

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2003, 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, March 14, 2003.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner John McMasters 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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YOUTH COMMISSIONERS

Chairman Hair welcomed the following Youth Commissioners who were in attendance: Laura Parker, a Junior at Savannah Arts Academy, representing the Chatham County 4-H Program, and Celeste Ratcliffe, a Senior at St. Vincent's Academy.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY GRAND MARSHAL, LAWRENCE "PETE" CONNEFF.

Chairman Hair said, today we will honor our Grand Marshal for the parade, and this is a very special moment for Chatham County because this means so much to our community, but before I recognize the Grand Marshal, we have a little special presentation for you, Mr. Grand Marshal.

Three young ladies performed some Irish dances in honor of the Grand Marshal.

Chairman Hair said, we hope you enjoyed that, Mr. Grand Marshal. I can assure you we don't start all our meetings out this way. That was especially for you, and if you will join me down front. Mr. Conneff said, we appreciate it.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, one of the highest honors to be bestowed upon an Irish Catholic in Chatham County is to be elected Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade; today we salute with great pride the 2003 Grand Marshal, Lawrence "Pete" Conneff; and

WHEREAS, Lawrence "Pete" Conneff, the third child and only son to Harry and Helen Coleman Conneff of Savannah, was born, baptized and raised in Sacred Heart Parish in Savannah. Through the school's Drum and Bugle Corps, Conneff got his first taste of the St. Patrick's Day Parade as a 3rd grade bugle player and continued marching in the parade throughout his high school years at Benedictine Military School, and graduated from there in 1947; and

WHEREAS, he attended Armstrong State College and spent a year and a half in the Air National Guard at Sewart Air Force Base in Smyrna, Tennessee; even during his stint in the military, he returned during St. Patrick's Day to see the parade and has never missed a parade since joining the parade committee in 1952; and

WHEREAS, Grand Marshal Conneff is a charter member of Knights of Columbus 5588, and a member of Council 631, Sinn Fein, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and American Legion Post 36. He and his wife, Ann, have been communicants of St. James Church for the last 38 years. But for many years, parishioners have counted on his daily attendance at 8 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim Friday, March 14, 2003, as :

GRAND MARSHAL LAWRENCE "PETE" CONNEFF DAY

in Chatham County and salute him for having this prestigious title bestowed upon him and feel assured that Irish eyes will be smiling as he leads the 179th St. Patrick's Day Parade.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this, the 14th day of March, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Conneff said, thanks very much. It's a pleasure to be here today as the Grand Marshal of the 2003 St. Patrick's Day Parade as a guest of the Chatham County Commission, and I wish y'all a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day and hope on March 17th you can join us and we celebrate the Feast of St. Patrick. And I'd like to —, do you want me to introduce —? Chairman Hair said, yes, sir, please. Mr. Conneff said, I'll just introduce all of the aids and the officers. There's Hugh Coleman, General Chairman; Pat Dunn, he's one of my aides, Vincent Powers, he's the Vice Chairman, Stephen Conneff, my son, he's an aide, Walt Harper, he's on the Committee, Tom Mahoney, he's on the Executive Committee, Frank Baker, on the Committee, Roy Loncon is an aide, Louie DiBenedetto is an aide. Anybody else? Now I've got three other sons: Larry, Matthew and Tommy. They're not here, they're aides. Bob Reardon and —, is that it? I've got too many aides. But I really appreciate everything and I hope y'all have a happy St. Patrick's Day. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much for being here. You're welcome to stay, Mr. Grand Marshal, but I'm sure you've got more important things to do. Mr. Conneff said, we've got to [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, I understand. Congratulations. Mr. Conneff said, thanks again.

Youth Commissioner Parker said, this is my second St. Patrick's Day in Savannah. I really enjoyed last year and I really would just like to remind everyone, the youth especially, and adults, the precautions of drinking and driving, and I just hope that we can enjoy St. Patrick's Day without all the alcohol.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Parker. We appreciate you coming.

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2. RECOGNITION OF ST. ANDREW'S GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM AS STATE CHAMPIONS (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I'd just like to say congratulations. I understand that this is the first time that the girls have won a state championship. The boys have and we recognized them several years ago. It's great to be able to recognize the girls from St. Andrew's.

Commissioner Murray read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, the saying, "Champions are made, not born," describes the dedication, determination and sacrifice of the St. Andrews Lady Saints Basketball Team in winning a state championship;

WHEREAS, despite an ominous start to the season with only five players, and with only six players through the 23-game regular season, the St. Andrews Lady Saints won 20 regular-season games and claimed the Regional Championship with a perfect 10-win record; and

WHEREAS, with only six varsity and three junior varsity players comprising the team for its championship run, the Lady Saints exemplified untiring resolve, team spirit and grace under fire to advance through the state tournament; and

WHEREAS, no example better shows the Lady Saints' true character than the team's gritty determination in the championship game by overcoming a nine-point deficit at half-time, in part due to the focused shooting of 10 for 11 shots from the free-throw line, to win the state title game by five points; and

WHEREAS, despite their remarkable on-court accomplishments, each team member also earns academic recognition as an honor student, and the team's reputation for sportsmanship precedes even its reputation for winning.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, as Chairman, with the Board of Commissioners, do hereby recognize the St. Andrews Girl's Basketball Team as State Champions of the South Carolina Independent School Athletic Association Class AA; honor the team's members, Carie Bugos, Becca Cooper, Meghan Lowe, Mary Wilkowski, Grace Wilkowski, LeighAnne Evans, Maggie Hinchey, Cassie Prisel and Shephanie Vine; acknowledge the leadership of Debra J. Morrell, Head Coach; Kelley Jeffries and Bernie Foran, Assistant Coaches; and Mayya Grinberg, Team Manager; and congratulate the school and its fans on this noteworthy achievement.

PRESENTED this 14TH day of March, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

Attest:

Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem
and District 4 Commissioner

Ms. Debra Morrell said, very quickly I'd just like to thank the County Commission for allowing us to come today and recognizing the fine accomplishment of our young ladies. Thank you all very much.

Youth Commissioner Ratcliffe said, I just want to say that I think it's real great and I know it's very exciting to win a championship and I just wanted to let you know what it means to you and it shows a lot of great character.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Ratcliffe.

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3. PROCLAMATION TO DECLARING THE MONTH OF MARCH AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH - ACCEPTING FOR THE RED CROSS WILL BE RICK WALTER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER; DAVID MASON, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS; AND JOHN W. WRIGHT, MANAGER.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross is always there, under the same trusted symbol, serving our community and touching more lives in new ways by providing lifesaving information, training, and disaster relief to individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross is a leading voluntary agency meeting the needs of individuals and families affected by personal emergencies and disasters; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross is designated by the Congress of the United States in the act approved January 5, 1907 as the lead voluntary agency responsible for national and international relief in time of peace and to apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by pestilence, famine, fire, floods and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same; and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross trains people in our community in essential skills such as first-aid and CPR and provides HIV/AIDS prevention education and disaster preparedness information, saving untold numbers of lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim the Month of March as:

“AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH”

in Chatham County and do recognize the Red Cross as the lead voluntary agency and urge that our community acknowledge and support the ongoing contributions of the Red Cross in helping families prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies and disasters during Red Cross month and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 14th day of March 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Mr. Rick Walter said, thank you, Commissioners. Savannah Chapter received its charter in 1917. We've been in business for 85 years, and it is our intent to remain in business forever. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. PRE-AGENDA SESSIONS (COMMISSIONER KICKLIGHTER).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I start on this, I'd like to first thank Russ Abolt, Pat Monahan and Al Bungard for all their help. We held four public hearings in the four West Chatham municipalities and they attended the meetings and were very helpful in explaining the past SPLOST projects, as well as the upcoming projects, and I just want to let everyone know I really appreciate help in that.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, this is something —, the pre-agenda sessions is something we talked about last time but we decided to postpone it until this meeting so we could have everyone in attendance, and I see Commissioner Thomas is not here today, but I believe she was in support of the idea also. Hopefully we can get the pre-agenda sessions underway to iron out some of the —, just have a little discussion beforehand to iron out some of the problems before we get out here, and the only thing I'll ask is that we approve this, but I would request that we hold the pre-agenda from 9:00 until 9:30, and that would definitely be of a huge help for me, and I'd rather not discuss publicly why. That was something I'd like to tell you on pre-agenda, but 9:00 to 9:30 would definitely be better, if that's okay with everyone, and I'll put it in the form of a motion.

Chairman Hair said, okay, do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, I'd just like to say I'm in total support of the concept. I would like to either put it in the motion or get general agreement of two things I think to make it more effective. One is I think the discussion at pre-agenda should be limited to the Commissioners and staff. Otherwise, it just becomes another meeting. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chairman Hair said, so we would limit discussion only to Commissioners and staff, and the second is that we not add items at the pre-agenda that are going to be, number one, pretty controversial or mainly that would require research of staff or the County Attorney. I don't think it's fair to them, so I think anything that important we should have had it on the agenda well in advance. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chairman Hair said, but I think with those two caveats I think it's a great idea, and I'm in total support of the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and I include that in my motion. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I would agree with that and certainly I think we all understand that if an item comes up on the pre-meeting agenda and we —, the majority of us feel like it needs to be moved to our regular agenda, then we can move it out to the regular agenda at that point. That's the way it used to happen in there, and I don't know that that many items were moved out, but it still gives us that option if something needs to be moved to the regular agenda we vote to do that. Chairman Hair said, well, the Enabling Act is pretty clear about that. Commissioner Murray said, yeah. Chairman Hair said, either five Commissioners can put anything on or the Chair can put anything on, so we'd have to stay within that caveat, but that's fine, I think that's appropriate. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is 30 minutes a realistic amount of time to do this? I understand you used to do this. I'm kind of curious what it was previously. Chairman Hair said, I would suggest that we —, I think it will be, Commissioner McMasters. I think that's a good point, but I would say that let's try it at 30 and if we find out that it doesn't work, we can always make it an hour with no problem. I mean, if it doesn't work. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and the other question is if there's a pre-meeting agenda. Is this the mechanics? Commissioner Murray said, it moves this into a pre-meeting is basically what it does. Commissioner McMasters asked, is that —? Chairman Hair said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and we can still add in advance of the meeting date any items that we need to. Chairman Hair said, certainly, and I would request that again based on the caveat I'd like to see added is that's what we do. I mean, anything that's major or requires research that we do that in advance, but this is primarily to make last minute, you know, noncontroversial kind of things, plus to discuss things, as Commissioner Kicklighter said, that may discussion would not necessarily —. Commissioner McMasters said, no, I support the concept.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, it was never really my intent to remove the Commissioners' Items off of this agenda to do it. It was just to go into, you know, session to basically take every item that's listed on the agenda and individually, you know, basically the Chairman would chair the meeting and ask if there's any questions about —, in pre-agenda any questions about number two, three, four —. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, go all the way through, but leave it just like it is as far as us being able to call and get something on the, you know, agenda. So it would remain just like it is now except for we would discuss things in pre-agenda. Chairman Hair said, that's correct.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. So it's not limited to Commissioners' Items. It's the entire agenda —. Chairman Hair said, anything on the agenda we need to —. Commissioner McMasters said, — so that we can get a glimpse or clarification and try to smooth things out —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, — and clarify things in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. It's not changing our structure our at all right now. Chairman Hair said, and really this —, the way it should work is it should be sort of work by exception. That is, if there's nothing to be asked about an item, we're only discussing things where a Commissioner might have a particular question —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chairman Hair said, — about a particular item, so that's another reason, Commissioner McMasters, why I think 30 minutes probably is enough because we're only going to be looking at exception items and not discussing each item individually, only ones that people want to discuss. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I would hope that, you know, I've seen a flux of —, an inflow of a lot of information and a lot of questions to staff and letters coming back here. I'm hoping that we can resolve some of that between staff and Commissioners even before the pre-meeting so you don't come in —, staff won't be in there, but instead of bringing all of this dirty laundry out here, we'll be —, we can eliminate some of the stuff that's coming —, questions and little stuff that we go through that's insignificant, and if we can do that and stick with the agenda and keep the agenda —, previously we kept it to the agenda items and if Commissioners have questions have beforehand, it makes it a little more easier, we can run though it in 30 minutes or less.

Chairman Hair said, I think if we do it right —, it may the first few times as we're getting used to it, it might take a little bit longer, but I think —, really I think it will go a lot less than 30 minutes as we get used to the concept and, as Commissioner Rivers said, do a lot of stuff in advance, asking questions in advance before the meeting. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I misunderstood Dean [Kicklighter] the last —, at the last meeting. I thought you were talking about moving the Chairman and Commissioners Items in, and that's what we used to do with it. I certainly will support your motion on doing it the other way because it makes sense to do that too. So I just misunderstood the original intent of it.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved that the Board hold a Pre-Agenda Meeting from 9:00 to 9:30 A.M., to review and clarify agenda items with any discussion being limited to Commissioners and staff and that no items will be added in the Pre-Agenda Meeting that will be controversial or require research by staff or the County Attorney. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. VOTER REGISTRATION SOFTWARE (COMMISSIONER RIVERS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, yes, I have Ms. Sandra Williams here. They're having problems with their server and connecting up to the State system and stuff was about to go out over there and not getting —, we won't be able to do the voter registration or absentee ballots efficiently. So, Sandra [Williams], would you come up to the —.

Chairman Hair said, come forward please.

Ms. Sandra Williams said, the present software that we're using is so old, it's been babied and pampered and prayed over, but it's dying and it's just a computer where things have to be upgraded constantly, and this system is —, I've worked with ICS to try to find the best way that we could come up with something. This is the —, in my memo I stated to Russ Abolt this is the only way that we could come up with something and it's going to be roughly about \$14,000.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, are there any questions of Ms. Williams? Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno has a question.

Commissioner Rayno asked, does Effingham County use the same type of a system to go to the State. Ms. Williams said, yes, the entire county —, the entire State does, all 159 counties. Commissioner Rayno asked, is there any reason why we couldn't co-op with them to find some way to bridge our system with their server and just to be able to transmit information, if that's all we're doing? Ms. Williams said, I don't know if we could do that or not. You know, the State requires everybody to have their own State-accessed computer to look in and input people in there. Effingham County is a very small county. We have probably triple the registered voters that they have. I don't know if their system could support us. At the present time we have like 105 [sic] active registered voters and about 37,000 inactive voters, so you're talking about roughly 150,000 registered voters and Effingham County only has about maybe 30,000. Commissioner Rayno said, right, but it could be that their server has the capacity to have space on there for us and we could contract out with them since all we're doing is transferring the data to the State. Ms. Williams said, well, it's a State-owned thing and so we would have to go through the Secretary of State Elections Division Department for that, and ICS has been working with them. That's how we came up with what we have because their quote is from Johnny Vaughn, the Secretary of State's office. Commissioner Rayno asked, would it hurt to ask them if we could possibly look into this? Ms. Williams said, no, sir, it wouldn't hurt. Commissioner Rayno asked, would you mind doing that? Ms. Williams said, okay, I'll work with ICS to see if we can do that.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ma'am, in the E-mail from Johnny Vaughn to Randy [Slay], is that Ricky Morgan he's communicating to and —? Ms. Williams said, well, Ricky Morgan is who in Chatham County, ICS Department, that's been helping me come up with an alternative. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, who's the Randy that Johnny Vaughn's E-mail with the costing is directed to? Ms. Williams said, Randy [Slay] works in my office.

Commissioner McMasters said, in your office, okay. Ms. Williams said, yes, Randy [Slay] is my employee. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Ms. Williams said, Randy [Slay] is my employee and he's been helping me and he's been my liaison person with ICS —. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Ms. Williams said, — to come up with an alternative for the plan, and Ricky [Morgan] and Lewis Leonard have been helping us also, and this is what we came up with. Commissioner McMasters said, that's great. I notice in the E-mail that it surprised everybody the cost. Ms. Williams said, right. Commissioner McMasters asked, has —? Ms. Williams said, and we were looking at something else, you know, but we just haven't come up with anything else that we can handle. Commissioner McMasters said, well, that was my next question is where is Randy [Slay] and your group in terms of perhaps finding more economy if it's possible? Ms. Williams said, I beg your pardon. Commissioner McMasters said, the \$14,000 price seemed to have an awful lot of latitude to it. It says, [P]lease keep in mind that this is an estimate. The price could vary in either —. Ms. Williams said, right. That's right, it could be less when they come in and look at what, you know, we have and assess it, whatever, because they came in and did —, we had several people to come in and just look and see what they could come up with. So —. Commissioner McMasters said, well, it's important, I support it, I would just encourage you to continue in the researching of the cost and the implementation so that, you know, taxpayers are very, very comfortable with the acquisition. It's a tight budget. Thank you. Ms. Williams said, okay.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, since we have reservations about allowing you to have this server without some checking, how long would this take for you to research out the connection that Mr. Rayno was talking about? Ms. Williams said, when I get back to the office I'll call Lynette Walthour in Effingham County and ask her, you know. Commissioner Rivers said, delaying this another two weeks wouldn't have a negative effect on your operation? Ms. Williams said, well, we'll pray over it.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers, I might suggest that we approve it contingent upon her checking it out. That way it would already be approved if she checks it out and it doesn't work. I think you also might run into some licensing problems too. It's a possibility, but I'd like to see us approve this contingent upon her checking it out and if it works with Effingham, fine; if not, she would already be authorized to do it. I think that would be the appropriate action.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'll so move that we do it in that manner, and we'll have the checks and balances. Chairman Hair asked, do we have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second. County Manager Abolt said, M&O Contingency. Chairman Hair said, right. Any further discussion? Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you. Ms. Williams said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that Voter Registration be authorized to purchase a server for the approximate cost of \$14,000 from M&O Contingency contingent upon their first determining whether or not Chatham County can tie into Effingham County's server for the purpose of transferring data to the State of Georgia. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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3. EARLY ACQUISITION REQUEST, MRS. PURVIS (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes, Ms. Purvis, we approved the early acquisition of her house last Summer, and I understand that GDOT was under some restrictions on how they went through the acquisition process because of environmental concerns and if they didn't do it correctly, they wouldn't receive Federal funds, and a memo that came back from staff suggested that there was a kind of a variance that was granted on this and that within 60 days we'd be able to purchase the house after an appraisal was done. I've got that date of March 10th and I'm going to be counting 60 days because this woman is under a medical hardship right now and she's really pinched and we had promised last Summer to buy this house from her, and the other thing that I'm concerned about are the residents of Halcyon Bluff who are still having a hard time getting out of their neighborhoods. They were promised a traffic light there in that neighborhood by Tom Coleman when he sat on this body, and that was over 20 some-odd years ago and still today there's no traffic light there. All they've got is a blinking light and if anybody thinks it's easy to get out of Halcyon Bluff, you drive down there at 3:30 on a Friday afternoon and try to get out of that neighborhood and you tell me that there's not a traffic problem. I think you'd be very frustrated like they are, and when 60 days comes and that house isn't bought, I can guarantee that there's going to be some people from Halcyon Bluff here that will be very upset because they want to see a traffic light there. That's my only concern for them.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rayno.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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4. BRIEFING FROM JOE VESTAL, CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF ASSESSORS (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I had a request from the Chairman of the Board of Assessor, Joe Vestal, to address the Commission this morning. Commissioner Murray recognized Mr. Vestal.

Mr. Vestal said, good morning and thanks for taking the time out to let me speak to you today, and the first thing I'd like to say is I really appreciate —, our board really appreciates the support the Commission has given us over the last year, which we all know was a tough time for us personally and business-wise. A couple, three things that I'd like to talk to you about to keep you apprised [sic] on what's going on and also some requests. The first one is staffing, electronic digest and also some reorganization we'd like to do. On the staffing I don't —, do you guys have all the —, I gave you some handouts that Sheryl [Snider] had sent to me, a letter. Commissioner Murray asked, this one you gave us this morning? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Do you have a copy of that, Mr. Hair? If not, I have copies here. Mr. Vestal said, the letter that Sheryl Snider sent to me, she explained to me the situation we're in. We're doing between 11,700 to 11,900 transfers per year and without these transfers the Tax Commissioner cannot bill those [inaudible]. So it's very important that we get those transfers done. What we've been doing, we have three to five people doing that and we have to pull those extra people in to do that, so that takes them away from their work, so what's happening is that we're getting the tail chasing the dog. So that means when we pull people to do these, what happens is that they're not doing their work so we have to pull people to help them, and if we keep continually getting behind on that, plus you know we still have to do the exemptions, the mobile homes, the motor vehicles and the appeals, and what we were requesting is to add some clerical staff. This would also help our appraisers not having to do clerical work, and as you know, we're short on appraisers, and so that's what I was requesting. So is there any questions on this?

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Vestal, I have a number of questions. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair asked, do you want to finish or do you want me to ask the questions —? Mr. Vestal said, no, no. No, sir. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair said, first of all, I think the whole Commission is very supportive of what y'all have done over there and we appreciate the job y'all have done. I just have a couple of questions. The timing of it bothers me a little bit. I mean we're going into budget here and, you know, starting a new year here in July and to ask —, to add six positions a couple of months ahead of the budget bothers me a little bit. The other thing that I'm concerned about is there's no cost in here. Obviously these people have to have desks and computers and, you know, they're going to have to have a lot of things. You can't just hire a person and just expect them to go to work. So there's no cost associated with all these things that's going to have to be bought to support these people, and I would be very reluctant to support something when I don't know what the cost is. I mean, it's like a blank check here. If we voted to approve these six positions, we're going to incur a whole lot of cost that we don't know what we're going to incur. Have you —, have you tried to determine what those costs are going to be to support these six people? Mr. Vestal said, well, basically we're moving people around now and basically we're just talking about some desks and working on the phones that we already have, so there's not really a whole lot of —. Chairman Hair asked, they're not going to need computers or things like that? Chairman Hair said, no, sir, because this is work that's already been done. Chairman Hair asked, but you don't know what that cost to be? Mr. Vestal said, no, sir, I don't have that cost. Chairman Hair said, okay. That's my concern. My concern is the timing of it. Would it be totally detrimental to wait until July 1 and our regular budget year to do this? I mean, we're talking end of March, April, May, June. We're talking three months, 90 days. Mr. Vestal said, well, I have the money in my budget for these people. It's not extraneous. The other thing is the cost of furniture and that is minimal because we —, we already have the telephones and everything else. This is work that's being done now. It's not like we have to bring in new computers for that. This is filing, you know, doing the —, the movement of paper really. So there's not a whole lot of cost. You know, I don't have that and I'm sure we can find a another hole in that little office we have.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been attending the Board of Assessors meetings as the liaison, and I can —, I can justify to the enthusiasm and progress that this department is making. Having said that, I think it's important to note that they're playing a game of catch-up here from years of problems and hurdles and challenges, and I want to know specifically, Mr. Vestal, if this request is —. The last two years our digests have been delayed in terms of meeting the State guidelines for submitting them. Will this help ensure a timely digest submission? Is this linked at all to meeting that requirement? Mr. Vestal said, well, I can't give you a percentage. It would ----, it wouldn't be a total —, it wouldn't be totally correct to say that that would make us get the digest on time. Commissioner McMasters asked, would it help? Mr. Vestal said, oh, yeah, because what we're doing now, we're pulling everybody just to get the work done and then we get behind and we're chasing —, like I said, the dog's chasing its own tail in there, and I'm very, very conservative when it comes to spending money. As you know, we gave money back last year, and this —, I've never asked for money that's not needed because I'm not trying to build an empire. I'm not going to be here forever. I'm trying to do my job and that's —. Commissioner McMasters said, I understand. And tell us this —, these funds are already available in your '03 budget? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Yes, sir, I've got funds in my staffing budget. Commissioner McMasters said, well, in light of the Chairman's observation that there are other costs associated potentially with this that haven't been encountered, but you suggest that they're not that significant —. Mr.

Vestal said, and I think —, I think I've got some money in my budget for that too, but it's —, it would be very minimal because we've got —, we've already got the infrastructure there. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, but —, can you work with us if —? Mr. Vestal said, sure. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I make a motion that we approve four of these positions. Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to have my say before you do that just to propose an alternative, which might alleviate some of the concerns that Dr. Hair had. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, I'll withdraw that then.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno is next and then Russ [Abolt].

Commissioner Rayno said, my suggestion is this, it's just an idea I had, and we had unanimous support on the Board before for it, why not take the people that you're using right now for commercial property appraisals, shift them over into the clerical positions, that way you wouldn't have to retrain them for anything. They're familiar with everybody already in the staff, get the work done you need to get done, and then we had suggested before about taking an outside firm, outsourcing commercial properties in one fell swoop to make sure that all commercial properties are appraised at the proper level. That way by hiring an outside firm, we don't worry about the extra desks and computers, we don't worry about the extra medical, unemployment costs, et cetera, and we solve the problem, and we could probably use the money that already exists within your '03 budget to do that. Mr. Vestal said, well, we're getting ready to put an advertisement out for our commercial appraisals, but you're still going to have to have a clerical staff because they're just going to do appraisals. You've still got transfers, you still have all the other work to be done. You've got —. Commissioner Rayno asked, well, how many people do you have doing commercial appraisals right now? Mr. Vestal said, I don't have that figure with me right now. I wasn't prepared for that. Commissioner Rayno asked, three or four people? Mr. Vestal said, no, I think it's about five or six. Commissioner Rayno said, so surely you can pull them —. Mr. Vestal said, they're not to do clerical work. Commissioner Rayno said, well, they're going to have to —. Mr. Vestal asked, you're talking about two different things. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm just saying that they're going to have to do it. Whether they like it or not this saves money. Mr. Vestal said, no. No, you don't understand. You're not —, the appraisers are the highest paid people in there. You don't want to take appraisers that are highly paid in to do clerical work. It's not economical to do that. Commissioner Rayno said, well, our problem is that those commercial appraisal people that have not done their job properly, there's a lack of uniformity in the commercial sector so what we're going to do is hire a firm that specializes in that and is effective and has a proven track record of achieving uniformity, allowing them to do the work and unfortunately these people, although they're paid more, are going to have to do clerical work, and it just seems to me —. Mr. Vestal said, no, no, that's not the plan. The plan was to move those guys over into residential because let me give you some figures. The State and the IAAO says that an appraiser is supposed to do 2,500 parcels a year. Right now we're doing 4,963 and once you hit the 5,000 area, which we're 27 parcels away from doing 5,000, they're saying that that is a critical situation and you can't get the appraisals done right. But, no, we can't use appraisers for clerical work. It defeats the whole purpose. What we —, what our plan was is to take the —, if this works out. We don't know if it's going to work out. This is —, I've talked to Phil Hogsd in Cobb County in trying to get out an advertisement for —, and get some proposals on our commercial, but that's not done yet. But you cannot take people we're paying that money to do clerical work because we want —, we need those in the real property residential because we're —, we have 19 real appraiser —, real appraisers. The State and the association says we're supposed to have 38. Commissioner McMasters asked, I'm sorry, you have how many? Mr. Vestal said, 19. Commissioner McMasters asked, and you're supposed to have 38? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Exactly 50% less. So if we took appraisers to do clerical work, that makes no sense whatsoever because the whole idea to be efficient is you pay the lowest paid people to do the work that they need to do and hopefully you can give —, the appraisers can give the clerical staff more of their work so we can get more parcels done. It doesn't make sense.

Chairman Hair said, okay, it's Russ [Abolt], Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Odell. That's the order. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, gentlemen, all I would ask, I'm reviewing this for the first time with you, that whatever action you take would be contingent upon verification from Finance as to the availability of the money. I'm not doubting Mr. Vestal, but, as you know, in difficult times we count on salary savings. The money could be there, but it might have been already obligated. I would just ask that you would, in effect, refine your motion, if it is to approve, contingent upon verification of the funds available.

Commissioner Rayno asked, so are you planning on going forward and getting an outside commercial firm to come in and —? Mr. Vestal said, we have to put out an advertisement for that and get bids for that. Yeah, we're working on that now in fact. Commissioner Rayno asked, when do you see that happening? Mr. Vestal asked, you mean actually the implement —, to implement that? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, sir. Mr. Vestal said, I don't know because we don't know how many bids we're going to get and we need to —, when we get bids, we need to go to those other counties that's having that done and make sure that's where we want to go. We've got to be very careful with that. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. How about another option? What if we went to a neighboring county and asked them to use some of their appraisers that might be available? Mr. Vestal asked, well, what other county? What do you suggest? We're the largest county in this area and a lot of the other counties are contracting out their appraisers. I mean, Bryan I think has their own appraiser staff. I don't know. Commissioner Rayno asked, so they're contracting out, they're getting outsourced for that? Mr. Vestal said, yeah, for the smaller counties, yes. Commissioner Rayno asked, have you looked into that to see if you could do that where we wouldn't have to give them any kind of medical payments or any of that? Mr. Vestal said, well, we were going to keep all our options open, but there are certain things we're going to have to do here and we still have to do clerical work. This is not —, we're mixing the apples and oranges. We're talking about transferring, we're talking about homestead exemptions, we're talking about motor vehicles, mobile homes, and the appeals. The appraisers go to the appeals, but they don't shuffle the paper-

work. Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to thank Mr. McMasters for letting me interrupt his time and I turn it back over to him. Thank you.

Chairman Hair asked, were you finished?

Commissioner McMasters said, just —, the commercial outside appraisal, if I understood it correctly in your meetings, is something that won't happen for this tax digest, so I want to understand that that's a great concept. We've all supported it previously in our testimony here, but realistically that's an '05 tax digest reality. It's not an '04 and I'm sure Commissioner Rayno's thoughts were well placed originally, but this is not a question of taking highly trained appraisal staff and asking them to do clerical work. The fact that this clerical work remains undone and cannot be caught up at the current level does impact those appraisers in the performance of their specialization of duty. So I think that we're making this a little more complicated than it is, and I'm not in favor of doing all six of the positions. I'd like to see if three or four would get us over this hurdle and —, okay, I'll make a motion that we approve four of the six positions provided that Finance verifies that the funds are available in the budget.

Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said second. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Gellatly and Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Murray asked, what is your average salary on appraisals? Mr. Vestal asked, on which —? Commissioner Murray asked, on the appraisers? Mr. Vestal said, well, it depends on one, two, three or four. Commissioner Murray said, I'm just trying to compare based on what you have for these clerical positions if you had shifted an appraiser over what the difference in the salary would have been. Mr. Vestal said, well, let me explain something. If we don't do X-amount of parcels —. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not suggesting you do that. I'm just trying to get a comparison of the salaries. Mr. Vestal said, an appraiser —, Appraiser I, which is in training, starts out around \$21,000-\$22,000 and then they go up. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Mr. Vestal said, with experience. Commissioner Murray said, now —. Mr. Vestal said, that's entry level, okay. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not sure, but I think the other problem that you would run into with that would be downgrading an appraiser's position to put them in that clerical position, which I don't think our guidelines would allow that to begin with, I don't know. But I think it would be a legal question we would have to come up on it, but I —. Based on where we are budget-wise and everything else right now, I would request that they change that motion to three instead of four and that we not take a vote on this until the next meeting after all —, everything's been verified. I don't think that two-week delay would bother —, would hurt you that much. Mr. Vestal said, no, sir. The thing is we're required to do so many properties. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. Mr. Vestal said, and the appraisers have —, not only appraise, they have to go to the appeals, which puts us behind.

Commissioner McMasters said, I'll amend that to three. Chairman Hair asked, will the second accept three? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, just an observation. You know, it wasn't so long ago that we had a tremendous, ongoing, it seemed like forever problems with this particular office. Right now I think we have a good board and I have the utmost confidence in Mr. Vestal, the job and he and his staff are doing. I think we're on the right road. We have significant budget challenges and unless we properly staff his office, it really doesn't make any difference what the —, what follows if they can't in fact do their job and carry out their duties. I personally would —, will support whatever he requests. I will support the highest number of people that are possible. He asked for six people and keep in mind that he pointed out that he's talking about expending funds from the existing budget. He's not coming in here asking for additional people [sic]. I think that it's very important that we don't take for granted that we right now at the present time have competent people in place and that we support these people. After saying that, after we grant him what he asks for, I would certainly hold him accountable for results, but I personally think that if he asks for six people, it's in the —, it's in his existing budget, that's what we ought to do and we shouldn't micro-manage his operation. I have a problem also with delaying his request. You don't just hire people and have them come in the door and have them start up immediately. You delay it two weeks, why this pushes it back in reality four to six weeks. So I'd just ask my fellow Commissioners to consider that also.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Vestal, I guess my question is whether you need six positions or whether you need three. Mr. Vestal said, well, right now we'll take three or six. Commissioner Odell said, that's not my question, not what you would take. My question is, the Board of Assessors, based on a projected work load, made a determination as to the staffing required. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, and that number is six. Is that correct? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell said, based upon that number and expected salaries, you looked to your budget to determine if you had sufficient funds. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, and there are sufficient funds, although unaudited by Finance? Is that correct? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. That would be correct. That's just —, we keep a —, every meeting we usually have our budget and we look at it at every meeting. Commissioner Odell said okay. And —. Mr. Vestal said, so we're real —, we look at our budget closely at every meeting. Commissioner Odell said, I understand why we would not use an appraiser to do clerical work. It would kind of be like having the County Attorney be a legal secretary. Is that clear, Jon [Hart]? County Attorney Hart said, that would be a mistake because I can't type. Commissioner Odell said, and likewise the appraisers, it would be a misuse of talent. We would be paying almost in some cases two times as much to have something done, the same work done that we could have done for half. So, you know, I don't think we need to do that. Mr. Vestal said, that would make —, to me it's not efficient. Commissioner Odell said, and I also don't think that we need to second guess the Board of Assessors. I understand our serious financial crisis, but I think this is one of the key building blocks. I don't think we

can afford not to have the things that your office needs to have done. Having said that, I'll support David [Gellatly] —, and I haven't talked to David [Gellatly] —, I'll support the six. I am concerned, and Jeff [Rayno] made a good point, I would like us to look at considering moving up commercial appraisals so that we could do that, get that issue behind us, let bids, make a determination as to potential costs to do that so that —, my concern is that if we don't do that or if we don't plan to do that, you're not going to have sufficient staff to make that kind of a determination. We're not going to do that. The only way —, and there are companies out there that would do this and contract to do these kinds of things. So I'd like —, I agree with Jeff [Rayno], I think we need to move forward on that. I don't think it needs to be delayed. Errors in those appraisals are costly. That's money that this County is legitimately due, which we are not going to receive. So I'll support the six contingent upon what the County Manager's statement that it is within your budget, and in that you say that the costs of the ancillary services, like desks, computers, in that they're already in place —. Mr. Vestal said, now the desks —, excuse me. The desks might not, but the computers I think we're okay on because it's really moving work, but the desks —. Commissioner Odell said, I tend to agree. I think that that's going to be a cost less than \$2,500 potential. Mr. Vestal said, we would try to find something that's already been used that's not being used now. We don't have to have new in our office, but one thing that —, one reason we were really wanting to look at the contracting out the commercial was that we only have two malls. For example, we only have two malls in Chatham County. Commissioner Odell said, we have one and a half now, Savannah Mall is dying. Mr. Vestal said, well —, but, so therefore we don't have a mall guy, a mall specialist. So when you don't have a specialist you bring somebody in, and that was really what started me thinking about it when I talked to Cobb County. The reason they did that was for the same reason. They've got four malls and they said we don't have a mall guy. They said we have four malls, but it's not enough to have a guy doing malls. That's the reason they brought in, so there's some other particular type of properties that being a small county, we can't have specialists in those areas, so that you can bring somebody in that has specialists. They might bring that mall guy in for a week and he's off to Atlanta or Columbus or wherever looking at those malls. That's just an example, a reason I think that makes sense in commercial. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, because you get the expertise without the continuing cost. Mr. Vestal said, right, and plus a guy can't be good, he can't be an expert on two malls. I mean, you know what I'm saying? You don't have the experience and the whole thing. It's nothing against the guy, it's just that he can't get that experience because we only have two malls. A guy's traveling the State looking at all these different malls, he has the experience.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rivers and then Commissioner Kicklighter and Commissioner Murray. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Vestal, I think you're doing a good job over there and I would support six people, but it's contingent on what you find. Now you said that you had money within your budget to do that? Mr. Vestal said, personnel, yeah. Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt], what I would want to make sure is that that's revenue that he has there, is that from the freeze that you have, that excess of money? Mr. Vestal said, no, sir. One reason we have —, we have quite a bit of excess is because we didn't have some —, we finally got some more appraisers in. We had a hard time getting appraisers, plus our Acting Chief was actually doing two jobs. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. In other words, what you're telling me now that your savings has come from the number of appraisers that you're using at the present time. Are you going to have a need for those appraisers to come back? Mr. Vestal said, no, we finally got our appraisal staff full for what we're allocated, but that's another story. You guys don't want to talk about that right now. Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt], I want to be sure that we have recurring revenue within his budget to compensate for what he's doing here. If that's —, Mr. Vestal, if that's not there, then I hate to delay you —. Mr. Vestal said, sure. Commissioner Rivers said, but then that money needs to come from our budget, '04 budget, and be put in there from growth where we would have an assurance of reoccurring revenue. You know, everybody can sit up here and say do this, do that, and then we look around, the next year we don't have the money there and the money has already been allocated out. So, Russ [Abolt], if we're going to do this, be sure that we look ahead and take that money out of projected revenues or whatever to cover the cost of this if that reoccurring revenue is not within the confines of his budget. Am I clear? Does everybody understand what I'm saying? County Manager Abolt said, what Commissioner Rivers is asking for is the refinement of what I heard Mr. Vestal say. I will ask Finance staff to verify the availability of money. I will also ask them to verify the fact that it's reoccurring revenue. Commissioner Rivers said, right, and if not, if it's not reoccurring revenue, then we look forward to the '04 budget of taking out of —, well, say projected, but whatever the digest brings in, that will come off the top in order to take care of that outgoing expense.

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

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank you, Mr. Vestal. I think y'all doing a good job and I just want to say that I know that we hold you and your board accountable and we have in the past when the job's not done in a manner that we feel is appropriate and, you know, maybe —, maybe now it's time we really kind of look at ourselves on the matter. If you're standing there telling us you need six employees to do the job that we've asked you to do and appointed you to do, then I respect it. I mean, you know, I don't want to see you back here in a year or so and everybody's upset that appraisals are off, that you're —, you know, the commercial area wasn't appraised this year or this wasn't appraised when we're not providing you with the people you say is necessary to get your job done. I support it, I support six people and, you know, if you get the job done like it should be done over there, like I believe y'all will get the job done once you hire the outside appraisers to come in and do the commercial, I believe you're going to generate a lot more money for this County than you're going to spend by hiring the additional employees, and I support you. I think you're on your way to getting all of it in line, but I encourage the Board to support Mr. Vestal here and give him the employees necessary to do the job like we want the job to be done. That's it.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Joe [Vestal], this \$165,600 figure you've got on there —. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, that's an annual figure? Is that correct? Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Yes. Commissioner Murray said, so you're talking much less than that for the balance of this year. Mr. Vestal said, oh, yeah. Commissioner Murray said, with that —. Mr. Vestal said, we're talking about three months or so. Commissioner Murray asked, are you saying that you will have that in your budget next year too, that \$165,000? Mr. Vestal said, as it looks now —, I wasn't prepared for that question. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think it's significant that we aren't talking about \$165,000 to come up with for the balance of this year. Mr. Vestal said, no, no, we're talking about, what, three months or something. Commissioner Murray said, well, I think what most of us were probably speaking of was looking at that figure right now and where's it going to come from. You know, based on that, you know, I will support your request, but when I first looked at that number, I was looking at it differently and then it dawned on me that's an annual figure and not for the balance of this year. So we're only talking about three months. Mr. Vestal said, right, so you're talking about, what —. Commissioner Murray said, well, we're talking about a fourth of that. Mr. Vestal said, a fourth or less. A fourth, you're right. Correct. So \$40,000 I've got [inaudible].

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters wants to amend his motion.

Commissioner McMasters said, thanks for the support on this. I'd like to amend my motion to be the full requested six positions and staff will have a chance to confirm that in fact this remaining three months of the fiscal year that what Mr. Vestal's representing that the funds are within his existing budget be confirmed and that we move forward immediately. Chairman Hair said, and that it's continuing revenue. Commissioner Rivers said, that's a restated motion. Is that a restated motion? Chairman Hair said, yes.

Commissioner Rivers said, okay, if I may, I'm going to attach a little amendment, a friendly amendment there. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll amend my second also then. Commissioner Rivers said, that being that we're doing this for only three months, that we look at it in the '04 budget if he doesn't have reoccurring revenue or a continuing stream of revenue, we agree to explain that some —, a continuing stream of revenue, if it doesn't have a continuing stream of revenue, then in the '04 budget put the total \$165,000 to cover it. Chairman Hair asked, do you accept that? Commissioner Rivers asked, am I clear? County Manager Abolt said, no, because I have to —, if you'll permit me —, I have to approach it based on your previous direction, reoccurring revenue. So even though in this three month period —. Commissioner Rivers said, right. County Manager Abolt said, — I have to look at the \$165,000 figure. Commissioner Rivers said, right. County Manager Abolt said, I mean, because if he can't produce this amount of money, it's not reoccurring. Commissioner Rivers said, that's what I'm saying. I just —, reoccurring or continuing stream. Well —. County Manager Abolt said, we'll work it out. Commissioner Rivers said, just a little different in semantics there. Look at the reoccurring.

Chairman Hair asked, everybody understand the motion? I think we're ready to vote on the motion. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

Commissioner Murray asked, Russ [Abolt], when you get that information, could you copy it to all of us. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Everybody —, everyone will get a copy.

Mr. Vestal said, thank you, I appreciate that. One thing I wanted to appraise [sic] you of, did I give you a copy of this letter we sent to Larry Griggers with the State? Commissioner Murray said, no, we don't have that. Mr. Vestal said, I need for you to have a copy of this. What's happening here, and the reason I wanted to come here because I believe that I work for you guys —, our board works for you guys, and you need to know what's going on. As you know, we've got a tough time with this computer system. We're looking at getting a new computer system because I was always concerned about DOS —, not DOS, COBOL. We're running on COBOL, and that has come true. The software vendor is not going to support it after this year. We're going to have to upgrade and we're looking at an \$800,000 upgrade. So, the problem we have now with the Department of Revenue and we can't get a response back from them, last year they requested us to do an electronic digest submittal, which is all electronically. We spent \$16,000 on programming and we have in our budget \$57,000 to go ahead and do it. Well, about March they said never mind we're not going to do it and didn't give us a time frame on it. Now they're saying they want us to do it and we're saying we don't want to do it and we'd like to get that deferred until another year because it's going to cost us \$100,000 to program our computers to do this, and the problem we have with this program is we still continue to have bugs with it, it's not stable. In fact, Tybee Island asked us to do their exemptions and we couldn't do those because it's going to cost them 15 to \$16,000 we want to charge them to do that. But the software programmers, which there's three, we only have a company —, we bought our software from a company with three people. They said, we can't do both. So that's where we are. I wanted —, there's no action that I need from this, but I would like to have our legislative delegation be aware of this mandate that the State sent down to us and we're not even sure we can get our programmers to get it right with this program.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, you talked to me a little bit when I saw you the other day about this, and I can't make a motion right now, but I would recommend that somebody make a motion that we do a resolution to support what you're trying to do based on this letter. Commissioner Odell said, I'll make the motion. Mr. Vestal said, because basically if we program this —, even if we get this program to work, the program for electronic digest, we'd have to throw that out this year and start over next year with a new program. That makes no sense. It's a mandate that the State won't even respond to us. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, Commissioner Odell has made a motion. Do we have a second to that motion? Commissioner Rivers said, I second it. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, we have a second. Any other discussion? Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and

Commissioner Thomas were not present.] Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, that motion passes The motion carried unanimous to send a resolution to the delegation.

Commissioner Odell asked, can we have back a resolution review by Joe [Vestal] and his people before we send —? Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, well, I think he needs to be a part of it. They can get together with, I guess, Jon [Hart] or Pat [Monahan] or whoever is going to do the resolution. Yeah, I think it's important to do that.

Mr. Vestal said, I just wanted you guys —, I'm going to try to keep you guys always apprised of what's going on in our office.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, there's one other comment I want to make too. As you well know, there's \$800,000 in the SPLOST referendum to go towards your department to upgrade your complete computer system and software. Now if the SPLOST passes Tuesday, then that money will be forthcoming. I don't know how long it will be before you would receive that. So, if it passes, at our next meeting I think some of us or this Board needs to consider do we want to pull that \$800,000 from any other department so you can go ahead an upgrade that as soon as possible and then when the SPLOST money comes in, then it goes back to replenish where it came from. So that's another area that we need to think about if it passes. If it doesn't, then it's a whole different story and we're going to have to do something else. Mr. Vestal said, well, I'm not trying to —, trying to get money that we don't need, but we're looking at a train wreck here. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, well, I understand that. Mr. Vestal said, and I'm just trying to keep everybody apprised [sic] of what's going on. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, well, it was probably what —, seven, eight years ago —, that we had spent a lot of money to upgrade that particular software and told that that was going to solve all of our problems, and we supported that and came up with funding for it. It did not. That was way before your time. And I think we need to get rid of it and get what we've got to have in order to comply with the rest of the Counties in this State too, and you've got some support and backup when you do that change. Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters asked, can staff tell us in the language and the mechanics of SPLOST, I know that there was some funds coming from the City to accomplish our intergovernmental agreement, \$17,000,000 or something, up-front. Has that been spoken for and, if not, can we ensure that our of that front money that there's immediate \$800,000 be directed to the Board of Assessors for this urgency? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, let's deal step by step. After Tuesday, we'll be glad to work with Mr. Vestal. There may be some [inaudible]. There also may be some options with the current SPLOST funds, but it's premature to try to comment on that until after Tuesday. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I willing to do —, I don't understand why we can't hypothetically address this issue. County Manager Abolt said, well, I can hypothetically address it, but I cannot with specificity that you might want. Commissioner McMasters said, so hypothetically the \$17,000,000, should the SPLOST pass —. County Attorney Hart said there are real serious questions about that \$17,000,000 because you're doing an advance refunding on a bond issue, and as part of your bond requirements in issuing those bonds, you've got to state that the funds that are necessary to refund the bonding part of that are going to go strictly to the bonding funds up-front and will be paid before anyone else. So that's why that was sort of structured that way. I know that to be a fact. Commissioner McMasters said, well, suffice it to say that we would like every accommodation within the latitude that is available —. County Attorney Hart said, I understand. Commissioner McMasters said, — to fund this request first due to the urgency of it. That's all I have.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I just want to suggest that after the resolution's done, that you get together with our lobbyist also and get him to take it directly to all of our reps and, you know, try to get them to do something. That's —, and thank you again for all of your hard work. Mr. Vestal said, well I'll tell you, you know, I think we have to work together because we've still got two or three hard years to get —, get our office up to speed. But on the other —, last thing if I may, I don't want to take up too much of your time, but we're going to do some reorganization in the office and one of those reorganizations is we were trying to think of how we want the Chief Appraiser not to be a classified job. That's been one of our goals. During some research, we're still —, we have to clarify these things. Reviewing the history, they used to have a Chief Appraiser and a Tax Receiver/Tax Assessor. So when we —, the County some —, what year I don't remember, I didn't write it down —, but the Tax Assessor was deleted from Chatham County. So the Tax Assessor was supposed to be the Tax Receiver. Okay? Then when they combined that, the Chief Appraiser became the Tax Receiver. Well, we had the attorney to look up some statutes. The Chief Appraiser cannot be the Tax Receiver because the Tax Receiver has to be on the Board of Assessors. Therefore, we want to propose and we'll bring this to you guys is that we want to make the Chief Appraiser the sole job of a Chief Appraiser. One of the members of the Board of Assessors would become the Tax Receiver. Commissioner Rayno said, but not a constitutional position. Mr. Vestal said, no, sir. County Attorney Hart said, correct. Mr. Vestal said, you'll still be our boss. It would just —, so that's a way that we can get the Chief Appraiser not classified. So I just wanted to keep you apprised [sic] on that. So that's what we're looking at doing at our next meeting.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Vestal —. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers asked, is there any time that y'all —, time frame that y'all have set for hiring a Chief Appraiser? Mr. Vestal said, we're basically trying to get the ads out. Just as soon as we can get applications, we'll be reviewing those. County Attorney Hart said, it will be very much like —. Commissioner Rivers said, let me ask this. This is getting back to one of my points. Let's say we bring on a Chief Appraiser and that Chief Appraiser comes on, as I understand, part of his salary will be salary savings from that Chief Appraiser. So now that comes back into your budget. Mr. Vestal said, yes, sir. That's not the only one though. Commissioner Rivers said, and that may deflate what we're talking about in the hiring of those other folks. That's why I want to make sure —. Mr. Vestal said, I understand. Commissioner Rivers said, — we've got reoccurring revenue

within your budget in spite of the things that you may do in your hiring. Mr. Vestal said, we —, the Board of Assessors gave back \$200,000 last year.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, okay. Anything else? Mr. Vestal said, no, sir. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, oh, excuse me, Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, I remember some very good advice from the County Attorney, Mr. Vestal, that —, and on a cautionary note here —, before that position is advertised or filled —. County Attorney said, we need to make changes. Commissioner McMasters said, — you need to get your changes in the Tax Receiver/Tax Assessor finalized. Is that correct, Jon [Hart], all done before —. County Attorney Hart said, so we've got it non-classified when we advertise. Commissioner McMasters said, right. Is that correct? Mr. Vestal said, that will be done. That will be done this next meeting. Commissioner McMasters said, yeah, prior to even advertising. Mr. Vestal said, yeah. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Mr. Vestal said, because we're still —, still trying to get the ad written up so —, but that's not been done. So we have to figure out how to do this. Commissioner McMasters asked, and do we know what it takes to actually sanction that change in position? County Attorney Hart said, we're going —, take it as a personnel action by the Board of Assessors in a joint reorganization. I haven't spoken with lawyer who represents them, but initially it was contemplated that basically as part of the overall reorganization there would be the separation of those two bodies and then they would issue a report directing Human Resources to reclassify that position and we would separate out that position into two separate, distinct positions, deleting the former classification and making it an unclassified employee and then advertising such so that whoever occupied that position would know that they were in an unclassified status. Commissioner McMasters said, excellent. So you're looking after this from our Human Resources/County side of the equation —. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, — and you have so much experience previously on it. We've got to do this one right. Mr. Vestal said, oh, yes, sir. We promise you that we'll get this one right.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, we appreciate you coming and appreciate your updates. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to authorize the Board of Assessors to fill six clerical positions upon Finance staff confirming that the funds are available in their existing budget for the remainder of this fiscal year and that it's reoccurring revenue or a continuing stream of revenue, and if it doesn't have a continuing stream of revenue, then in the '04 budget put the total \$165,000 to cover it. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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5. METHOD TO PRE-CERTIFY BIDDERS ON PUBLIC CONTRACTS (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you, Commissioner Murray. In May of 2001 the Commission passed a concept of having some kind of working agreement between the City, the County and the School Board where we could acknowledge whether or not we had some performance deficiencies among contractors who did work for these various governmental agencies and that passed, and one of the concepts that went along with that was the fact that we would put these contractors on probation if they had deficient work and to date I don't think we've enacted on any of that even though it passed and even though it was brought to my attention today that the intergovernmental agreement has been signed back in 2001 between all those agencies. I think that we owe it to the taxpayers of this community, seeing how some projects are starting to show signs of decay and ruin after only a few years of operation, that we owe it to the taxpayers to work together with the City and the School Board to make sure we have somewhat of a list of contractors who do poor work so that we do not contract with them again in the future. I would just ask —, we don't need to vote on it since we already have, but I think we need to direct staff to approach the City and the School Board and say that we're ready to move forward on this so that we have accountability for the taxpayers of Chatham County.

County Manager Abolt said, great idea. We'll breathe life into it.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I would ask also, if y'all wouldn't mind, to contact the —, all of the municipalities and let them in on it because that would be good information for them to have also.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I'd like to add to that. You know, in case of larger buildings, I'd like to not only have a list of the contractors, but who the architects were.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, any other discussion? Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff was directed to approach the City of Savannah and the School Board to move forward with preparing a list of contractors who have done poor work. Commissioner Kicklighter requested that all municipalities be included and Commissioner Gellatly requested that the list also include the names of the architects.

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:22 a.m., and convened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

The Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and at 11:05 a.m. the Board reconvened as the County Commission.

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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. ~~**REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A PILOT PROJECT FOR INCLUSION OF LIMITED COMMERCIAL COLLECTION AT WILMINGTON ISLAND RESIDENTIAL DROP-OFF CENTER AND AN AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY REVENUE ORDINANCE ARTICLE W. SECTION 2. REFUSE DUMPING FEE.**~~ At meeting of February 28, 2003, second reading was tabled.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not placed before the Commissioners for consideration.

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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. **SET COMMISSION BUDGET GOALS SESSION.**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, yes, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, of course, you're old hands at this and certainly, as I mentioned in my memo to you, which is enclosed, I found that it's been very productive, at least as an observer with the Chairman providing the organizational structure of this, and in the past it's been a blend of both short and long term financial policies. As also indicated, and you're well aware it's the season now, the department heads are preparing budgets and I'll start reviewing their requests at least in the next few weeks, and it would probably be advantageous and very compatible with the budget challenge we will face this year for y'all to schedule a similar session as you have in the past year.

Chairman Hair said, okay, what about —? Commissioner Rayno asked, April 7th, do you want to try that again? Chairman Hair said, that works for me, April 7th. Do you want to say again 9:00 to 12:00 in this room? Does anybody object? Okay, Mr. Abolt, again put that out officially so that some of us —. County Manager Abolt said, 7th of April, 9:00 to 12:00. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner Rayno, did you have a —?

Commissioner Rayno asked, can we also schedule budget meetings for the department heads like we did last year after the regular Commission meetings where they made presentations? County Manager Abolt said, well, that's up to y'all. Remember last time you did it, it wasn't in advance of a specific budget. You wanted to have a big picture. Now if you want actual budget sessions, I would suggest that after we —, you receive a document and after we've complied with your goals, then you do your budget review that way as opposed to just waiting for —. Chairman Hair asked, that's the way we did it last year, isn't it? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. What you did last year is you wanted to have a mid-term horizon presentation. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner Rayno, what's your preference?

How do you want it? Commissioner Rayno said, no, last year we had our first one on March 22nd, I think it was, and we had a whole bunch of department heads came with their proposed budgets. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Not to argue with you, what you've done is you wanted the department heads before they actually —, you started your budget review to give you in effect what they needed, regardless of what the funds were. We could do that again, if you wish, but again it's your choice. I would suggest only for maybe selfish reasons that you program your time between the time in which you get the proposed budget from me and do just what you're talking about. Chairman Hair said, whichever one you want to do. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, I'd like, if you don't mind —. Commissioner Rayno said, that sounds feasible. Chairman Hair said, I think that works better.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters asked, could somebody give me some insight as to what the goals session, the format? Chairman Hair said, the way we've done it in the past, Commissioner McMasters, is that we first start out with every Commissioner having the opportunity to talk about things they'd like to see accomplished in the next budget year. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Chairman Hair said, and then we go through a prioritization process of, you know, getting consensus from the Board as to not necessarily —, that might be number one for that particular Commissioner, but the rest of the Commission might think that's number seven, okay. Commissioner McMasters asked, but is that something that's done within the scope of this goals meeting? Chairman Hair said, it's done —, yeah, it's done within the —? Commissioner McMasters asked, not after? Chairman Hair said, no, no, it's done within the workshop. Commissioner McMasters asked, and are we to supply anything individually in advance of this goals meeting? Chairman Hair said, you could if you wanted to. We haven't done it in the past, but that certainly okay. But basically these are budget goals that don't necessarily have —, they don't necessarily have dollar figures attached to them at that session, okay, and then the idea is to give the staff, the County Manager, sort of marching orders —. Commissioner McMasters asked, some philosophies? Chairman Hair said, yeah, and general things that this Board would like to see done in the next budget year, and then he goes back and puts numbers to them and puts that in his budget priorities, you know, reflecting what we told him to put in the budget. Okay? So, and it's worked very well, I think, in the past. I mean, if we want to change it, we certainly can change it. There's no problem with that. Commissioner McMasters said, I think the budget is going to be extremely critical this year. Chairman Hair asked, so what are you suggesting? Commissioner McMasters said, I'm suggesting that if it's not too much work, that we submit our philosophy —, not the nuts and bolts that you suggested, because I understand that comes later —. Chairman Hair said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, but our approach this year, our generalization of approach and importance as a jump start to the goals session. Chairman Hair said, I think that's fine, but there's no way that we can prioritize it until we get to that session. If you want to —. Commissioner McMasters said, no, individual. We submit them to you or the County Manager so that —. Chairman Hair said, I think they should be coming to me —, come to me and I share it with the staff, of course, but if you send it to me then I'll have —, then we'll have sort of something to start with rather than starting —. Commissioner McMasters said, it's almost like the pre-agenda meeting type thing, you know. It'll give us a chance to get our views out in advance of this and maybe be more productive in this meeting. Chairman Hair said, I think that's very helpful. If you just submit them to me, if anybody wants to submit anything to me, I'll be glad to —, and we'll start out with that. Commissioner McMasters said, and you'd like to get those, what, a week in advance of the session? Chairman Hair said, I'd like to have them at least a week in advance, and again I'll share that with you.

Commissioner Rayno asked, how about by April 1st? Chairman Hair said, I think that's good. Does everybody agree if you want to give me something in advance, give it by April 1st. I think that's appropriate. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Board set the date of April 7, 2003, from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., to hold a budget goals session in the Commission Meeting Room. The date of April 1, 2003, was set as the deadline for Commissioners, if they wish, to submit individual goals to the Chairman in advance of the meeting.

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2. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL TO PROVIDE COUNTY BENEFITS AND PLACE ON THE COUNTY'S PAYROLL THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CORONER.

Chairman Hair said, this item has been pulled. Dr. Metts has requested —, he had a scheduling conflict and he can't be here today to talk about that position, so he requested that we reschedule that for the 28th. That's not a problem.

Commissioner McMasters said, before we go on past this Coroner thing, can I just ask staff a question? Chairman Hair said, well, I think it would be appropriate for Dr. Metts to be here because he could be —, you know, I'd hate to see us go through dialogue now with him not being here and then we have to go through the same thing on the 28th. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Coroner requested this item be pulled and rescheduled for the meeting on March 28, 2003.

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3. STATUS OF RICHARDSON CREEK PROPERTY SALE AND REQUEST PRIORITY TO USE SOME PROCEEDS FOR COUNTY-WIDE DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, late breaking news. Mr. Monahan is reluctant, but I'm told during the break at CAT we have some good news. Pat [Monahan], would you come forward please. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Monahan. County Manager Abolt said, the last news I gave you last night as we closed the business was that our high bidder was having some problems, but apparently those problems have been overcome. County Manager Abolt recognized Mr. Monahan. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Monahan.

Mr. Pat Monahan said, the —, we gave the high bidder the opportunity until the Chairman signed a purchase agreement, which I have, so the high bidder has presented a check and we're ready to proceed to closing. So that will be at the \$1.5 million amount and not at the \$1.3.

County Manager Abolt said, so to continue on with that then, as I outlined in for you with some alternatives, I'd recommend strongly because of the effects of Mother Nature and the growing season that even though you have not in the past discussed how you might want to use this money beyond putting it in fund balance, and of course there was some side discussion on purchasing vehicles, at this time I would ask to take advantage of this little bit of cash flow that we have, that we would obligate sufficient funds in the amount of \$255,000 that would first purchase —, replace I should say, a long-reach excavator and also supplement Mr. Drewry's budget for the balance of the calendar —, fiscal year so that he could be about what we all committed to in the LOST negotiations to do countywide ditch maintenance.

Chairman Hair asked, what's the second number? I don't have my book. County Manager Abolt said, the second number is \$65,800 —. Chairman Hair asked, the total's about 320? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. In this case, it was 320 before and that's when we were looking at six months. The actual dollars we would actually obligate is \$255,800 and then if you accept our recommendation, when funds start coming in through the jail services agreement with the cities, you'd replenish that amount. Chairman Hair said, I would support that. I do think we need to stick to our policy where we said half goes into fund balance of any property sale. So, you know, as long as it doesn't, you know, infringe on that half, which it doesn't in this case, a million five seven fifty, so you're asking for two fifty-five, I would support it. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the Manager basically answered my question, if we would replace the money when we received the money from the LOST agreement. County Manager Abolt said, it's a cash flow issue right now. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, well, I think it's good because we have to have it. It's raining already so we need this to get, you know, continue going —.

Chairman Hair said, I think it's a good request. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this our only excavator? County Manager Abolt said, I'd have to defer to Mr. Drewry. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Drewry, do we have more than one or is this it? Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. Commissioner McMasters said, good morning. Mr. Drewry said, we've got two long-reach excavators, a year 2000 and then this one is the 1990 —, or it's a 1999 and a 1990. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I noticed in the attachments that Stuart Chatham's March 3rd, Attachment #2, to you actually presents an option that didn't make it onto the alternatives from staff, and that is a \$34,000 total repair cost broken out as \$14,000 in engine, \$12,000 hydraulics and \$8,000 in undercarriage. That certainly seems to be Fleet's —, one of Fleet's suggestions as to how to bridge this gap. County Manager Abolt said, look at the second paragraph. They disavowed that by the cost —, the cost effectiveness. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I'm getting there. It may or may not be cost effective. I think it's good that we still have one operational, and I guess this one still is operational but is tedious. I would support this if we could just get some questions answered here and I really —, Fleet does the maintenance on this? Mr. Drewry said, that's correct. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Chatham is here if you've got any particular questions on maintenance. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, good. Thank you, Mr. Chatham. Has anyone from the manufacturer looked at the equipment? Mr. Stuart Chatham asked, the worn out one? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, sir. Mr. Chatham said, no. Commissioner McMasters said, no. Would it be possible to have them to examine it since there seems to be some other options available to the equipment? Could we get in consultation with the manufacturer to see in fact what this other option of whether or not it's fruitful? Mr. Chatham said, I'm not sure what other option you're talking about. Commissioner McMasters said, well, there's, you know, rebuild the hydraulic system, the engine and the undercarriage. It's something you identified although your feeling evidently is —, and I understand the purpose to acquire new. I really do. Mr. Chatham said, we're just saying that spending the \$34,000 would fix the things that are immediately wrong with it, but it would be putting the money into a machine that's ultimately worn out anyway. Commissioner McMasters said, I understand that, but what else —, I mean, these are two of the critical components, hydraulics and engine. I would just feel comfortable for taxpayer benefit if the manufacturer, their representative, their trained technician, came in and consulted with you and your department, and on receipt of that I think we can move forward with this, but I —, it's a big hunk of money and I'm not real keen on spending money and then replacing it and when the other money comes in, and we've got some issues with arbitration and the whole LOST agreement that aren't resolved yet, so before we obligate funds could we just postpone this to the next meeting, and is that enough time for you to get —?

Chairman Hair said, I don't think we should postpone this. This is critical right now. Commissioner McMasters said, we've got one, Billy [Hair], that's working. Mr. Chatham asked, are you just —, excuse me. Are you just saying to get the manufacturer in to say that yes the engine is worn out and the hydraulic is worn out? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, I'm —, exactly, Mr. Chatham, for —. Mr. Chatham said, the people that I have working for me know this.

We could get them to come look at it too, but they're just going to say the same thing. The engine's on it's last legs. It's blowing smoke, it's losing power. It was rebuilt about four years ago and that's about it's natural life. The control —, the pump control that is supposed to manage the arm is basically shot. You can raise the arm up and it starts to sink because it's not controlling the hydraulic system anymore. It's really not a question of is —, are the systems worn out. The question is really how do you want to proceed given the options you've got. Commissioner McMasters said, that's what I'm trying to determine. I think —, I don't think it's an unreasonable suggestion. Mr. Chatham said, whatever you want to do. Chairman Hair said, I would hope that we wouldn't table it, but if you want to make a motion to table and you get five votes, that's fine, but I would hope that we would go ahead and proceed with this. You're saying to delay it, it would take a tabling motion. Commissioner Rayno and then Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Rayno said, this worn-out machine, I went over to Public Works two days ago and the worn-out machine was out in the field doing work and the new one was there, and if it's so worn out, I wonder why the worn-out machine was out doing work while the new one was in the yard. Mr. Drewry said, that was kind of the purpose of my response to his memos. I've got to continue running that machine. Any down time is going to have a very negative impact on my maintenance. I just really can't afford to keep it down. Commissioner Rayno asked, how many operators do you have that run those machines? Mr. Drewry said, well, there's —, I've got two long-reach machines and an operator for each machine. Commissioner Rayno said, an operator for each machine. Mr. Drewry said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rayno asked, so what was the operator doing that day that the one thing was sitting in the yard all day long? Mr. Drewry said, well, it —, frequently machines sit in the yard. They come in for maintenance, they, you know, for other reasons they're constantly in and out of the shop or in and out of job sites or something like. We assign those operators to do other things, run a dozier, jet vac work, whatever we can get those other operators to do. They're not idle waiting on the machine. They're actually working doing other things. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. You've only got like how many hours on that machine? Mr. Drewry said, I asked before we left here and the odometer actually says 8200 hours, but I suspect it's probably a calibration problem or it doesn't work effectively for whatever reason, but we've got more hours on it than that. Commissioner Rayno asked, is this the Link Belt Quantum Series 3400 unit —? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner Rayno said, — that you have. Other than the hydraulics and engine and the undercarriage, which is right here, what other major component would be bad on that. Mr. Chatham said, you've got a hydraulic pump that could cost about \$20,000, the electrical system is involved. There are other systems on this machine that —, it's kind of like having an old car. We run into the same problem with the police cars. If you don't replace them, you get outside the envelope of economy and you get a car that doesn't warrant putting a new engine in because it will —, the rest of the car will never run long enough to really use that new engine. So you get to a point where you have to make a decision, and that's the nature of my memo to him. It's just to say to the organization stop, we need to think about this. We can put the money into the machine and it will fix what's wrong right now, but it's not a good investment because the machine is at the end of it's useful life and needs to be replaced. Commissioner Rayno said, well, I talked to three diesel mechanics yesterday and they all told me that putting money into a diesel engine is a good thing and I'd be tempted to bring one in here to testify to that effect, and also I've had personal experience with diesel units. My dad had one that was over 25 years old and replaced the hydraulic systems and they went on and it's still operational today down in Darien, Georgia. I don't think it hurts anything to wait two weeks to get some more opinions. I have a mechanic I trust very well for my car who told me my head gasket was blown, but I brought it to another man who told me it was just the thermostat. So it was the difference between a \$1500 repair and a \$200 repair because it [inaudible] diagnosis trying to figure out if it really was the head gasket. Mr. Chatham asked, Commissioner, did you ask this mechanic if the link belt could be rebuilt more than once? We understand a link belt engine only has one rebuild in it and we've done that. So it has to be a new engine now. That's the only alternative. Commissioner Rayno said, absolutely. And how much does a new engine cost? Just what was listed in here. Mr. Chatham said, yes, and that's an approximation. I mean, we haven't quoted it yet. We're simply trying to give an idea of about where we are. If we are going to do that, then we're going to have to do some quotes on a new engine. Commissioner Rayno said, it's still far less expensive than \$190,000. Mr. Chatham said, it is now —. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Mr. Chatham said, — but you get the life out of the new machine. You're going to have to replace it at some point. All equipment wears out. The only thing you get to choose is the point to replace it. Commissioner Rayno said, that's true. And you're thinking government think and I'm thinking the way the private sector thinks, and that's a whole different ball game, and I know you don't understand that, and that's fine. Mr. Ken Earls said, whoa.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno, I just think this whole discussion is inappropriate. I mean, you know, we're not experts on —, are you an expert on [inaudible] equipment? Commissioner Rayno said, no, I was asking to bring one in. I'm only asking for two weeks to bring some diesel mechanics in. Chairman Hair said, if you get five votes for tabling, fine. Try it and we'll see if you get five votes and that works. I just think it's wrong to do this. If you want to make a motion to table, that's all you have to do, and if you get five votes, it's tabled. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner McMasters. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes. Robert [Drewry], if we vote to purchase the new piece of equipment, how long does it take to get that equipment in? Mr. Drewry said, I'll have to defer that to Stuart [Chatham]. Mr. Chatham said, I would say probably six months or so. Commissioner Murray said, six months or so before we can actually receive it. Mr. Chatham said, we have to go through the bid and then they have to —, I mean, it could be shorter. I just —, I don't know at this point in time. Commissioner Murray said, okay. I'm not saying the equipment I used to run in the business was the same as that, but we had some expensive equipment that was over \$100,000. It had a lot of electronics, a lot of hydraulics, it was diesel engines and stuff. I understand what he's saying. What he's got in here for \$34,000 right now is just to replace those things that have to be replaced right now. I've been through that and I've tried it. It does not work. You will continue to put money into that piece of equipment, and I for one representing the size of unincorporated area that I do am not willing to take that chance. I will support this to go ahead and purchase that piece of equipment and move this project forward. I will also recommend that when that's done that the balance of that money does go into our fund balance and that it is replenished when the other agreements are set. And I would move to do that.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Do I have a second? Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, second, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter then Commissioner McMasters and Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, he did what I wanted to do, so I'll call for the question.

Chairman Hair said, call for the question. Call for the question is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner McMasters said, I think that's rude. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to amend the FY2003 Public Works budget by \$255,800 (\$190,000 in capital equipment for a new long-reach excavator and \$65,800 in additional operating funds) and transfer the needed funds from the sale of the Richardson Creek property on Oatland Island Road on Whitemarsh Island, and once payments begin from the Jail Services Agreement with the cities, this would replenish the full amount for fund balance. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to take anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Rayno said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno. Commissioner Rayno said, 11, please. Chairman Hair said, 11. Commissioner Rayno said, 13. Chairman Hair said, 13. Commissioner McMasters said, 5. Chairman Hair said, let's get them all together at one time please. Commissioner Rayno said, 18. Chairman Hair said, 18. Commissioner Rayno said, H. Chairman Hair said, H. Commissioner Rayno said, and F. Chairman Hair said, H and F. Okay, Commissioner McMasters. Commissioner McMasters said, 5. Chairman Hair said, 5. Commissioner McMasters said, and —, somebody said 13 already? Chairman Hair said, 13, yes, Commissioner Rayno has 13. Commissioner McMasters said, 14. Chairman Hair said, 14. Okay, anything else? I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rivers said, so moved. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 10, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21-F and 21-H. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2003, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 28, 2003, as mailed. - Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 19 THROUGH MARCH 4, 2003.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period February 19, 2003, through March 4, 2003, in the amount of \$4,627,203. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH THE RIGHTS OF WAY ACQUIRED BY CHATHAM COUNTY FOR CERTAIN ROAD PROJECTS CONSTRUCTED WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.
[DISTRICTS 1, 2 AND 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve a resolution to transfer to the City of Savannah the rights-of-way acquired by Chatham County for certain road projects constructed within the city limits of the City of Savannah. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO REIMBURSE THE LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS TO THE COUNTY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SITE IMPROVEMENTS FOR SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; A REQUEST FOR COUNTY CONTRACT WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT); AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, COUNTY ENGINEER, AND COUNTY CLERK TO SIGN THE FORMS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT WHICH INCLUDE THE REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT, GDOT FORM 532, A UTILITY AGREEMENT, A LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROJECT AGREEMENT (LGPA) AND THE RIGHT-OF WAY (ROW) CERTIFICATION.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve an agreement with the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education to reimburse the local matching funds to the County for construction of site improvements for Southwest Elementary School; approve a request for County contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), and authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, County Engineer and County Clerk to sign the forms necessary to implement the project which include Reimbursement Agreement, GDOT Form 532, a Utility Agreement, a Local Government Project Agreement (LGPA) and Right-of-Way (ROW) Certification. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE SALE OF TIMBER FROM COUNTY-OWNED PROPERTY FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE LITCHFIELD PLANTATION TRACT (PIN 1-1033-02-001) ADJACENT TO OLD BASIN ROAD.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I —, my memory was that the estimate of the timber cruise —, this entire property was around 350 or \$360,000. And that was for [inaudible] 494 acres, some of which were forested and some of which were swamp land or marsh land without trees. Is that correct? County Engineer Al Bungard said, that's correct. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. We've got 100 acres which we want to harvest the timber on, so I wonder why \$59,000 is the approximate value when 300 and —, am I wrong, 350,000 was not the original timber cruise? County Engineer Bungard said, that was the cruise for the entire tract, most of which was hardwood, and that's where the value is. Now what we're doing —, if I can get my charts switched —, a lot of that value was in this area here this area out here with the hardwoods, which is going to become the enhancement restoration area for mitigation credits. These areas right here in this corner right here where we're digging the dirt and

next to it are mostly pine. Pine is valued at a fraction of the cost of the rest. What I did is I went back to that timber cruise and had —, and recalculated with them how much of this total was in fact in this area, this area and there, and that was the \$59,000. They also reminded me that since they did the appraisal, the timber market for pine has —, not crashed —, but gone down significantly, and so what we're going to do here hopefully is remove the timber here and excavate more material down, sell that material also, which goes against —, into —, back into the project account and then we get creation credits here for the additional areas. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so this is really a function of it not being hardwood? Is that —? County Engineer Bungard said, well, I can't cut all the timber here like International Paper would have because that's where we're getting a lot of the mitigation credits. We're only going to harvest it from the pine area. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, then why did we —, why did we hear prior testimony that we would realize 350 or \$360,000 of timber? County Engineer Bungard said, we never said we would realize that value. The question at that time was what numbers and how did they affect the appraisal process. We never said —. Commissioner McMasters said, [inaudible]. County Engineer Bungard said, we never said we were going to sell all the timber off the entire tract. Commissioner McMasters said, I guess I didn't ask the right question back then, did I? Okay. Let me ask on number two, it says once the land is cut —, I think you mean once the timber is cut? This is Facts and Findings number two, third [sic] sentence: Once the land is cut —. County Engineer Bungard said, of the timber, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, it will be excavated to sell the borrow material and for wetlands creation in accordance with the wetlands mitigation banking plan approved by the U. S. Corps of Engineers. Do you have a certificate or affidavit from the Corps of Engineers that we had discussed in Executive Session that was forthcoming? Has that been realized? County Engineer Bungard said, if you want to be a purist, to be approved by the Corps of Engineers. Since the last meeting I have met with the Corps of Engineers, the EPA, Fish and Wildlife and nailed down the details of how to go about finalizing this plan, and in fact that was two weeks ago. I have another meeting with the District Engineer himself next week both on this and the permit for the Hardin Canal. So far they personally, both EPA rep, Fish and Wildlife and Georgia DNR, they like the plan. They like the plan so much they propose to use it as a model for the State of Georgia, and I have no reason to believe we're not going to get it, and not only will we get 560 credits if we do this, it looks like we're going to get close to 1,000 credits. But, no, I do not have it in writing yet. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, why did you say that it was approved? County Engineer Bungard said, as I said, if you want to put in the words to be approved. Ultimately, it's not officially approved until they issue the permit. They have approved it verbally, but that's the way we do all the permitting functions. We put together a plan, we meet with them, we say this is the way you have to do it, that's where we are. But officially it's not approved until they issue the permit or the banking instrument.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Can —, with the Board's indulgence, there's another piece of information within our agenda binder under Information Only that is germane to this subject. May I address it? Chairman Hair asked, it's not an Executive Session item? Commissioner McMasters said, no. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Bungard, under Information Only, number two, list of purchasing items, second page, there are four items, if I understand this correctly, relative to this site. Is this the same site? County Engineer Bungard said, yes, it is. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and since they're under \$10,000 each, we don't really have to get too involved in it, right? County Engineer Bungard said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, the first one says prepare mitigation banking instrument for the site, \$9,000. County Engineer Bungard said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, this is the Litchfield Tract. Second, field survey of wetlands lines south and west of tower site for the mitigation site, Thomas & Hutton, \$9,800. Just under the \$10,000. County Engineer Bungard said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, number three, clear and grub approximately 2800 feet long, 40 feet wide for the power line relocation mitigation site, \$4,100, and, number four, baseline monitoring for Chatham County mitigation site, \$9,900. Just under the \$10,000. You're asking us to move on this timber sale, you're asking us by information only for a total of \$32,800. I would like to get what you say —, I mean, I know they're going to use this as a model for everyone else, but wouldn't it be reasonable that we'd get this deal done first before we spend all this taxpayer money? County Engineer Bungard said, well —. Commissioner McMasters asked, would you have any objections to just waiting until that's secure? County Engineer Bungard said, it's a matter of process. I ask for a piece of paper and they would say we'll give you a piece of paper, but there'd have to be caveats. Well, because the deal isn't done until they get the official concurrence in writing from all the agencies, so it's a Catch-22. Now, the reason we break them up is some of this, when we went to the meeting last week, you know, they actually —, before we called it a multi-project mitigation site. So after about a couple hour meeting they said, you can do even better than this, you're going to do just about all the work you need for a multi-project; if you go this extra step, you can get all these extra credits, you can treat it like a bank, you get more leverage, and so they said why don't you go ahead and prepare the plan to meet these new requirements. That sounded like a good deal particularly —. Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Bungard, I don't mean to interrupt you, but let me cut to the quick here. The intent and the nobility and the whole concept I support, but we are going out on a limb with taxpayer money here before we have something that was represented as approved that is technically waiting for approval. I would just urge my fellow Commissioners to please insist, with all the expense and time and energy that's going into this, without this approval that we get this done before we spend more taxpayer money without this approval. I'd like to make that a motion.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, we have a motion and second. Any discussion? Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah. I want to commend you if you're doing this and the State of Georgia wants to make it a model, you're undoubtedly doing a pretty good job with it. I'm not an engineer. I don't believe any of us up here, I don't believe that we are. It sounds to me like you're following the steps that the —, all the different agencies told you to follow to get the maximum amount of credits and, you know, I commend you for your work on this, and I think we need to move forward. You're doing a great job in my opinion and, you know, this —, you're following the rules set by people much higher than you to get us the maximum amount of credits here in Chatham County and, you know, I don't pretend to think that I know one-tenth as much about permitting as you, and I would venture to think that

none of us up here really knows as much about permitting as you and you're our paid employee. Again, I think you're doing an outstanding job, and I'm going to rely on your opinion and expertise and I will support you in this endeavor, and I hope that the rest of the body will too.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray asked, any other discussion?

County Engineer Bungard said, I'd like to make one more comment, sir. I kind of put these costs of doing business in that memo. I don't have it in front of me, but I believe when I came here to get approval to acquire the property I put in there that it would cost 50, 60, \$80,000 to do some of this surveying, knowing those would be requirements. It's just a matter of what point in the process we do that. For instance, we can't survey until we do delineation. I mean, there is a definite process and I'm trying to do it in the most cost effective way I can by defining the scope very narrowly rather than going out with one big contract where a contractor has to throw in all of these contingency factors, overhead, you know, but they're not going to assume the risk for doing this and the taxpayers by doing it this way defining each step of the process, but I have to have some faith in the District Engineer and his staff and the EPA and Fish and Wildlife Service that we're going down the right path. The process is ultimately no different than what we do for permitting every road project. They don't give us a piece of paper up front that says this is approved. We have to do a certain amount of investigation and planning and, you know, plans [inaudible] say if you do this, you will get your permit.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to just first say that I initially shared Commissioner McMasters's concern about the money not knowing why the value would be \$58,000 [sic], but you answered that completely right off the bat and, you know, I agree with Commissioner Murray. I, too, have the other area of the largest unincorporated areas around, and this is very valuable to move forward in helping out with the canals and all throughout the unincorporated areas in Chatham County, and —, that was a different subject though, wasn't it? But it [inaudible] to the same thing. I'm sorry I brought it in the last, but it all ties together.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, Commissioner McMasters and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. If my motion fails, I would urge my colleagues that the next time —, and I include you in this conversation, Mr. Bungard —, the next time more money wants to be invested in more activity advance on this without the permit, I would say you're going to have to explain this to taxpayers if this doesn't work out, and this is not holding up any immediate drainage work and activity. This is projects to be completed and I think we have a responsibility here. Yes, we must trust staff. Yes, we do. However, there's a point at which we have to say let's get our paper work done before we spend more taxpayer money going down this road. I think it's just a procedural responsibility that we have. So if this fails, it no doubt will happen again and I'll want to make the same motion again, and I would hope that you would support it the next time around if perhaps my colleagues choose not to accept it this time.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I'm going to yield to the County Manager and I'll come back.

County Manager Abolt said, we'll do whatever you tell us to do. It's very important to understand that one thing that we do very best is we don't linear think, and sometimes you get involved in large bureaucracies, everything has to be done before the next thing is done. There's an issue of not a great consequence, but certainly it's been reported in the paper: oh, my goodness, you have this money for drainage, why haven't you spent it? In the meetings we've conducted on the Westside and we conducted last night in the Islands area, we tell them that the only things holding us back are the permits. And so what Mr. Bungard has done, and the innovation and the reason why the bureaucracy at the Federal level is in admiration of what we're doing is, we're not thinking linear. We're doing several things at once so as each position falls into place, we can move. Otherwise, everything stops. Everything begins and ends with until that permit's in place you can't do it. Were it not for the credibility of this man [Bungard], his prior service in the military, his great relationship with the Corps of Engineers, I would share with you the potential risk. There's risk in anything, but the greater risk is not getting the improvement done in time to handle the floods that you're all too familiar with.

Commissioner McMasters said, Russ [Abolt], with all due respect, I can't even get a copy of the appraisal that justified public purchase of this property, and is that some sort of linear thinking I'm missing? County Manager Abolt said, they're two different issues. The issue has to do with what the allows the seller to handle open records request and the other is how do we build projects, and in this County we build projects very well because we have people that continually look at the whole requirement as opposed to just one issue. As that issue is solved, move on to the next.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, I commend you on how you're handling this, and I sort of understand the procedure. Sometimes we have to go through the Corps and all the other agencies. One thing I would like to say to you, I'm glad that you broke this out into four categories and I hope that we will, Mr. Manager, see that these bids go out and they're well diversified; that it includes minorities in the biddings. County Manager Abolt said, what he's talking about right now, if I understand correctly, we have the authority to in effect not come to you for approval on contracting work of \$10,000 —, \$9,999 or less. I believe that was a question from Mr. McMasters. That work has already been contracted out by the discretion you've given us for engineering firms to do the work. Commissioner Rivers said, heretofore —, and I want to look at these. I want to see how much inclusion that we do have in that minority, MBE's in the project. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, and I will be putting emphasis on those goals and I want everybody to know that when we set goals, I want to sort of meet them.

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

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner McMasters moved to deny the request and insist that we obtain the necessary agency approvals before we spend any taxpayer money for the sale of timber from County-owned property formerly known as the Litchfield Plantation Tract (PIN 1-1033-02-002) adjacent to Old Basin Road. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMasters voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion **failed** by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request for the sale of timber from County-owned property formerly known as the Litchfield Plantation Tract (PIN 1-1033-02-002) adjacent to Old Basin Road. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno and McMasters voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of six to two. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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6. **REQUEST FROM THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DEVELOPER, MARK SCRUGGS, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR SCRUGGS SUBDIVISION.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the surveyor for the developer, Mark Scruggs, to record the subdivision plat for Scruggs Subdivision. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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7. **REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, CONCORD DEVELOPERS, LLC, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR CREEKSIDE COTTAGES, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND INITIATE THE TWELVE MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Concord Developers, LLC, to record the subdivision plat for Creekside Cottages, accept the financial guarantee, and initiate the twelve-month warranty period. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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8. **REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, EAGLE DEVELOPMENT GROUP, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR BERWICK LAKES, PHASE 1C, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND RECOMBINE THIS PHASE INTO THE EXISTING BERWICK LAKES STREETLIGHTING.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Eagle Development Group, to record the subdivision plat for Berwick Lakes, Phase 1C (also known as Hampton Place, Phase 1B), accept the financial guarantee, and recombine this phase into the existing Berwick Lakes Streetlighting. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 9. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, RDB ENTERPRISES, INC., TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR OLDE TOWNE SUBDIVISION, PHASE 11B, ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE, AND RECOMBINE THIS PHASE INTO THE EXISTING OLDE TOWNE STREETLIGHTING ASSESSMENT DISTRICT.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, RDB Enterprises, Inc., to record the subdivision plat for Olde Towne Subdivision, Phase 11B, accept the financial guarantee, and recombine this phase into the existing Olde Towne Streetlighting Assessment District. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 10. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, INTERNATIONAL PAPER REALTY, TO APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTED IMPROVEMENTS FOR BERWICK PLANTATION, PHASE 1, DIVISION 2, INITIATE THE TWELVE-MONTH WARRANTY PERIOD, AND REDUCE THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE TO 50% OF THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, the only question I have from staff, if they know, is who is the engineer for the developer? Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Bungard, do you know that, sir? County Engineer Al Bungard said, I don't know who is doing the work for the development. The overall property was developed by —. Commissioner McMasters said, this is Berwick Plantation? County Engineer Bungard said, yes, and I don't know the answer to that. I can go find out. Commissioner McMasters asked, would you find out and let me know? County Engineer Bungard said, sure, no problem.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request for the developer, International Paper Realty, to approve the constructed improvements for Berwick Plantation, Phase 1, Division 2, initiate the twelve-month warranty period, and reduce the financial guarantee to 50% of the cost of construction. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 11. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GREEN ISLAND ROAD DEVELOPMENT CO., TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR MARSHVIEW LANDING PHASE 1 AND ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. How did they resolve the issue of the septic for this particular development? County Engineer Bungard said, I'm not aware of a septic issue, but I'll find out. Chairman Hair said, I'm not totally sure, Commissioner Rayno, but I believe they tied into The Landings' system. I'm pretty sure they did. I'm not totally sure of that, but I'm almost positive that's the case. Commissioner Rayno said, because there was an initial plan to have —. County Engineer Bungard said, this is Suzanne [Cooler].

Ms. Suzanne Cooler said, the previous question Thomas and Hutton is the engineer for Berwick. Commissioner McMasters said, Thomas and Hutton. Okay. Ms. Cooler said, they did tie into The Landings. Chairman Hair said, okay, they did tie in. Ms. Cooler said, they will be part of The Landings Homeowners Association. Chairman Hair said, yeah, they —. Commissioner Rayno said, so they're not using the septic field thing and all that. Ms. Cooler said, no. Commissioner Rayno said, okay.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Green Island Road Development Co., to record the subdivision plat for Marshview Landing, Phase 1, and accept the financial guarantee. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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**12. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, HALLMARK DEVELOPMENT, INC., TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR HERON CREST VILLAS PHASE 2A AND ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL GUARANTEE.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Hallmark Development, Inc., to record the subdivision plat for Heron Crest Villas, Phase 2A, and accept the financial guarantee. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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13. AMEND UNFUNDED CIP FOR SHERIFF DEPARTMENT NEEDS AT THE DETENTION CENTER.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm in agreement to put this on the unfunded CIP, I just had some questions about some of the [inaudible when several individuals spoke at the same time]. Chairman Hair said, the Sheriff's here and we've got —, the Captain's here. We've got everybody here. Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, we've got our Maintenance Supervisory here. Chairman Hair said, we've got everybody here. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we've got everybody. Commissioner Rayno said, good morning, gentlemen. How you doing? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, good morning. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm sorry you're having all those problems with all those things out there. Reading through it, they're obviously essential things for your facility. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, Commissioner Rayno, let me tell you that we meet with the Manager and he suggested we go this route. We have put a number before you and it's been eliminated, and I understand why. There ain't no money. We've put it in for the SPLOST; it was eliminated. We're putting it in our budget again this year. I've got a roof out there that's leaking, which is the old Number Five, which was built in the 80's, okay, and the electronic system is what really concerns me. Since we have completed that electronic system out there some years ago, we ain't had one escape. I cannot let that electronic system go down. Our saving grace, if you will, was the fact that we hired Mr. Martin, who worked for the company that installed that system. They don't make it no more, they ain't making parts for it no more. If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be able to patch and fix that. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm on your side. I'm agreeing with you. I was just concerned about all the things you have out there.

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

Commissioner Rayno said, no, I have [inaudible] about the Muffin Monster? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the Muffin Monster, yes. It's called the Muffin Monster is because we have inmates. They are not the nicest people in the world. They put blankets in the commodes and whatever. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, I don't believe that. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, something has got to grind that up before it goes to the City system. Am I correct, sir? That's the way I understand it. Commissioner Rayno asked, do you use the Muffin Monster 30,000 or the Muffin Monster 40,000? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'll have to refer to —. Col. Holmes said, I didn't hear your question. Commissioner Rayno asked, do you use the Muffin Monster 30,000 or the Muffin Monster 40,000? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, all I know it's called the Muffin Monster. Commissioner Odell said, you mix the two, that's a good answer. Col. Holmes said, I think one is larger than the other. Commissioner McMasters asked, which one do you have? Col. Holmes said, 30,000. [Inaudible comments were made when several individuals began speaking at the same time.] Commissioner Rayno asked, what's the size of that. Captain Bruce Riner said, eight-inch pipe. Col. Holmes said, eight-inch pipe. Commissioner Rayno said, eight inch. Well, I got a price on a 40,000 with a 32-inch muncher and this company is called Eastern Sales, and I talked to Rick Tomlin [phonetic] there. It's in Buford, Georgia. What they do and what they recommend to most people when they replace these things is to have you give them the serial number and what they do is they'll refurbish a model to your specifications, they will deliver it to your site, put it in and then you simply just trade out the Muffin Monster, and the cost of that is \$18,700. It is made to factory specifications and has the same amount of warranty for five years and that would save you well over 20-something thousand dollars. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's fine with us. When the time comes to go out and replace it —, again as I said up here earlier,

nothing will last forever. It's kind of like —. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. All I'm asking for is if you'll consider that. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we will. Col. Holmes said, this system goes a little bit further than that. We're also including a bypass in this also. We had the system go down, the life span of it's about four to eight years I understand. It bypass —, it'll be [inaudible] probably the last time had to be replaced. You totally stop everything, all the sewage from coming out of the jail. The Muffin Monster sits in the lag so if it goes down, you've got to stop everything. You can't stop 1500 inmates from using the bathroom. So what we had to do last time was Mr. Martin —, we had to get down in a hole while they took it out, have a pump from Rotor-Rooter to sit there and pump out the raw sewage that he had to work in while they took about two days in order to replace it. Commissioner Rayno said, I'm not arguing with you. I'm just saying —. Col. Holmes said, what this system does is it gives us a bypass so if the Muffin Monster goes down, we can reroute the sewage around it so we won't have to get down in a hole with about 25 truck loads of —. Commissioner Rayno said, this is way you can save \$20,000 to factory specifications. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, basically what we're trying to do is —. Col. Holmes said, and I know that's real descriptive, but I want you to understand. Commissioner Rayno said, I understand. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, what we want to do is just have you understand, and it ain't like we're just coming up here now and telling you about the problem, is that somewhere down the road some capital improvements are going to have to be made, and it's fast approaching. Commissioner Odell said, Jeff [Rayno] needs a life. Col. Holmes said, let me also make this plea —. Commissioner Rayno said, well, I may need a life, but I'm concerned about saving the taxpayers money, and \$20,000 is \$20,000. That's another clerical person in the Assessor's office as far as I'm concerned, and if you don't mind, I would like the specifications [inaudible]. If I can find a reasonable alternative, I think you should be willing to explore those, and I'm not saying no. I'm helping you, I'm trying to help. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, we're not unwilling. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, but we're not trying to help the Tax Assessors' office either. We're trying to —. Col. Holmes said, we understand, and our company gave us that same quote that was similar to that, but we want to include the bypass system because we spent the saving last time with Rotor-Rooter and plumbers being there —. Commissioner Rayno said, [inaudible] the bypass system, it makes sense. It's simply a pipe going around the Muffin Monster. That's it.

Chairman Pro Tem Murray said, Commissioner McMasters and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner McMasters said, if I understand this section correctly, this is just to advise us —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, — about serious. They aren't making any —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we've asked for it before and because of the County's fiscal problems, we haven't —, none of it's been approved, but we see it coming and we've asked for it the last year, the year before, and we tried —, we put it in SPLOST this time when the Manager told us to give him a list. It got kicked out of there. I'm going to put it in the budget again this year. I want you to know that the problem is coming, and we're patching and that's all we can do. Commissioner McMasters said, well, Sheriff, I don't remember personally having a chance to review these items within the SPLOST list. Commissioner McMasters said, well, prior to your election we gave to the Board a complete list. I happen to have a copy of it right here where these were listed. The time the Board received it you gave us specific directions, you said roads, bridges and drainage. So all this stuff went away. Commissioner McMasters said, well, that's not what SPLOST wound up being so why wasn't this advanced back into the mix? County Manager Abolt said, because the Board of Commissioners gave us specific direction and we went from your direction. Chairman Hair said, and no Commissioner added that to the list. County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, if a Commissioner had added that —. Commissioner McMasters asked, nobody stuck up for you on this? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we'll continue to patch and do the best we can, but we just want you to know it's a serious problem. Commissioner McMasters said, well, yes. It's almost a million dollars. I think this is a real serious issue for you. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, it's kind of like the roof that's leaking in Number Five. Tell them about the Health Department. Col. Holmes said, we have an area in our Unit Five, which is the older part of the jail, that he roof is leaking and there's some big problems there. The Health Department has instructed us not to have anybody in that area until it's repaired. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Since Federal and State law requires that the Detention Center maintain certification, are you currently certified? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, we are certified and we're the only jail in the State of Georgia that I understand is certified. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so do any of these things currently jeopardize your certification? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I think more than anything else, and Mac [Holmes] can [inaudible] this more, we're getting —, you have to talk about square footage and the number of inmates you have and that's been kind of a —, it's kind of at a danger point, but —, and we've got a couple of other little problems, but we have it. Commissioner McMasters said, my question is it says that State and Federal law requires that the building and safety infrastructure for your jail be certified. Is it currently under certification, State and Federal? Col. Holmes said, yes. Yes, they are, and one of the [inaudible] you're talking about is our fire and life safety system, the alarm system, it is certified. It was certified a few months ago. There are only four units like that in the State —, I mean, in the United States. It's obsolete now. There are no more parts for it and any day it can go down. If it goes down, we're out of the water. Commissioner McMasters said, I understand that there's risks and particularly risks in your business. When do you get re-certified again? Is it an annual event, semi-annual event? When do you —. Captain Riner said, annual. Commissioner McMasters asked, annual event? And you just got it two months ago? Captain Riner said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so we won't have this process again —. Captain Riner said, not unless we have —. Col. Holmes said, if the system goes down. Commissioner McMasters asked, if they should call for it or they do it —? Col. Holmes said, if the system goes down. Captain Riner said, yeah, the certification just says if the system meets all acceptable standards and requirements of the NFPA, National Fire Protection. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, I have —, and I'm not going to belabor this group, but I found this —. Commissioner Odell said, you mean any more. Chairman Hair said, good. It's belabored enough. It's an unfunded mandate, Commissioner McMasters, it's not asking for money. It's just to put it on the unfunded list. That's all he's asking. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I'm going to support that and I don't have a problem with that, but I think a million dollar unfunded mandate request deserves a little bit of attention, and I would like at your convenience to come out and answer many of the questions and have a dialogue with you about the subject. Is that possible? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, please free to come. The Manager's coming out Wednesday, I believe at 2:30. He wants to see these things for himself, and you're welcome to come at any time, whether it's Wednesday —. If you'll call the Colonel,

we'll take you on the tour. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I would and I'd like to have enough time to sit down and articulate individually items on this list to our —, this Board's satisfaction.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, I move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, do I have a second? Commissioner Murray asked, is this list prioritized? Col. Holmes said, it's not prioritized, but we do have a prioritized [sic]. I can tell you what —? Commissioner Murray said, if we could get that, it would certainly help if we get any funds at all so you can do it in that order. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yeah, it just depends. You know, when you're talking about prioritizing, it just depends what you think is going to go first. Commissioner Murray said, well, I can understand that.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and second to approve —. The Clerk said, I'm sorry, I didn't hear the second. Chairman Hair asked, who made the motion. Commissioner Odell said, I made the motion. The Clerk asked, who seconded it? Commissioner Murray said, I second it. The Clerk said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I ask one question? Chairman Hair said, yes, sir.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, just one serious question for the Sheriff. Did you promote the Captain after he sat in the sewer system and pumped out —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, he wasn't the one that got in it. Roger Martin's the one that got in —. Commissioner Murray said, that's why he's not saying anything. Chairman Hair said, yeah, he sort of looks the most disgruntled of everybody.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to add to the unfunded CIP as priorities for consideration in the FY 2004 Budget the following critical capital needs for the Sheriff's Department needs at the Detention Center: Upgrade of Programmable Logic Computer System (PLC's) - \$127,500 estimated cost; Bypass and Replacement for Muffin Monster - \$45,000 estimated cost; Upgrade of Unit 5 Security Locking System - \$68,000 estimated cost; Upgrade of Chiller System - \$300,000 estimated cost; Sealing Floors to Mechanical Rooms on Second Floor - \$51,400, estimated cost; Sealing and Repairing of Roof for Sheriff's Complex - \$75,000 estimated cost (portion of Unit 5 only); Replacement of 19 Unit Control Panels - \$115,000 estimated cost; Conduit and Chases - \$35,000 estimated cost; and Upgrading Existing Fire Alarm System - \$117,775 estimated cost, for a total estimated cost of \$934,675. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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14. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS EIGHT VACANT LOTS IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AND AUTHORIZE CONVEYING THE COUNTY'S INTEREST HELD BY TAX DEED IN THE PROPERTIES TO THE LAND BANK AUTHORITY. [DISTRICTS 8 AND 2.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, I've got to catch up with you. Chairman Hair said, Item #14. Commissioner McMasters said, I'm there. Chairman Hair said, good. Commissioner McMasters said, the City and the Housing Authority plan to develop the lots for home ownership as part of neighborhood revitalization. Pat [Monahan], is this part of the March 18th SPLOST referendum? Mr. Monahan said, no, sir. These are actually on-going projects. The Housing Authority's developing the Hope Six Grant in East Savannah, and those are the projects. I believe all of those are listed in the —. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, there's a major Six Project in this SPLOST referendum. This is not the same? Mr. Monahan said, they are other neighborhood revitalizations that are included in the SPLOST. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. This is not part of that? Mr. Monahan said, these are on-going now, but they —, I don't know if they're extending beyond —, included in the SPLOST, but these are for projects on-going right now.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt. County Manager Abolt said, what we're responding to is in the back. They're referenced to the Benjamin Van Clark Redevelopment Project. We all remember that in the SPLOST there is a reference to that title.

Commissioner McMasters said, right. So should we not approve this once we know the outcome of SPLOST? Mr. Monahan said, no, no. That has nothing to do with it. That's what I'm saying. They're separate issues. This project is on-going. There is a Federal grant that's being used for the Benjamin Van Clark Neighborhood Revitalization that used to be part of the old Housing Authority, and I believe that's in Commissioner Rivers' district.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, they're —, the City is revitalizing houses in that area now, and they are contracting out and filling in these in-fills. You've got a Hope Six Project that's coming that includes the Ben Clark area. Commissioner McMasters said, and Ben Clark is part of the SPLOST referendum, right? Chairman Hair said, it's not the same project —. Mr. Monahan said, yes, there are funds for that —. Commissioner McMasters said, one's saying yes, one's saying no. What's the answer? Mr. Monahan said, there —, the SPLOST funds are included for the City of Savannah for the Benjamin Van Clark Project, but these are —, this is separate total. I mean, this is part of the overall project.

We're only talking about four substandard lots. We're not talking about revitalization of several square miles of area. Commissioner McMasters said, but it says the County has an interest in these properties, and we're transferring it to the City of Savannah. Commissioner Rivers said, so that the City can build houses on them and put them back on the digest. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. God forbid that SPLOST doesn't pass, does this —? Mr. Monahan said, it doesn't affect it one way or the other. Chairman Hair said, it doesn't affect it. Commissioner Rivers said, it doesn't have anything to do with SPLOST. Mr. Monahan said, this is independent. I think that's what I was trying to say. Chairman Hair said, it doesn't affect it at all. Mr. Monahan said, this is independent of SPLOST.

Commissioner Odell said, and I think the point is that there's a \$25,000,000 grant that will be used for the renovation of properties and it has absolutely nothing to do with SPLOST. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Commissioner Odell said, and this is just a portion. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to declare as surplus eight vacant lots in the City of Savannah and authorize conveying the County's interest held by tax deed in the properties to the Land Bank Authority as follows: (2) 712 Lavina Street, PIN 2-0066-21-006; (2) 516 Kline Street, PIN 2-0066-24-005; (3) 0 36th Street, PIN 2-0066-41-006; (4) 0 37th Street, PIN 2-0064-30-021; (5) 1217 East Bolton Street, PIN 2-0041-16-006; (6) 1108 East Bolton Street, PIN 2-0042-05-012; (7) 0 East Bolton Street, PIN 2-0042-10-022; and (8) 1115 East Bolton Street, PIN 2-0042-10-024. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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- 15. TO DECLARE AS SURPLUS A SUBSTANDARD -SIZED VACANT LOT IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH AT 923 WEST 37TH STREET AND AUCTION THE COUNTY'S INTEREST IN THIS PROPERTY HELD BY TAX DEED.
[DISTRICT 8.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to declare as surplus a substandard-sized vacant lot in the City of Savannah at 923 West 37th Street, described as 39 Demere Ward (PIN 2-0067-13-025) and auction the County's interest in this property held by tax deed. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 16. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR LICENSE FOR 2003.**
- A. PETITIONER: MICHELE QUATTLEBAUM, D/B/A DRIFTAWAY CAFÉ, LOCATED AT 7400-D SKIDAWAY ROAD. [DISTRICT 1.]**
 - B. PETITIONER: ELEANOR M. COURSEY D/B/A GRANT'S CROW BAR LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 205 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]**
 - C. PETITIONER: JAMES W. HASLAM, WITH HMS OF SAVANNAH, INC. D/B/A SOUTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, LOCATED AT 415 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]**
 - D. PETITIONER: THOMAS W. WILLIAMS, D/B/A WILLIAMS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 8010 TYBEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 1.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the requests for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor license for 2003 for the following petitioners: (1) Michele Quattlebaum, d/b/a Driftaway Café, located at 7400-D Skidaway Road; (2) Eleanor M. Coursey, d/b/a Grant's Crow Bar Lounge, located at 205 Johnny Mercer Boulevard; (3) James W. Haslam, with HMS of Savannah, Inc., d/b/a Southbridge Golf Club, located at 415 Southbridge Boulevard; and (4) Thomas W. Williams, d/b/a Williams Seafood Restaurant, located at 8010 Tybee Road. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 17. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2003. PETITIONER: MATTHEW K. STARLING D/B/A BONA BELLA MARINA, LOCATED AT 2740 LIVINGSTON AVENUE.
[DISTRICT 3.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring license for 2003 for petitioner Matthew K. Starling, d/b/a Bona Bella Marina, located at 2740 Livingston Avenue. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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- 18. REQUEST FOR NEW SUNDAY SALES LICENSE FOR BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR FOR 2003. PETITIONER: DAVID D. MESSINGER, JR., D/B/A PERKINS RESTAURANT & BAKERY, LOCATED WITHIN THE SAVANNAH SOUTH INN, AT 3-A GATEWAY BOULEVARD SOUTH.
[DISTRICT 1.]
[DISTRICT 6.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, just for the clarity of the record, it's not District 1. It's a big district, but it doesn't go out to Gateway. I think it's Kicklighter's district, isn't it?

Chairman Hair said, okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve. Ms. Montine Earls said, it's six. Commissioner Rayno said, it's six. Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion — District Six, thank you. I'll entertain a motion to approve.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request for new Sunday sales license for beer, wine and liquor for 2003 for petitioner David D. Messinger, Jr., d/b/a Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, located within the Savannah South Inn at 3-A Gateway Boulevard South. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]

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19. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2003. PETITIONER: RICKY PERRY, D/B/A FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, LOCATED AT 5406 LAROCHE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request for renewal of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2003 for petitioner Ricky Perry, d/b/a Fraternal Order of Eagles, located at 5406 LaRoche Avenue. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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20. REQUEST FOR NEW RETAIL LICENSE OF BEER AND WINE FOR 2003. PETITIONER: GREGORY M. PARKER, D/B/A PARKER'S #27, LOCATED AT 1910 PRESIDENT STREET EAST. [DISTRICT 3.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the request for new retail license of beer and wine for 2003 for petitioner Gregory M. Parker, d/b/a Parker's #27, located at 1910 President Street East. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide door mat rental services	Various	Aramark Uniform Services, Inc.	\$11,046.88	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
B. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide janitorial service to various County "South-side" locations and Mosquito Control	Various	•Quality Cleaning Contractors (FBE) •Basic's Cleaning Company (MBE) •CKC Enterprises (MBE)	•\$3,000 •\$12,180 •\$30,660	•General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations (\$22,920) •General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control (\$7,320) •General Fund/M&O - Board of Equalization (\$4,060) •General Fund/M&O - Parks and Recreation (\$3,420) •SSD - Building Safety and Regulatory Services (\$8,120)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
C. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for four additional one-year terms to provide janitorial service to various County agencies located in the "Downtown" area	Various	•Basic's Cleaning Company (MBE) •Quality Cleaning Contractors (FBE)	•\$118,680 •\$17,640	•General Fund/M&O - Facilities Maintenance and Operations (\$126,720) •General Fund/M&O - CNT (\$9,600)
D. Professional services contract to provide "as required" instruction and supervision of youth under the jurisdiction of Juvenile Court in a community service work program which operates on Saturdays	Juvenile Court	Wendy Cox	\$20 per hour	Supervision fees collected by Juvenile Court
E. Change Order No. 2 to the contract for design and construction supervision for the new Mosquito Control facility for additional services	Mosquito Control	Gunn Meyerhoff Shay	\$8,940	Receivables - Mosquito Control facility
F. Woodwaste grinder	Solid Waste Management	Southeastern Equipment Company	\$196,712	Solid Waste Management - Restricted Revenue
G. One-year lease renewal, with 60-day termination clause amended to the contract, for office space for Internal Affairs	Police	Mahia K. Wilson	\$13,500	SSD - Police
H. Confirmation of approval to bind Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance	Finance	Midwest Employers Casualty	\$36,824	General Fund/M&O - Workers' Compensation

As to Items 21-A through 21-G, except Item 21-F:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 21-A through 21-G, except Item 21-F. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

As to Item 21-F:

Woodwaste grinder; Solid Waste Management; Southeastern Equipment Company; \$196,712; Solid Waste Management - Restricted Revenue.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno asked, is this the beast? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. And it's a revenue-producing thing, too, isn't it? Mr. Stuart Chatham said, Mr. Drewry would have to answer that. Commissioner Rayno said, I know you've been piecing together the old one, so —. Mr. Robert Drewry said, it's not revenue producing. What it does is it reduces the dependency to bury it in the landfill. Commissioner Rayno asked, saves money for that landfill cost, right? Okay, thank you. Motion to approve.

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

As to Item 21-H:

Confirmation of approval to bind Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance; Finance; Midwest Employers Casualty; \$36,824; General Fund/M&O - Workers' Compensation.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I was just wondering why this didn't come up sooner. I mean, something like an insurance renewal would be something that you would know about well in advance, and the Board didn't get to approve it. It's already been approved and I'm just a little —. County Manager Abolt said, I've already apologized to the Chairman. This, in effect, in the middle of the [inaudible] was on Mr. White's desk. It was given to him by the Risk Manager several days before. It was found that we didn't act as promptly as we should and we apologize. Commissioner Rayno asked, so it's Mr. White's responsibility to make sure all the insurance is up to date? County Manager Abolt said, in the Finance Department, of which Mr. White is Acting Finance Director, there's an office called Risk Manager. The

Risk Manager used the normal procedures of going through his supervisor to give this information. It wasn't acted on in a timely fashion, and I apologized to the Chairman. Chairman Hair said, he made me aware of that. Commissioner Rayno said, okay, so that was Chuck Voelker who didn't give it to Reese [White] in time? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. No, sir. Mr. Voelker gave it to Mr. White in time and many of you have seen Mr. White's desk. This is not an apology, this is just an explanation. It was not handled as it normally would had the work load been less than it is. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve Items 21-A through 21-G, except Item 21-F. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 21-F. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Kicklighter and Thomas were not present.]
3. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 21-H. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of seven to one. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

1. **THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY REQUESTED THAT SECTION 4-6.69B (PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT-BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT) BE AMENDED TO ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR MAXIMUM LEASABLE SQUARE FOOTAGE. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE TEXT OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NOT BE AMENDED AT THIS TIME.
MPC FILE NO. Z-021030-36060-1
NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Not to amend. I guess —, is that a negative motion? Commissioner Rayno said, no. Commissioner Murray said, no. Commissioner Rayno said, we want to approve this. We want to make sure that there's standards within these developments. It's not right to go and say guidelines. There has to be standards so that everybody knows what the rules are and we don't have exceptions coming and going or favoritism being shown to some builders and developers over others. It's just not right.

Ms. Charlotte Moore said, well, I have to point out that it would 108 zoning districts in the County. The PUD-B district is the only one that limits by a building, and that's the leaseable square footage. So only the PUD-B-N district and the PUD-B-C have limitations on size. So it is an anomaly in our ordinance and the MPC has recommended that the existing guidelines remain. Now there was a suggestion from the PUD-B committee that it be a standard, and both of those reports were provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Rayno said, well, I make a motion that we make standards. Chairman Hair asked, well, can —, is that in the current wording. I mean, we can't just change it at the second reading without —. Commissioner Murray said, we changed it at the first reading. Commissioner Rayno said, we changed it. Commissioner McMasters said, right. This is the second reading. Chairman Hair asked, it has been? So this is —. Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, the wording's in there that Commissioner Rayno wants? Commissioner Murray said, that was

—, that was changed at the last meeting and —. Chairman Hair said, I just want to make sure —. Commissioner Murray said, we were told we could do that.

County Attorney Hart said, there's a provision floating around somewhere that has the language in it to make it standards, and if the decision of the Commission is to make it standards, we'll just put that language in there. Chairman Hair said, well, my question is was that in the first reading that was approved. County Attorney Hart said, well, it was amended at the first reading to make it standards. Chairman Hair said, okay, that's fine.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to make a motion? Commissioner Rayno said, I made a motion. Chairman Hair said, to approve it. Do we have a second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

* * *

County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Chairman, could I bring to the Commission's attention and Ms. Moore brought to my attention that we're enacting under 4-6.69 the standards issue of the Zoning Code. The way that matter was originally written in this matter was to say that —, to establish after February 28th, 2003, and then we had some delays in that. I would suggest that we amend that to make the effective March 14, 2003.

Commissioner Rayno said, I make an amendment to that. Chairman Hair said, we need a motion to amend. Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion to amend my previous motion. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Mr. Hart.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve that Section 4-6.69b of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance (Planned Unit Development-Business zoning district) be amended to establish standards for maximum leaseable square footage. Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion. Commissioners Rayno, Rivers, McMasters, Murray and Gellatly voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Odell and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to three. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno made a motion that the effective date of the foregoing amendment to Section 4-6.69b of the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance to establish standards for maximum leaseable square footage be March 14, 2003. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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2. **PETITIONER, THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY IS REQUESTING THAT THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE BE AMENDED TO EXEMPT SIGNS THAT DISPLAY HOTEL/MOTEL ROOM RATES AND RESTAURANT DAILY SPECIALS FROM THE PROVISION THAT PROHIBITS FLASHING SIGNS, RUNNING SIGNS, ILLUMINATED SIGNS WITH MOVING PARTS, AND ELECTRONICALLY CONTROLLED SIGN FACES AND MESSAGE BOARDS. THE MPC RECOMMENDED THAT THE REQUEST BE DENIED.**

**MPC FILE NO. Z-030117-63808-1
NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT**

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody have a question?

Commissioner Murray asked, wasn't this changed at the last meeting also? Commissioner Rayno said, we changed this at the last meeting. The Clerk said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we changed this to —. Commissioner Murray said, and add some language in there to cover certain —.

Ms. Charlotte Moore said, there were two provisions. One was provided by the Director of Building Safety and one was provided by the County Attorney and I'm not certain which one was —.

Chairman Hair said, yeah, one of them was the more narrow —, the one I drew was more narrow insofar as the signage portion of it would only —, you could only advertise the room and you could only advertise the special, and it had to be a non-flashing, non-running, stationary sign. Chairman Hair asked, and that was made at the first reading? County Attorney Hart said, yeah.

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion that we approve —. County Attorney Hart said, you're voting on the —, I think you're voting on —, at the last meeting y'all wanted the language that I had —, that the County Attorney's office

And substitute in its place the following paragraph D:

D. The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment, recreation, or other purposes, situated within the County and abutting on any street, alley, or right-of-way in which there is now located, or may in the future be located, a Public Sanitary Sewer of the County, shall be required at the owner's expense to install in accordance with the Plumbing Code of the County, suitable toilet facilities therein, and to connect such facilities directly with the proper Public Sewer in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance, within ninety (90) days after official notice to do so, provided that said Public Sewer is within two hundred (200) feet of the dwelling, and the property can be served by gravity flow. The owner of all houses, buildings or properties used for human occupancy, employment or other purpose in which a house, building or residence is within two hundred (200) feet of a public sewer after notification of requirement to connect to public sewer shall be charged the sewer availability fee on a monthly basis consistent with the Revenue Ordinance.

This amendment to Section 15-101(II)(D) of the Code of Chatham County is adopted, this _____ day of _____, 2003.

CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

BY: _____
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Sybil E. Tillman
Clerk of Commission

SEAL

STATE OF GEORGIA)
)
COUNTY OF CHATHAM)

An ordinance to amend the Revenue Ordinance of Chatham County to charge for a sewer availability fee.

The Revenue Ordinance of Chatham County, Article X, Section 2, is hereby amended so as to create a "sewer availability fee" for all residents within 200 feet of public water and the fee shall be the same amount as the base charge fee for sewer.

Article X, Section 2, shall read as follows:

Article X Water and Sewer Service Charges and Fees

Section 2 Sewer Services

Flat Rate	\$ 53.80
Base Charge	24.92
0 - 2,000 feet of usage (per 100 cubic feet = one unit)	1.17
Over 2,000 cubic feet of usage (per 100 cubic feet)	1.49
Customer Deposit - Sewer Only	57.00
Sewer Availability Fee	24.92

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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3. **TO PROVIDE BOARD STATUS OF PROPOSED BID SOLICITATION FOR PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written report received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Rivers, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 12:05 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:28 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. **REQUEST FROM JUDGE ANDRE FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION BY MARTIN KENT IN SUSAN A. DIXON VS. THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY AND JOHN W. ANDRE, JR., INDIVIDUALLY, CIVIL ACTION NO. CV4023-030 (JON HART).**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the legal representation for Judge Andre by Martin Kent at an hourly rate of \$125.00 with funds for such representation to come from Judge Andre's budget. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner 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. [NOTE: Commissioner Thomas was not present.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK