the amount of \$12,000. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. **REQUEST RELEASE OF SIGNATURE FLIGHT SUPPORT FOR DAMAGING WING TIP OF AIR TRACTOR ON MOSQUITO CONTROL'S HANGER DOOR (JON HART).**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize the Chairman to execute a release of Signature Flight Support for damaging a wing tip of an air tractor on the hanger door of Mosquito Control. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**APPOINTMENTS**

- 1. **C-E-L REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to appoint Ms. Marianne Heimes to the Chatham-Effingham-Liberty Regional Library Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Ms. Heather Fish, which term will expire June 30, 2003. Commissioners Rivers and Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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

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

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SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK