

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 23, 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 9:30 a.m., Friday, May 23, 2003.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner David Gellatly gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

Vice Chairman Thomas said, the Chairman will be here shortly. He is going to be just a little bit late. Our clerk is absent today and working in her stead is Ms. Tricia Thomas. We want to welcome her and we ask that we kind of slow it down a little bit so —, to give her an opportunity to make the recordings that are necessary for these deliberations this morning. We will now ask her to do the roll call.

The Acting Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT: Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman (arrived approximately 11:30 a.m.)
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight
Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
John J. McMasters, District Three
David M. Gellatly, District Six
B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

ABSENT: Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five

IN ATTENDANCE: R. E. Abolt, County Manager
R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney
Patricia Thomas, Acting County Clerk

County Manager Abolt stated that Commissioner Murray was absent today due to an illness in the family. Vice Chairman Thomas stated that Commissioner Odell had a court order this morning.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR SAFE BOATING WEEK. RAY GODMAN, TYBEE LIGHT POWER SQUADRON AND JACK MARVIN, COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, WILL BE ACCEPTING.

Vice Chairman Thomas read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Chatham County area residents are increasingly heading to the water for recreation and relaxation as the opportunities for on-the-water activities grow each year on our unsurpassed local natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that both novice and experienced boaters practice safe boating habits, such as wearing a life jacket; and to commemorate the annual Safe Boating Week, this year's theme, "Boat Smart From The Start. Wear your Life jacket" is to recognize that boating safety begins long before the boat leaves the dock; and

WHEREAS, in recognizing that hundreds of lives could be saved each year by the wearing of life jackets - and that life jackets of today are more comfortable; and the law requires that wearable life jackets be carried for each person on board the boat - and little effort is needed to wear those life jackets.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby support the goals of the National Safe Boating Campaign, the Tybee Light Power Squadron and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 10-2, and proclaim May 17-23, 2003 as:

"NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK"

in Chatham County and urge all citizen to support the start of the year-round effort to promote safe boating, and urge all those who boat to wear their life jackets and practice safe boating.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 23rd day of May, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Mr. Jack Marvin said, thank you very much. Vice Chairman Thomas said, congratulations. Mr. Marvin said, just make sure everyone boats safely this year. We don't want to be out there having to rescue you.

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2. PROCLAMATION FOR SANDFLY COMMUNITY DESIGNATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm going to ask Commissioner McMasters and Commissioner Rayno to join me. Is Mr. Kemp here? The members of the Sandfly Community? Good morning. I'll read the proclamation and ask Commissioner McMasters to —, good morning. Good morning. Welcome. Vice Chairman Thomas read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Chatham County is famous for its historic aesthetics, today we salute the Sandfly for its designation as an historic "African American community"; and

WHEREAS, Sandfly was established in the early 1700s and many families trace their ancestry to former slaves that migrated from Wormsloe Plantation, bought land as free persons and established homes and churches; and

WHEREAS, Sandfly families lived by the values of skilled labor, education and religion and succeeding generations have carried on these fine qualities as Sandfly continues to maintain these values.

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

SANDFLY COMMUNITY

for having received the historic marker from the Georgia Historical Society which was officially unveiled May 10, 2003 during a special program sponsored by the Georgia Historical Society and the Sandfly Community Betterment Association, and urge each of you to continue the outstanding work you are doing in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 23rd day of May 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

John J. McMasters, Commissioner
District 3

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we are just so proud of all of the accomplishments that have taken place in the Sandfly Community and hope that you would continue to do so. Members of the Sandfly Community said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm going to ask Commissioner McMasters to present this to you.

Commissioner McMasters said, it's a great pleasure. Mr. Kemp, congratulations. Mr. Kemp said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, would you like to speak?

Mr. Kemp said, yes, please. Dr. Thomas, instead of Dr. Hair, on behalf of the Sandfly Community and its Association members and area associates, recognizing Sandfly as an integral part of the fabric that — (coughing) excuse me —, that weaves Savannah and Chatham County into a historical city, special thanks goes to District 1, Jeff Rayno, and Commissioner John McMasters, District 3. We thank you very much.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. MPC REQUEST TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REGARDING ATTENDANCE AT IMPORTANT MPC HEARINGS (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS AND COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Madam Chairman. Commissioner Gellatly and I recently attended the Metropolitan Planning Commission Tricentennial progress update. It was very informative, and in the course of the MPC Commission's testimony, comment was given by the MPC Commissioners, and I think I can say it was a unanimous message, that the Commission has a very difficult job and they recognize that there are only two general areas that they can independently take action on, and those are site plans and subdivision approvals. Everything else that the Metropolitan Planning Commission does is an advisory function to either the City Council of Savannah or the County Commission here, and the MPC Commission would greatly appreciate as much attendance at their Tricentennial progress reports as possible from County Commissioners. Secondly, very controversial issues that come before the Metropolitan Planning Commission, for instance, the Southeast Land Plan, the Commissioners are asked by the public, "Why did, you know, why did you vote this way?" You know, we're either happy with it or we're not happy with it. And the public doesn't fully understand, in the MPC Commission's mind, that they are just advisory and that if the Commissioners would attend more often, they would feel more support and better able to answer the public's questions on controversial issues. So Dave [Gellatly] and I said that we would carry this message to the Commission. And I know the Chairman, Helen Stone, was planning to be here. I had told her that we would probably

not get this —, to this until later, and unfortunately gave her an incorrect time, but she is intending to be here to answer any questions that this Commission might have about that. Dave [Gellatly], is that a fair characterization?

Commissioner Gellatly said, I think you did a really good job, John [McMasters], and I think that, as Commissioners, we have to back and support the MPC and, if at all possible if we can attend those meetings, we need to do that.

Commissioner McMasters said, agreed. Especially the Tricentennial updates, which encapsulate so much work on a quarterly or semi-annual basis. And it was even suggested that if this Commission would like to have the MPC come to our venue and give us that update, with our schedules being what they are, they are willing to do that if this Board would like that. So they're looking for better lines of communications on the overall land planning subject as well as highly topical issues. So, thank you, Madam Chairman.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you, Commissioner McMasters and Commissioner Gellatly, for bringing this issue to our attention. And the thing I was wondering is just a very simple question concerning the taping of the meetings. I know when I can't make them I sometimes will catch them on TV. Our policy with taping, not only of this meeting but the MPC meetings, has been, if I'm not mistaken, is we only keep the meetings for a short period of time and then they're erased. I would like to see, if it's not really that expensive, that we have the tapes and maintain a permanent record of these meetings where we have access to it here at this building. And, also in the past, meetings such as the MPC or this meeting were made available at the library. I know when Bull Street was being built, you could go over in Cloverdale and get copies there. I don't know. Perhaps Mr. Johnson knows if we still have copies of the meetings or not, but if the public wanted to view these after the fact it would give them the ability to do so. Would there be a problem with maintaining a permanent record of both the County Commission meetings and the MPC meetings, Russ [Abolt]? He's busy. Mr. Johnson, do you happen to know if you still have the tapes in the library right now? Mr. Bill Johnson said, Commissioner, I don't know offhand, but I can —, I can commit that we would be happy to house them and to maintain a collection. Commissioner Rayno said, because, you know, it may be things in all the libraries that could watch right now. Mr. Johnson said, yes, it would. Commissioner Rayno asked, Russ [Abolt], would it be a problem to maintain a permanent record of the MPC meetings and also the County Commission meetings so that we would have a copy or access to them or the public would have access to them? County Manager Abolt said, I would defer to Mr. Nichols as to the storage problem questions. He would be the one that we could state those to, copies I'm getting. Commissioner Rayno said, well, for this meeting, you're only talking about one tape per meeting. County Manager Abolt said, well, again, I'm not arguing. Commissioner Rayno said, 24 per year. County Manager Abolt said, I'm not the expert here. I'll defer to Mr. Nichols and you can do what you want. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Thanks. I appreciate that.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. I agree we should, you know, be there for the Tricentennial plans and everything. One part of it that I guess I would have a little bit of a concern is us attending like en masse controversial decisions, because I believe that the MPC or any planning commission anywhere, they're set up to —, basically, a part of their job is to take the politics out of zoning, the controversial issues, and, you know, at that point, I really don't think that we need to persuade or influence the MPC on their decision, because that potentially puts politics into their job, and that's one part that, you know, in my opinion, we don't need to add politics to what they're doing. So as far as, you know, the parts that they want us there on, we should be there, but on controversial decisions, it would just be my fear that our attendance would add politics to their decisions, which wouldn't be good. It wouldn't be in the best interest of Chatham County, but with the other, I think it was a great presentation and we definitely should be there, and I appreciate y'all being there the other day.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Thank you for those observations and we will try to follow through on those.

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Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, we're going to go back to Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Madam Chairman. Just for a moment on the County Commission attendance at Metropolitan Planning Commissions, I notice that Ms. Stone is here. Welcome. And I know you probably got the very tail-end of our comment here, but please join us at the podium.

Ms. Helen Stone said, good morning. The Commissioners said, good morning. Ms. Stone said, I would like to encourage all of you to be participatory in this Tricentennial plan. I do believe firmly that some of the most important issues that are going to be coming before you in the near future are going to be land use issues, and I will try in any way possible to accommodate you all to —, to get the information that you're going to need to know and to learn for the update on the zoning. And I just cannot thank Mr. McMasters for, you know, bringing this forward, because it is important and it is important that you understand the land use issues that are going to affect this County in the future. And I would encourage any of you to attend any of our meetings at any time. I think the more you can know, the better informed you are, you know, the better you can make your decisions. So, if there are any questions, I'll be happy to answer them.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, Ms. Stone, I communicated to the Commission that we had discussed the possibility of having, if not the full Tricentennial report, a substantial portion of it brought here to work within our schedules so that we can exchange that information, and I think there's a willingness to have that done. Ms. Stone said, okay. I talked to Tom Wilson yesterday on that very subject of when the consultants will be back in town to try

to coordinate with y'all's schedule so that we could probably give you sort of a capsuled version at one of your Commission meetings, and to try to get you the information ahead so that you will have something to read and then something to go over when they make their presentation.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. Ms. Stone said, if that is agreeable, then I will set that up. I will go over and talk to Tom [Wilson] now and see when they are coming again and when we can get it before you. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Is that agreeable?

Vice Chairman Thomas said, that's agreeable. Ms. Stone said, and I appreciate your involvement. I know it's one more thing for y'all to have to think about and just some more information for you to have to read, but I wouldn't be bringing this to your attention if I didn't think it was extremely important, and I thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, we certainly thank you, too. Thank you, Commissioner McMasters.

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2. REQUEST TO PURCHASE PROPERTY FOR A NEW FIRE STATION IN GEORGETOWN, CHIEF WESLEY MEADOWS (COMMISSIONER GELLATLY).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, thank you, Madam Chairman. The Southside Fire Department has acquired a piece of property in the Georgetown area for the site of a future fire station, and we're fortunate today to have Chief Meadows and the staff. They need our approval on this and, with that, please go ahead.

Chief Wesley Meadows said, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner Gellatly, and Commissioners, I appreciate you giving us the opportunity at the last minute to be here. I've brought Tom Olsen from John Kern to explain the process. We have been approved by the MPC for our site plan, but it takes a vote of the Commissioners for us to be able to go to this site. We've had this before, I think, on Little Neck Road, but I'll let Tom [Olsen] explain it.

Mr. Tom Olsen said, thank you. Basically, I brought along a site plan. I'm not sure that all of you have seen that, and I don't know that you need to see it. If you do, I can pass it around for you to look at. This is a parcel of the property that's about 350 feet south of King George Boulevard on Grove —, Grove Point Road. It's about a five-acre tract, of which about three and a half acres is developable. As Chief Meadows had said, the MPC has approved the preliminary site plan that we've developed for them. They're just looking for approval to buy the property.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would make a motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. Commissioner McMasters asked, may I ask a question? Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion?

Commissioner McMasters said, yes. What is the funding source? Commissioner Kicklighter said, we don't have to fund anything. Commissioner Gellatly said, we have nothing to fund. Commissioner Kicklighter said, this just allows them to go to build it there. Commissioner McMasters said, fine.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm sure the neighbors are in favor of a fire station in their neighborhood. Chief Meadows said, well, actually, it's behind a set of apartments. There's a church would be to the left, and there's a vacant cafeteria or a restaurant across the street from it. It's zoned residential, but it's not 100 percent used for —. Commissioner Rayno said, so there's no citizen opposition. Chief Meadows said, no, sir. We've talked with the Georgetown community, the President, and, of course, Montine Earls, and they are 100 percent for this.

Ms. Montine Earls asked, can I please say something? Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Commissioner Gellatly asked, Ms. Earls, would you —? Ms. Earls said, yes, most definitely. I'm Montine Earls from Georgetown and I'm on the Board of Directors. I —, when Chief Meadows talked to me about it earlier in the year, absolutely, I went to the Board, I've been to the residents in the area. They are for it 100 percent. If they want to, they can build it across the street from me. Chief Meadows said, I wish we had a known that earlier. Ms. Earls said, but absolutely. It will be an asset to the area.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, with that said, all in favor of the motion, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

Chief Meadows said, Dr. Thomas, Commissioners, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner Gellatly asked, may I make a comment while the Chief's up at the podium? I'd just like to thank you personally, Chief, for running a very, very professional fire department. In my opinion, the Southside Fire Department is among the finest in the United States, and we're —, we would be proud to have one of your fire stations in any neighborhood. Thank you.

Chief Meadows said, Chief [Commissioner Gellatly], coming from you, I consider the ultimate honor. I wish I could take credit, but I'm just the head, the neck and shoulders are my personnel actually are the ones to be commended, but I do thank you. Commissioner Gellatly said, take credit because if there's any discredit, you for sure will get that. Chief Meadows said, well, I know that. I know that. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much, gentlemen.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Gellatly moved to approve the acquisition by the Southside Fire Department of an approximate five-acre tract of land located about 350 feet south of King George Boulevard on Grove Point Road in Georgetown as the site for a future fire station. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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3. BUILDING AND REGULATORY SERVICES, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS).

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Madam Chairman. Russ [Abolt], when did —, did you have a chance to get with Gregori [Anderson] on —? County Manager Abolt said, just a second. Yeah, we'll get to you, sir. I met with him briefly before the meeting started, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, okay, when will we have that? County Manager Abolt said, I —, as quickly as possible, sir. I could not enunciate the full details of the work, but we'll get it for you as quickly as we can, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, we had a firm time frame here, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, and it was not met. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. We'll get it to you as quickly as we can. I didn't have time to meet with Mr. Anderson at length. The conversation this morning took about ten seconds. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Well, I just, you know —.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, you know, I thought we had settled this back there. Commissioner McMasters said, so did I. Commissioner Rivers said, yeah, I thought we settled that back there. And I want everybody, everybody in this audience that's within the sound of my voice to hear, these little small issues we can settle. We don't necessarily need a confrontation over issues that we discuss all the time. We can settle these issues without coming out here and bringing someone to the forefront of putting them on the spot of what we didn't do. We told the Manager back there that we had a time frame and we wanted it corrected. Then let us allow him the opportunity to correct that and we move on. That's all I wanted to say. I'm tired of confrontation. We need to come with resolves and if we aren't resolving things, don't make it an issue that we don't need to. So, with that, I'm through.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, gentlemen.

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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. TAX CORRECTION (COMMISSIONER RAYNO). Tabled at meeting of April 25, 2003.**

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to take number one off the table please. I make a motion to take it off the table. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, that's a motion —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, all in favor. Set your votes please, Ms. Thomas. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to bring forward Joanne Johansen to talk about a situation she's having with the property on —.

Mr. Ken Earls said, please read —. Commissioner Rayno asked, pardon? Mr. Earls said, please read the item.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, oh, I'm sorry. Tax Correction, Commissioner Rayno. Tabled at meeting of April 25th, 2003. Thank you.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you, Mr. Earls. I'd like to bring forward Ms. Joanne Johansen to talk about property on Hodgson Memorial Drive and the purchase of the former Chatham County Tag Office, Sheriff's Office. There has been some discrepancies as to the value of the property and I'd like for her, as succinctly as possible, to explain what she believes is the problem and what she would like to have as some kind of a resolution. And since we're all in the same room and there seems to be conflicting information on this property, I'd like to try to get it solved today. Thank you.

Ms. Johansen said, thank you. Good morning. Thank so much —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, good morning. Ms. Johansen said, — for the opportunity to speak with you and putting me on the agenda this morning. I am the Administrator at Savannah Plastic Surgery Associates. We purchased the old Chatham County Tag Office and Sheriff's Office on Hodgson Memorial Boulevard. We actually closed in November of '01. We received our first property tax bill in January of '03. It was stamped "Account Correction," and it showed the adjusted fair market value as \$1,645,000. Now, we may have a problem here because our lawyer, for whatever reason, created another entity that owns this property called Savannah Cosmetic Surgery Enterprises. We are on the Memorial Campus. Although we are in private practice, we are in Suite 500 in the Professional Building, and Suite 500 was left off of this paperwork. Being that it —, that situation took place, you know, we did receive this particular bill in January of '03. I called the Tax Assessor's office and was told that we should have received a valuation notice in the Spring and an initial bill and this would be our second bill, and I asked about appealing this since we were having a hard time determining where the value, 1.6 million, came from on this particular property. We bought this through a bid process through the County. The low bid that they asked for was \$850,000. They did give us, which was SME Engineering, stating that there were some environmental issues. There were some buried fuel tanks from the Sheriff's Department that were under testing. There was asbestos in the floors, the ceiling and the walls and lead paint. So we knew we had some —, some particular issues to deal with. We actually bid 1 million fifty for the property. The bank appraisal, when we closed, came back at 1.1 million dollars.

Ms. Johansen said, in investigating this, I find it difficult to believe that a valuation notice was sent out in the Spring of 2002. I did call the Assessor's Office. They said that normally what happens is if it goes to someone and they cannot identify them, it's returned to them and posted at the Courthouse. I didn't know that. I know that now. But she did —, they keep records of that and it did not come back. It was not posted at the Courthouse. It did not get to us either. So when I spoke with them, they said, "Well, it's too late to appeal this. You should have appealed this when you got your valuation notice in the Spring." Well, going back through the public records, the reassessment was not done until 10/22/02, which would be well after the Spring. They said that it was based on recent sales, but there is no record of research on recent sales. The bank appraisal shows the last comparable sale was in 1999. The only thing on record is an appeal of the tax appraisal in 2001, listed under ABC Childcare. The utility companies and the City have told us that they have two different —, the County has two different addresses on this particular property. We received a bill in November of '02, a year after we bought this from the City, that said that we owed zero taxes, and I was excited about that, but I figured that was probably wrong, so I called the City and I spoke with Tammy Fahey (phonetic) from the City, and she said, "Well, Joanne, just disregard that bill. There's something wrong here, but let me send you what the County has on record." She sent me, and I have it, what the County had on record, and they listed this property with an E-1 exemption, stating that it was not to be taxed, and that was —, the date on this paperwork shows December 30th of '02. So I guess what I'm trying to say is I'm finding it hard to believe that any notice went out and, if it did go out, it went out (a) to the right address. There seems to be a lot of confusion here when you receive a bill in January of '03, a year after you've bought the property, and you're told it's too late to appeal the valuation, you've received no valuation notice. What I'm asking for is relief. We did go ahead and pay 80 percent of the tax, which was \$15,258, in a timely manner to show that in good faith we wanted to pay our taxes, we just felt like this was unfair. My understanding is that this is a State statute and, you know, once this notice goes out or they say it goes out, although they don't, you know, have anything to verify that, that the only thing that could happen, once it goes back to the courthouse or doesn't go back, which it didn't do, is that I have to come to the Commission and ask you all for relief, because the State is very clear on how this is to be handled and my right to appeal for 2002 has expired. So that's what I'm asking for.

Commissioner Rayno asked, what's the value you're looking for in the property? Ms. Johansen said, the value that I'm looking for, actually, we went down and struck the value and, based on the environmental reports, we lowered it quite a bit. You know, I think a fair appraisal would be at least what the bank appraisal is at 1.1. It —, I question whether the —, I know the building is not worth that. Actually, the building is not there anymore. We've mowed it down. Commissioner Rayno said, it's rubble. Ms. Johansen said, we were going to remodel it, but with the environmental stuff, the cost between remodeling and razing it was so minimal, we just went ahead and razed it. Commissioner Rayno asked, what was the cost of the environmental cleanup to you? Ms. Johansen said, the cost of the environmental cleanup is still coming in. In fact, I've just gotten another proposal for some soil borings and some other things, but right now the environmental cleanup, the abatement, et cetera, is about \$30,000 at this point. Commissioner Rayno said, I guess the point I want to make to my fellow Commissioners is the fact that our minimum bid was \$850,000, they paid \$200,000 above our minimum bid, plus they ate the cost of the environmental cleanup, which probably would have cost us more because when they see "government" they always add more to the price, and I think the fair thing to do for these people, because of the information problems that we've had for them, would be to fairly go back and give them the 1.1 million dollars value, and I make a motion that we do that to give them the relief that they deserve.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, there's a motion on the floor. Commissioner Rivers said, [inaudible]. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner McMasters and Commissioner Rivers. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, was there a second? Vice Chairman Thomas said, no. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Discussion? Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. May I? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. County Attorney, Jon [Hart], I don't think this Board can set a value. County Attorney Hart said, well, let me start out by saying this to the Board. I feel somewhat uncomfortable in giving the Commission advice on this. I'm familiar with this group. Dr. DeLoach and Dr. Ruf are clients of mine, and we didn't handle this transaction, they had independent counsel for that. So I really don't want to get into a situation where I'm saying something positive or negative. When this first came up, I talked with the Assistant County Attorney, Emily Garrard, and asked if she would kind of handle the thing. Unfortunately, Emily [Garrard] had a family commitment out-of-state that she had to be at today. We have also referred this to Tim Walmsley of the BOA, the attorney for the BOA,

to give their opinion as to what their view of the world is and what the law is on that. They've got an opinion on that. Today there is some additional information that was brought out that, quite frankly, I hadn't heard before. Commissioner McMasters asked, what information was that? County Attorney Hart said, the mailing factors and what she was told by different people, I haven't heard that before, and I don't know what impact that would have one way or the other. It may have substantial impact, it may have no impact. My suggestion would be to have this information submitted and perhaps arrange a meeting, a face-to-face meeting if that needs to be done, with Ms. Garrard so she can have all the information, then review Mr. Walmsley's opinion, and the County Attorney's Office render an opinion whether you can give the relief that you can. I think there's some very good points here from the standpoint in values. You know, this was a competitive business situation, but I feel uncomfortable, really, one way or the other saying anything.

Commissioner McMasters said, I know that this has been tabled several times and, if my memory is correct, previously the Board of Assessors was here —. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, — prepared to —. County Attorney Hart said, Mr. Walmsley attended twice. Commissioner McMasters said, — to —, to discuss it. May I suggest that —?

Commissioner Rayno said, I'll withdraw my motion on the advice of the attorney that he would facilitate a meeting between all the interested parties and try to come to some resolution. Commissioner Gellatly said, I'll withdraw my second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Rivers, and then —.

Commissioner Rivers said, that was going to be my suggestion, since it put in —, put him in an untenable position, that we would either table or ask him to withdraw and get together and resolve some of it or let Emily [Garrard] sit into it, sit down with them. County Attorney Hart said, my thought is just to put —. Commissioner Rivers said, Jon [Hart] and —. County Attorney Hart said, — Tim Walmsley and Emily Garrard directly in contact and, if there's any additional information that we don't know about, let's gather it and put it in an equation and see where we come down on it. Commissioner Rivers said, but I did want to ask one question, Jon [Hart]. County Attorney Hart said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, I know that we can't set values, but does this come under our purview? County Attorney Hart said, well, I really don't even want to give an opinion on that because there are some things that are in and there are some things that are out and it wouldn't be fair to either party. Commissioner Rivers said, okay. I'm through.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I'd just like to see all parties involved, because there's no need to keep it tabled, and I'd like to see all parties invited to the very next meeting where we can untable it and handle that.

Commissioner Rayno said, we don't have to do that. They're going to have a separate meeting and this can be resolved without even our intervention it looks like. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, that's good.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, so is that part of your motion, your original motion, or —? Commissioner Rayno said, I —, it's not —, it doesn't have to be. It's just for the record —. County Attorney Hart said, just direct staff to do it. Commissioner Rayno said, — and he's agreed to do it. We're good to go. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All right. Commissioner McMasters said, I think I have one other question. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, you have another question? Okay. Commissioner McMasters has another question.

Commissioner McMasters said, ma'am, may I ask you one other question? Ms. Johansen said, sure. Commissioner McMasters said, you closed on this property in November of '01. Your closing attorney produced the paperwork for the recording, correct? Ms. Johansen said, uh-huh. Commissioner McMasters said, because I attend not all, but many of the Board of Assessors meetings, and this has been discussed there in their open meetings, and your suite number was left off the original filing and you attribute your failure to receive the change of value notice to the absence of that suite number? Ms. Johansen said, no, I don't. Like I said, that is —, that's one —, that's what I originally thought had happened, but in looking at this, I —, the Assessor's Office is saying we should have gotten the valuation notice in the Spring, but this actual reassessment took place in October, October 22nd of '02. So I just can't see that we got a valuation notice in the Spring. I —, and it, again, it was not returned. I've spoken to the head of the mail room at Memorial Hospital and asked them what their written policy was as far as mail, and they hold mail for a certain amount of time. They have a data base and a telephone system, because they —, I guess Memorial has become property owners from what she was telling me. They will actually sell or lease property, private practices as well as hospital-owned practices throughout that particular area. So they have practices coming and going all the time, doctors, different practice names, so they hang onto it in a box for a certain amount of time and continue to check the data base, check with the property managers, check with their telephone directory, and then at some point in time they do mail it back as undeliverable. So I feel like it should have come back to the —, to the courthouse and been posted as —, and they have no record that it came back. Commissioner McMasters said, the last comment to you when your coming back at the subject, are you familiar with the filing of a return to return the value of your property? Have you —. Ms. Johansen said, I —, I am now. Commissioner McMasters asked, — been apprised of that? Ms. Johansen said, I am now. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Ms. Johansen said, yeah. Commissioner McMasters said, did —, that ought to be an excellent recommendation for the future to avoid —. Ms. Johansen said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, — this sort of —, the absence of communication. Ms. Johansen said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, and although it's not required, it's certainly an option —. Ms. Johansen said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, — that you have. So I would encourage you to —. Ms. Johansen said, I understand that. Commissioner McMasters said, — explore that. Ms. Johansen said, I've bought and sold a house in the last year, too, and they read me this State statute that the closing attorney is always supposed to read this to you. I'd never heard

this before. So I've learned something through this process, certainly. Commissioner McMasters said, great. Thank you for your time. Ms. Johansen said, okay. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, so that takes care of that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
2. The County Attorney's office will facilitate a meeting between all the interested parties and try to come to a resolution regarding a tax statement for property owned by Savannah Plastic Surgery Associates.

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- * **2. TO PRESENT YEAR END FUND BALANCE RESTORATION TO RECONCILIATIONS BASED ON AUDIT, BUDGET AMENDMENT AND BUDGET ADOPTIONS FOR ENCUMBRANCES, INCOMPLETE PROJECTS/EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND FUND BALANCE RESERVES AT YEAR END 2002 FOR THE GENERAL FUND M&O, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS; AND A GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$20,000 IN REVENUE FROM HOUSING MUNICIPAL PRISONERS TO FUND ADDITIONAL POSITIONS APPROVED AT THE APRIL 11, 2003, BOARD MEETING. Tabled at meeting of April 25, 2003. At meeting of May 9, 2003, all portions of this item were approved except General Fund M&O, SSD and CIP.**

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion we take it off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor to take it off the table. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

Commissioner Rayno said, Madam Chairman, if I may, I'd just like to repeat the comments I made in the pre-meeting that I appreciate the latitude that this Board gave me to take the time to fully understand the issues of M&O and SSD budget in terms of the encumbrances and how they related to the comprehensive annual financial report. I didn't feel comfortable at the time voting upon those without a full understanding of that. I never want to be, and I know many of you don't want to either, be in the position of having to vote on something without a full understanding of it. And through the process of sitting down with Read DeHaven and Reese White and discussing these particular issues, many things were made clear. And, as I mentioned in the meeting —, in the pre-meeting, I believe that we're starting to have an understanding of each other's goals and objectives for the physical condition of this County, and it's a healthy relationship to have so that we can continue to make proper decisions in the future as we've made in the past, such as the article in today's paper saying that the County is in good physical shape. And it's the kind of relationship, I think, that is something that's easy to continue. Also in process of meeting with Read DeHaven, who should be commended for his fine work for the Finance Department, and also Mr. Tindol, who is with the independent auditing firm, we discovered that the CIP's that were lingering that were brought up in this particular document could be resolved by talking to department heads to see if they still need to have them on the books and put everything on one page so we have a comprehensive document we could look at at a one-shot glance and make things more understandable —, not only for public officials, but for the public looking at it —, to hold us accountable to make sure that we're being the best stewards of the taxpayer dollars. So, again, it's with full confidence that I make a motion we approve the M&O, the SSD, and the CIP —. Commissioner Rivers said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. Opposes. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the 2002 year end fund balance reconciliations for General Fund M&O, Special Service District and Capital Improvement funds. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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- * **3. THIRD QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT, RECOMMENDED BUDGET TRANSFERS AND CONTINUE M70 HIRING FREEZE FOR BALANCE OF FISCAL YEAR. At meeting of May 9, 2003, deferred action on Library Continuation Budget until meeting of May 23, 2003.**

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion to take this off the table. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Any discussion?

Commissioner Rayno said, John McMasters and I had a meeting with Russ Abolt and library staff concerning the library continuation, and we're all agreed that we need to, for maintenance of effort, to approve this. The question that we had was the utilization of the LOST funds, which are not guaranteed right now. We are going to use the sale of the property —, was it Lazaretto Creek? Commissioner Rivers said, Richardson Creek. County Manager Abolt said, Richardson Creek. Commissioner Rayno said, — Richardson Creek, and that —, use the LOST to pay it back. I would feel much more comfortable paying it back with the savings from the health care plan that we did this year. Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, I would not advise that only because that is still in the future. We need money in the bank to cut the check. I don't want to jeopardize the State funding, which is substantial. I think you can still be where you wanted to be as we intended in the initial staff report. In the interim, take the money out of Richardson Creek. Whatever savings we have, obviously, it could accrue in the fund balance. Commissioner Rayno said, oh, I concur with you that we should use that money but there may be —, but not commit today to use the LOST funds to pay that back. County Manager Abolt said, oh, I see what you're saying. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. We'd had already spoke about —. Commissioner McMasters said, we discussed it. County Manager Abolt said, I didn't understand —, I must have misunderstood that. So what we're —, you know, regardless, I think you can act, but the key thing is to cut the check very quickly to —, to the Library Board. At issue will be where will be the pot of money? As we all know, in the LOST revenue, given our third quarter financial situation, that money has not come in at the level we want. Commissioner Rayno said, I'd be happy to use the money from the property sale, but just as long as we don't commit to using the LOST funds, because we are going to have a meeting on July 2nd —. County Manager Abolt said, that's fine. Commissioner Rayno said, — and on that date we will have —. County Manager Abolt said, that's fine, sir. Commissioner Rayno said, — a clearer picture of what that health care —. County Manager Abolt said, I have no problem with that, sir. Commissioner Rayno said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt] —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, wherever —, wherever we have reoccurring revenue, whether it be from the savings in health plan or whether it be from LOST, once we find out wherever that money is, then we infiltrate that stream. It could be coming from some other source, as long as it is recurring revenue, because that's what's important. County Manager Abolt said, well said, because the problem is we've got —, gotten into over the years, whether it's health care or the LOST revenue, it's all future. It's not money in the bank now. Obviously, it's on the right course, but it's not —, it's not liquid. Commissioner Rivers said, yeah. County Manager Abolt said, the only liquidity we have is the Richardson Creek property. Commissioner Rivers said, when we can catch the flow. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir; you're right. Commissioner Rivers said, and we catch the flow from wherever the means are because we could stumble today or tomorrow as far as savings on the health plan and —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, — all that kind of stuff. So when we've got the sure thing there and we know that we have a continuing revenue stream, of course, we don't have anything that we can look back on to say, "Hey, we had this, so we project this." We can't do that. County Manager Abolt said, very certainly. Commissioner Rivers said, we can only live with hope. County Manager Abolt said, you're —. Commissioner Rivers said, so if it comes then we're —. County Manager Abolt said, — you're absolutely right. In a few minutes, you're going to receive in the budget proposals that many of you had a chance to review and those staff is extremely circumspect. Nothing we're talking about in the future will be used for revenues today. Commissioner Rivers asked, is there any other pool out there we may have that we can tap into? County Manager Abolt asked, for this? Commissioner Rivers said, yeah. County Manager Abolt said, not at this time, sir, but hopefully, the fund balance at the end of the year. Our problem is now not to get ourselves cross [unintelligible] with the State. I want to be able to —. Commissioner Rivers said, I understand that. This is —. County Manager Abolt said, I want to —. Commissioner Rivers said, — this is almost one of those emergency situations. County Manager Abolt said, I want you to be able to make a commitment that is taken to the bank so the Library Board has the funding they need.

Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion that we utilize this money from the sale of the Richardson Creek to maintenance —, for maintenance of effort for the library with the understanding that the repayment will be decided at a future date. Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt], I'll second that, and I'll say this —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, discussion. Commissioner Rivers said, — I'll say this, that when we look at the budget as we're coming up, whatever we have out of growth, that we infuse it in as a continuing revenue —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers said, — and payback.

County Manager Abolt asked, may I perfect the motion? I understand —, I believe I understand the intent. Officially, it's for the library continuation by the simplest means ever. A little bit of it has to do with some personal service issues, but essentially we'd be transferring \$427,290 out of Richardson Creek to make the library whole.

Commissioner Rayno said, I accept that amendment to the motion. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. The motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the library continuation budget by transferring \$427,290 out of the Richardson Creek property sale with the understanding that the repayment of the funds will be decided at a future date. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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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. **DISTRIBUTE PROPOSED FY BUDGET AND SET BUDGET WORKSHOPS. NOTE: Previously you did direct that workshops be conducted at the end of your regularly scheduled Board meetings.**

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, and now, in the wings and they're very shy, Mr. DeHaven. Maybe the load is too heavy. Read [DeHaven], Estelle [Brown], Chris [Morris]? Here are the superstars that have made this budget at this level now possible to deliver to you. As you know, this is not the final budget. This is only a proposal. We think it's quite unique this year in the way it gives you choices, but essentially knowing full well that now this is a public document and you need time to review it, what we were trying to do today is to acknowledge to the general public it is available and it will be available in all the branch libraries. Also, we'll make copies available to the media with the understanding that if a copy goes to one member of the media, that they keep it for their particular news source and not expect us to provide copies for all the reporters. But, essentially, this document is now public. It will be up before you maybe as early as your first meeting in June. The reason we referenced the workshops, we're taking direction from you a while back where you said you did want to in the course of your normal work schedule for a month of regular meetings, at the end of each meeting, you in fact would have workshops. So, unless you change your direction, what we'll do at the first meeting in June, which I believe is the 13th, you will have what amounts to a series of presentations by the departments that are ready after that meeting to tell you about their budget and tell you about their needs. This is all gauged out to put into position in July to adopt the milage and adopt the digest and adopt the budget.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, any questions? Yes?

Commissioner McMasters asked, Russ [Abolt], would this include Building and Regulatory Services? County Manager Abolt said, sure. Commissioner McMasters asked, it would? County Manager Abolt said, it's the entire County budget. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, [Inaudible] —.

Commissioner McMasters said, I want to know what my fellow Commissioners feel about the budget workshop process. Do you want to do it the same way we did it last year?

Commissioner Gellatly said, my preference would be, if it was all right with the other Commissioners, is that we all have extensive information, we've all had a briefing, a very thorough briefing by the County Manager and staff. If we individually have questions, Russ [Abolt] and his staff are available for us. I'd rather not go through that process.

Commissioner McMasters said, let me make a motion then that for the fiscal '04 budget planning, that we ask the County Manager to schedule workshop presentations from all of the departments, that we have additional questions and information and contact from them. County Manager Abolt asked, somebody would tell me this individually that —? Commissioner McMasters said, absolutely.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is there a second? You made a motion? Commissioner Rayno asked, they would come here? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is that the motion? Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Commissioner McMasters said, yes, ma'am; that's a motion. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

County Manager Abolt said, point of clarification. There's no objection to having them the same day as the regular meeting, is that correct? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, that's it. County Manager Abolt said, so your first budget workshop will be on the 13th of June and your second will be on the 27th, and then whatever is necessary into July.

Commissioner McMasters said, right. And we'll —. County Manager Abolt asked, you will tell me? Commissioner McMasters said, — individually notify you what we want.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, are you finished? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you. Okay. All right.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved that for the fiscal year 2004 budget planning the County Manager schedule on the same day as the regular Commission meetings beginning June 13, 2003, workshop presentations from all of the departments that we have additional questions and information contact from. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL DRUG CONTROL AND SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT FORMULA GRANT AND A MULTIPLE GRANT FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE AN ADDITIONAL \$8,600 IN REVENUE FOR THE K-9 PROGRAM.

Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve acceptance of the Edward Byrne Memorial Drug Control and System Improvement Drug Control and System Improvement Formula Grant and a Multiple Grant Fund Budget Amendment to recognize an additional \$8,600 in revenue for the K-9 Program. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO REMOVE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AT VARIOUS COMMUNITY PARKS, AND AS A RESULT PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD CHILDREN AND REDUCE THE COUNTY'S LIABILITY EXPOSURE.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, I know you've all been keeping —, kept current on this hopefully, through the information I've sent you in your packet, but we now want it to be about, in nine park areas, going with a partnership with a representative of the neighborhood association, identifying play equipment that is dangerous and removing that equipment. We will be doing that systematically under the direction of Mr. Lipsey.

Commissioner Rayno said, I just wanted to thank Mr. Lipsey and also the consultant who checked all of these parks out, because it's near and dear to my heart that I spend a lot of time in the parks. My daughter's in a swimming program in the parks that are near my house, and it's —, some of the equipment is just so dangerous and it's not right that we allow our kids to play on those pieces of equipment. And I look forward to the safety issues being addressed as you put forward in the memo, and I make a motion to approve this. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner McMasters

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Madam Chairman. I'm glad that this says to remove potentially hazardous material, but I want to ask Russ [Abolt], in the pre-information that we received in our packets, it was suggested that we discontinue maintenance of certain equipment. So I want to be clear here. Are we removing certain equipment —, are we removing all hazardous equipment or are we removing some hazardous equipment and leaving some that we're no longer maintaining? County Manager Abolt said, well, you notice in the options, we're talking specifically about the removal of hazardous equipment. We really don't have the resources at this point to do extensive maintenance. We fell short of actually removing all equipment because we do have low-point budget choices, but at this point, it's to go into a park area, which are small neighborhood parks, looking at equipment as has been done by Isle of Hope and Rio Vista, and saying, "That, you know, piece of equipment must go," and take it out. We're not going in effect committing to any long-term maintenance because in some areas, for decades, the County has had some relationship. In many cases, without the continuity of having staff currently on board, we don't know why we were there. So it's not our intent to make it so traumatic for the neighborhood to completely remove the equipment, nor do we want to make a full-time commitment to maintain play equipment that was there by accident some years ago.

Commissioner Rayno said, part of the problem is they have an initial [unintelligible] lease. People may say, "Well, we'll take care of it if you let us put it in," and then, well, say two years go by and, all of a sudden, they're not taking care of the equipment.

County Manager Abolt said, it is short-lived. It is short-lived and that is well said. You have a generation that changes, and then some 20 years come by and, "Why is that there?"

Commissioner McMasters said, I think it's a very smart move. May I ask a question about our regular parks, our dedicated parks, and the equipment on those, in those facilities? Do we have a budget for each facility, whether it's Lake Mayer or Stell, for new equipment and maintenance of existing equipment? County Manager Abolt said, we only can handle maintenance. We have no replacements scheduled other than what's in the CIP. We've been unable to effectively replace CIP requirements in the Parks Department for a number of years, with the exception of SPLOST.

There was an example up near the Burroughs Community. That was a partnership with the Burroughs Community, were, in fact, a part of a previous SPLOST —. Commissioner McMasters said, Russ [Abolt], I'm referring to dedicated County facilities, not —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, --- not joint neighborhood collaboratives. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Lipsey can answer on point, but to my knowledge, we do not have any type of substantial, even modest, replacement of the playground equipment.

Commissioner McMasters asked, do we have a repair line item for each facility for the repair of existing equipment? County Manager Abolt asked, for each facility? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. County Manager Abolt said, again, based on the instruction of two weeks ago or whenever it was, I'd have to defer to Mr. Lipsey, whether there is one line in from the entire Department or if we have some specificity with one, I cannot answer. I do know, in a matter of months, we'll have specificity by park. Commissioner McMasters asked, could I hear from Mr. Lipsey if he's here? County Manager Abolt said, whatever you want, yes, sir.

Commissioner McMasters said, good morning, Mr. Lipsey. Mr. Al Lipsey said, said, good morning. Commissioner McMasters said, I've —, the question earlier is for each County facility, does each facility have a budgeted amount each fiscal year for repair? Mr. Lipsey said, it's —, it's taken out of the overall operating budget from Parks and Rec. No, there's no specific budget set out, for instance, Runaway Park. It's lumped together as total operating budget for the Parks and Recreation. And it's taken —. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, well, how —? Mr. Lipsey said, — the repairs are taken from the maintenance and repair line item. Commissioner McMasters said, all right. Well, when I have a constituent that visits a County facility and hypothetically discovers that a piece of playground equipment is inoperative, who should they go to to address that? Mr. Lipsey said, they will address it with us, with me, and then if it's within our operating budget to replace that piece —, that damaged equipment, then we can do that. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. So if I understand this correctly, you've got an overall Parks and Recreation repair budget for playground equipment, but not a specific facility line item repair budget. Is that a fair characterization? Mr. Lipsey said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. How do you establish that overall annual repair budget when you submit that to County budget? Is there an inventory done of each facility to kind of determine what the repair costs might be for the next fiscal year? Mr. Lipsey said, you can only estimate —. Commissioner McMasters said, sure. Mr. Lipsey said, — because you have no way of knowing what the repairs are going to be. For instance, you look at the lighting facility out at Lake Mayer, one of those —, if you have a whole section of lighting to go out because it was struck by lightning, you can have —, incur a debt up to \$5,000 just to get that replaced. So you have no way —, you can only estimate to a point for your replacement damage. Commissioner McMasters said, so you estimate it as good as possible —. Mr. Lipsey said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, — what your experience for the next fiscal year might be —. Mr. Lipsey said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, — for repair and maintenance, you submit that to County staff —. Mr. Lipsey said, you can —. Commissioner McMasters said, — and then —. Mr. Lipsey said, they -- yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, — we may or may not approve that. Mr. Lipsey said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, so then, if a constituent needs something done, they can either contact you directly or me, as their elected representative, and then we ask you to look at that overall budget and see if the money is there? Mr. Lipsey said, yes. Commissioner McMasters asked, is that how we're doing it? Mr. Lipsey said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, great. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

Commissioner Rayno said, we still have a made a motion on the floor, Madam Chairman. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. All in favor of the motion? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion is carried. Thank you.

The Acting Clerk said, excuse me. Who made that motion? Commissioner Rayno said, I did, ma'am. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Rayno. And who seconded it? Commissioner Rayno said, David Gellatly. Vice Chairman Thomas said, David Gellatly. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think I did. Vice Chairman Thomas thank you. Was it you? Commissioner McMasters said, I think it was. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, it was me. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Kicklighter. Commissioner Rayno said, the other guy.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request to remove potentially hazardous playground equipment at various community parks and, as a result, protect neighborhood children and reduce the County's liability exposure. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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4. STATUS OF BLENDING COUNTY AND CITY OF SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, Chief Sprague is here. This is an opportunity, obviously, that many —, all of you have waited for for literally months. As you do know from reading the paper, and I sent you also information in the mail, the City Council has given a consensus type of a conceptual, I should say, approval on the blending of what you have in front of you now is a staff report from Chief Sprague indicating that between now and your first meeting in June that the City and County staff will be perfecting the agreement so that hopefully by that time you can act upon it. I will say that at certain levels we've gone through now what amounts to 13 drafts, staff to staff. On

the 13th draft, which was inked, well, not inked, it was prepared many months ago. The City and County staff were as one on it, but there have been some changes made in a Draft 14, that were shared with the City Council. I have a copy. We obviously have to work out with our partners or soon-to-be partners, hopefully, the City of Savannah. We will be doing that in the next few weeks. If all goes well, we'll have it for you on the 13th. Obviously the significance is such, and in such magnitude, that even though it is important, we're not going to rush this. We're going to make sure that, in effect, when you choose, if you choose to merge, it will be an agreement you can agree with and also for our partners at the City of Savannah. Chief Sprague has been literally the instigator, the sponsor, the inertia, showing the courage to make this happen. Chief Sprague is so committed to this that obviously his time with the County will not be a factor in not creating an urgency. He will be with us for the next few months to make sure this happens. So an absolute deadline of the 1st of July, although it's important to get us to the negotiating table, is not going to be a deal-breaker. I say that only as a footnote, fully confident in my conversations with City Manager Michael Brown that staff to staff, we can work this out. At the worst case situation, on the 13th we'll give you another status report, but I feel that with the energy and the attention that both City and County staff will have some, hopefully, that you will be able to come and look at and give us direction as to your preference come the 13th of June.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner Rayno said, first I'd like to thank Chief Sprague for his hard work on this particular issue and I wanted to know is Draft 14 of the intergovernmental agreement, is that the one that we are going to be looking at —. Chief Sprague said, correct. Commissioner Rayno said, — or have there been —? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. We —. Chief Sprague said, — drafts beyond that? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir; there's not. There's been —, well again, it sounds like a lot, which it is. As you all know so well, this literally has spanned many, many, many months, and we had got —, found ourselves at a point, in fact, about the time that you all said to City Council, "Please tell us if you conceptually approve," at that juncture, we had come to about the evolution of the 13th draft. In the working with the Savannah City Council, the City staff made some further refinements, particularly in the area of financing. We had some concerns about it, but none worth reporting at this time. I conveyed those to Mr. Brown in summary fashion. He is fully understanding of where we are right now. I realize from the 14th, I mean Draft Number 14, is a creature of the City, and understand that when we sit down, we're only effectively talking about something that recognizes the County as a partner. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. When you and I had met for a briefing approximately eight months ago, you told me that if the merger went through, that my area that currently has two officers, 24-7, would bump up to another number. I think it was six officers. Would that still be the same or not? Chief Sprague said, no, sir. Recalling the conversation with you, as well as with the other Commissioners, the merger will produce initially approximately eight to ten officers that would be distributed throughout, with reconfigured precincts of which the County would join, which would get more overlap coverage to everyone involved. On the outs, as attrition occurs, because no one's forced out, there would be another ten to twelve officers produced by the merger. They would be distributed, based on crime patterns, call response times, et cetera, et cetera. I believe that's what I told you and that's what I've told everybody. Commissioner Rayno said, so conceivably —. Chief Sprague said, I did not promise any district, elected official that they would get "X" amount of officers, because I couldn't do that. Commissioner Rayno said, so, conceivably, we would have three or four in there and maybe a couple of floaters that are bouncing back and forth between precincts. Chief Sprague said, I'm sorry? Commissioner Rayno said, you could go from two officers 24-7, to say maybe three, maybe four, and then have a couple of floaters which are bouncing between whole areas. Chief Sprague said, well, the precincts will have to be reconfigured. The initial stuff has been done on that and I believe I showed you —. Commissioner Rayno said, yes. Chief Sprague said, — each commissioner maps of that. The disbursement of the personnel that would be produced by the merger would fall into the overall overlap, if you wish, to provide better services to all areas. Commissioner Rayno said, where there'd been —. Chief Sprague said, in your particular area —, Commissioner McMasters's area, we have, you know, right —, one-on-one. The City is one side of the street, we're on the other. The —, as you know, the jurisdictional boundary would come down so that the MPD officer, the former County or former City, would be able to respond to calls in those areas. Commissioner Rayno asked, like on Montgomery Crossroads, for instance? Chief Sprague said, many areas. And that holds true throughout the County. As you know, if Savannah were the circle, the County unincorporated area is on different sides of that circle, but Savannah's always in the middle. And the advantages to the people from the combined service is that that jurisdictional boundary comes down for —, officer patrol to CID to speed enforcement. It's just —, it's a win/win situation from a law enforcement standpoint, and it's low-cost. Last April, we came to you all when we had finished the staff worked with the City. The Police Departments were reading the charge on that, and then the merger plan sort of dropped into a hiatus for a number of months for various reasons, negotiations on SPLOST, LOST, et cetera. It resurfaced in November. The Commissioners were briefed and you've come through with the consensus to proceed forward. Subsequent to that, the City became more involved and the City Manager, Michael Brown, they had their meeting last week. Over the period of time, there's been a lot of rhetoric about the County paying for its share or the City paying for its share, nobody paying for the other person's share, and that's the way the intergovernmental agreement is designed in 13. We're working with some nuances that come up in their 14 that didn't have the staff involvement from the previous work in 13. That's what we're working on now.

Chief Sprague said, I have high hopes that this will go through. I think over the course of the last 18 months or more, that the citizens have become aware that this is good for them in all districts, in all City Council aldermanic areas. Just criminal investigation, intelligence sharing, drug enforcement, that's going —, it's County-wide and this can occur. I won't say fortunately or unfortunately, the Police Department is at the forefront of this with the City of Savannah Police Department. Any other blendings or mergers that might be thought about by the County Commission with the City, they're going to go through these growing pains of growing a plan that will survive for the citizens and the employees. Employees have to be equitized [phonetic] for salary parity. Everything has to come under basically one operating plan. In this case, it's the City of Savannah's for administrative purposes, et cetera. So, I'm of high hopes that this will go through. I know I'm leaving, but I am still a citizen of this County and I'm a citizen of the City of Savannah. Chief Flynn, on the other hand, is a citizen of Chatham County and a citizen of the unincorporated area. Many of the things that existed two years ago that caused me to think about how law enforcement could better serve the citizens in

Chatham County came about. We had problems in putting an adequate number of officers in the unincorporated area, as we do now, without extreme cost rises. This thing did it. It did it for the unincorporated area, it did it for the City of Savannah. And the County is not going into this as the poor brother. That's some of the things that I've seen on TV with rhetoric. The County is not going into this poor-mouth. We're going in and we're budgeting for a successful merger of police services that will benefit everybody in this County, including the areas, the smaller municipalities, because I think you all recognize that crime is like a creeping crud that crosses over lines. We're going to take down most of those lines if this merger goes through. And we're working with the City again. We'll be beginning next week and the week after to get an agreement that is amenable to the County, amenable to the City, and fair to all, and especially the citizens and the employees of the County and the City that will be making it work.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Chief, there's —, you know that after talking with you and I saw the presentation on how we'll have the extra officers on the street, initially my concern was the —, I had a concern that our police officers would be removed from the unincorporated area and put in areas where there was higher crime rates, and you definitely answered the question by building separate precincts with officers dedicated to, you know, specific areas. But now there's possibly a new wrinkle in there that you'll have to negotiate with Savannah with this thing that may come in front of us soon about the City of Savannah wanting to annex the thousands of acres out on the Westside. If we have a precinct out in, you know, that area, which we will, the fact would remain, I guess, of a negotiation with the City of Savannah to contract with the County at that point to cover that area should they be successful at the annexation, because I would think it would be very unrealistic for the police to come from, you know, where we sit now, downtown Savannah, all the way out to that area when we would have a precinct in that area. So that's something to discuss with them about a contract of our —. Russ [Abolt], go ahead. I see you raising your hand. County Manager Abolt said, if I understand your question, sir —. If it's annexed, it's not a problem. Mainly, the City would —, what it would come down to, let's say, a very good example, if the City of Savannah annexes more land, then Chatham County is not going to pay for those police services, pure and simple. Each year, as we in effect budget, and I present to you the budget for our share of the MPD, it's only for the unincorporated area. The only exceptions are Marine Control, CNT, and Animal Control, but everything else is predicated upon geography. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, and if it's inside the City of Savannah, the City of Savannah pays for it from the get-go. Commissioner Kicklighter said, all right. Well, that answers that question. One other thing I just want to make clear for, I guess, the majority of my constituents out there, I have a large population of unincorporated areas, but also five cities in my district. I want the residents to understand, because this question keeps popping up, that basically the unincorporated area of Chatham County is like a city itself. They pay a separate tax than residents living in Chatham County in the other cities. And what this merger does, is it takes the —, and Chief, I'm sorry, you know all of this, but I want them to understand this. Chief Sprague said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter said, it takes that separate Chatham County Police Department that is currently only policing the unincorporated areas in Chatham County, combines it with the City of Savannah. They will be patrolling then the unincorporated areas, as well as the City of Savannah, and it will completely leave intact, without messing with or bothering or harming or handling, Thunderbolt, Bloomingdale, Pooler, and Garden City, Port Wentworth, you know, Tybee Island. They will all keep their police departments as is. This is just a brilliant idea to put more police officers on the streets in Chatham County and the City of Savannah in the unincorporated areas as well as the City of Savannah.

County Manager Abolt said, the two largest cities —, and we're doing this —, the second largest city —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. County Manager Abolt said, — is the unincorporated areas. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. The population of the unincorporated area is what, now? County Manager Abolt said, 74,000. Commissioner Kicklighter said, 74,000, so it takes that police department for those residents, combines it with the City of Savannah, and we would put more police on the streets for those two cities, if you will. The other cities will keep their police departments as is. It's just an improvement for the overall protection in the whole County. That's —.

Chief Sprague said, I would say that if the merger is not approved, for whatever reason, the County police needs to be increased by a minimum of ten officers, and that will be something that the County Commission will have to make a decision on, if the merger were to fall through for any reason. With regard to the others, the small municipalities, Chief Flynn and myself met with every other chief in this County on one-on-ones, with the exception of Chief Lyons in Garden City, who was not in office then. We told them exactly what you're saying. Nothing is going to change with regard to the police departments there. The auxiliary services that the County Police now provide for the small municipalities in areas of forensics or whatever they need that we've got, we'll continue. Chief Flynn has made a commitment to that from the MPD. It's always worked. It's a mutual aid. We don't charge for it and SPD won't, either.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and also, if I can make this point, in there is the merging of the 911 service also, which will be a direct benefit to the smaller municipalities throughout Chatham County, because currently many of the residents and throughout the small municipalities, they will find, as well as throughout this whole area, you'll find you'll dial 911 and you may be in Pooler or Garden City and you'll get the Savannah dispatch and they will have to transfer you over to Chatham County, and that takes time. So that will be combined, so it will be a direct benefit for everyone living in this County, so —. Chief Sprague said, yes, it will. The blending of the dispatch centers is very similar. Making one is better than having two. Commissioner Kicklighter said, exactly. Chief Sprague said, just as the two police departments, making one out of two is better than having two separate. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. And one other point I want to just explain to the public also, because we're getting calls, starting to get them on this, is no, we're not moving into this to save money. We will take the money that would be saved from the duplication of the, if you will, department heads, and we're adding extra officers to the streets for your protection. County Manager Abolt said, this is not a budget-saving measure. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. County Manager Abolt said, it's better utilizing the resources we have. But, also, you will be making a five-year commitment on funding, because we're not getting by on this cheap. This is too vital of a service to the citizens of this County. When Chief Sprague

comes to you and Chief Flynn, who have already made a commitment of what we think each budget should be for each of those five years, and we're saying to you if you approve it, that budget will not exceed that amount of money.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, that's what I want the public to know because they expect a savings in the long-term. We know, going into this, that we're going to take that savings from the duplicating of the services, and we're going to add more police to the streets for the protection of everyone here in Chatham County.

Chief Sprague said, what the citizens know, because I get calls, too, is there are not enough County policemen —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chief Sprague said, — out there on the streets of the unincorporated area. Now, to hire 10 to stay —, as [unintelligible] department, the County Police, it's going to take 10 officers for myself and you all to meet the responsibilities of the positions or offices that we hold. The merger will do, like I say, 20-to-22 over about three years. The cost containment is involved in the numbers, the dollar figures we gave you last April in the proposal itself. They were even reduced, I believe, by Commissioner McMasters through the SPLOST monies that were provided for capital. It's getting down now —, I don't want to use the term "chump change," but I will, in order to benefit the citizens in this County at the lowest possible cost. Commissioner Kicklighter said, good job.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. Chief Sprague, I just want to thank you for your leadership in advancing the concept of this merger over the years. It's been —, it's finally coming to fruition, and I without your vision and determination, I think that we wouldn't be here today. So I very much appreciate that. Chief Sprague said, thank you, and my vision is to have a grandson or granddaughter on each knee very shortly. Commissioner McMasters said, great.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Dr. Thomas, I —, and this is not meant to be self-serving, this is from the heart —, I would like to thank each member of the Commission, those that are here today and those that are not here. If it had not been for the courage you expressed several weeks ago in saying, "Tell us, partner, City Council, whether you're interested," we would not be here today.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, I would like to also stress and acknowledge the tremendous leadership from the City of Savannah, the Mayor and the Aldermen there, and the efforts of Michael Brown to work with us in accomplishing this and bringing it to this point. I know there's been an awful lot of concern about the —, from the City about the financial health of Chatham County, and I think that if they read the papers and watch our meetings and understand what's going on, that we are improving the health, the financial health of Chatham County through proper management and expectations. So Chatham County is turning around. I have a question on the intergovernmental Draft 14, and the information, facts and findings, suggests that this will be presented at the meeting of June 13th. When might we expect that in advance of that meeting? County Manager Abolt said, only when we're at the point and that we, as the City and County staffs, to say this is an official representation of what we, staff, recommend to you. Obviously, it was not ready in time. We'll come on the 13th and say how close we are to getting it? Like I mentioned before in my introductory remarks, this is too critical to be downed by dropped dead dates. We are shooting for the 13th, only because if we don't, guess what will happen? Nothing. We're shooting for the 13th. We'll be meeting with City staff starting the week of the 2nd. We're going to break it down issue by issue and hopefully have a product by the 13th, but in the event we're not at that point, we'll give you a complete status.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Assuming that we reach that timetable for the 13th, we would have this document in our agenda binder on Tuesday —. County Manager Abolt said, and you —, you know, in a perfect world, yes, and I would never, never, never give you anything on a shorter leash than that. In fact, let's hypothetically just talk about that. Let's assume we're all ready to go and you only receive it on Tuesdays. That's —, for the sense of urgency, it will be removed. Let's say, "Here it is. We'll come back at another time," because it is not, again, an issue of the 1st of July. Chief Sprague, and what's he has done, and what you've so well done in recognizing, he's not going to go away. Your grandchildren may be there on the 1st of July, but he'll still be our chief of police. Commissioner McMasters said, understood. The special taxing districts, are they to your knowledge still part of 14? Chief Sprague said, sir, if I may? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Chief Sprague said, the special taxing police districts, they were —, I —, I brought them up in my mind and conceptually and put them on the table and we fleshed them out as something for you all to consider. They're in there for the County, if the County wishes to do that. I strongly urge you, because the accountability is there, we're merging with two departments. The accountability of County dollars going on, they are much more accountable under that system than just thrown in with the rest of the unincorporated area. And if you wish to establish a special millage for that in relation to the other unincorporated —, the SSD budget presently —, you would have that opportunity. They are there. The City has opted out of that. They did not want a special service tax issued for the City. They want a —, they want their funding to continue in the manner that it is, and I have no problem with that. That was my idea, my thought, to bring it up mainly for the County Commission to consider.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Last question, and I want to also acknowledge Commissioner Kicklighter's leadership in putting together a meeting last week with International Paper and some of the West Chatham Mayors in this annexation issue of the International Paper property. I am just curious, Chief, have you been consulted as to the complexities and challenges and issues that may arise from this annexation relative to your endeavor of law enforcement in unincorporated Chatham? Chief Sprague said, well, I followed it in the press and if it's annexed, it becomes —, if it's Savannah or Pooler or whoever annexes it, Bloomingdale —, it becomes their property for police protection. Commissioner McMasters said, Chief, I understand that, but in this briefing that we received on this subject, the County Manager pointed out that the footprint of the annexation will create some islands, some pockets, some very odd configurations of boundaries, and Commissioner Kicklighter aptly pointed out that this may very well pose significant service challenges for police, EMS, and fire. So my question to you is have you been consulted in the

annexation paradigm? Chief Sprague said, no, I haven't. However, I disagree that it will create problems with police services. If it's annexed by Savannah, and under the merger now —, are we talking a merged police department or the County Police Department staying —, remaining itself? Commissioner McMasters said, I —, really the question goes towards if the merger does not go through, you're going to be saddled with a real patchwork. Chief Sprague said, no, if the merger doesn't go through, we can work around that. As you know, the parcel that's under consideration for annexation has very little or zero people on it. We police people, not land. Commissioner McMasters said, well, people do go on land? Chief Sprague said, yes, they do, but going back to 1998 with the Garden City annexation, there was some talk from the Commission about, "Well, now Garden City is going in, so reduce the number of police on the County Commission whatever Garden City puts in there." That is not the way to do business in the law enforcement community. We did our homework on it, how many officers we needed for the people that remained, and we found out that Garden City had annexed approximately 3,800 people, and during the two years before that, we had gained 4,000 people, I believe it was. So we had more people policing —, to police than we had two years prior to that, even losing the Garden City annexation, because we do police people. Yes, if someone goes on that land and it's the City of Savannah's, they may have a problem if the City of Savannah annexes it, but the County Police would probably assist the City as some of the municipalities do now up on 95 and areas where they're light. The merger will give Savannah the ability to put more officers in areas where they can't put them now, and also for the County to put more MPD officers in areas where we need them now. So —, but I do not believe that the annexation, be it Pooler or Bloomingdale or the City of Savannah, will affect whoever is going to deliver those services for the County police if we don't merge. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yes. I had a request for Russ [Abolt]. When we come up with our final draft that we will take a vote on —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Gellatly said, — I would like to see any changes that are made to one draft to another, that it be highlighted or something, so that we'll know when we're looking at it we can compare it to a former draft. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. We'll do that to the best of our ability. Our problem is —, not a problem —, we've got the Draft 14 and it's very difficult to follow. If you wouldn't mind and I told my staff and we've also told Michael —, I suggested to Michael Brown, "We're going to use Draft 13 and we'll make amendments off of Draft 13. I think it might be too confusing to assume that some might do what you want to do, taking what staff agreed to on 13, somehow incorporating 14, which we were not a part of, then make changes off of that. Commissioner Gellatly said, I don't care how you do it, as long as we look at the next one and we can see how they differ. County Manager Abolt said, to the best of our —, yes, sir, to the best of our ability. Chief Sprague said, that's what we're going to be working on.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Pierce has a comment. Vice Chairman Thomas said, I'm sorry. Mr. Pierce and —. Commissioner Gellatly said, Mr. Earls. Vice Chairman Thomas said, — Mr. Earls. Thank you. Mr. Pierce, would you please come to the podium?

Mr. John Saxon "Piccolo" Pierce said, I knew I needed some [unintelligible], but we should do it by ourselves. Congress just meets by itself. [Unintelligible] the merger. And then, they've got the money, and they want it now, then values ain't going to merge. Now, they want to help us. It ain't the people, it's —, it's us —, it isn't the people. It's the Policing Department, they want to merge. That's wrong. The government sends somebody out there. They ain't sending them to the Police Department, they saying, "Send them to the County." The County can do what they want to do with it, and they can merge in their own self. All the —, one big old consolidation and it ain't [unintelligible]. Do you see the Sandfly consolidation movement? If the City can take over consolidation, they do what they want to do. The County, they —, the County can do their job because they've got the references to get a job. They ain't invented no other jobs. Why we can't do it now just like that? We don't need the City, we don't need any —. We need some money. And that —, that's why we —, that's why they're doing —, doing the job because I believe [unintelligible] and we doing our job, and listen to this. We're needing money, extra money. We —, takes that money again. We want some new money coming out now and —, and [unintelligible] the new money out. We going to need some jobs now. Well, that's —, and we need some jobs, nothing you can think of on a merger. We ain't got no jobs. We sitting out there hollering merge, I mean, there's something wrong with that, because you know what, there's the State capitol. I went with [unintelligible]. I see [unintelligible]. You got all that money sitting up there. We ain't going to cut. And then y'all —, then y'all thinking about we're going to have new jobs. You're sitting up there thinking. We need to start thinking our own self and have our own things going on. If we don't start thinking our own self what's going to happen, then it's now [unintelligible] now, because you know why? Jobs are [unintelligible] and when they're all done, the City —, I mean, the people in the City, new jobs, that's why they have crime is because they ain't got no jobs, they ain't got no home. When we going to see it? Next day —, next week, we're going to love and [unintelligible] the house and going to stop crime. Crime is senseless. If we could do a crime, why we [unintelligible] trying to get a job? A job is just a job. It ain't the City. It's us. We need to get together. We need to get your stuff. I seen —, I seen the Chairman doing the best he could to [unintelligible], but anything —, we think way back in our days, we had something. Our poor mama had something, you had something. We didn't have to think about no job. We got out and got it. Now, this is the time we got to get out and get a job because you know why? This is our time. [Unintelligible]. We've got as much as the [unintelligible] —. Reach out —, reach out for it. We ain't got no job and everything else. Thank you very much.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Mr. Earls.

Mr. Earls said, my name is Ken Earls. I've got several questions. One of them basically just came up. He said absolutely no money savings, but you will be —, if you approve this plan, you will be approving budgets for the next five years. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct. We make a policy decision to fund up to a certain amount for the next five years for Chatham County. Mr. Earls asked, what is the increase over that five-year period? County Manager Abolt said, I don't have it in front of me. Chief Sprague can give it to you, sir. Mr. Earls said,

I mean, just a ballpark figure percentage-wise? Chief Sprague said, a ballpark figure to make it happen during the first year for the Police Department, about high 200,000 increase. And then each year after, about 190,000 increase, because various things are planned in there. From the capital improvements, many of them we can get out of SPLOST, as many as we can, but you have salaries to be adjusted, and we planned that on the historic of the Savannah increases, because we would be under the administrative system there. However, the advantages are the precincts. That's number one, and it also increases police visibility in the areas where the precincts go where we now have no visibility, and I believe one is out your way, Mr. Earls. Mr. Earls said, well, how many will there be total precincts now? Chief Sprague said, there will be six. We've done a long, detailed initial plan on the policing itself. That's what myself and Chief Flynn mainly concerned ourselves with, as well as the peripheral issues involving the funding and blending of employees into one system from two, et cetera. But the cost, and that's for the Police Department now, that would go to about —, probably a little under a million over five years. Over five years. The M&O budget, I don't recall. I believe the Counter Narcotics Team budget was up substantially the first year to get the officers back that had been frozen, et cetera. So —, and then theirs drops down to —, I don't recall, but it's a small amount in the M&O budget. Animal Control, Marine Patrol, they go up very little in their budget per year because there's less people. We're talking about 192 persons involved in the merger from the County.

Mr. Earls said, okay. Also, I understand there is an escape clause. I guess that is a two-way street, correct? Chief Sprague said, yes. Mr. Earls said, either side, okay. How much notice has to be given? County Manager Abolt said, if I may, Mr. Earls? These are specifics we've yet to agree to at the staff level. When the agreement is made at a point where we would ask the Board to approve it and City Council, we'll be able to answer all of that. Right now, we're in the process of negotiation. Mr. Earls said, so —, okay. Well, as much talk as there has been about the escape clause, I thought that had been decided. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. All of the discussion you've heard about the escape clause in recent times is what I've picked up in the news media based on what the City Council discussed. But there has been no interchange of information other than the fact that we have Draft 14, but all of these issues, with all the specificity that you require and the general public require, will be in front of you as soon as we have it. Mr. Earls said, okay. And, also, I think there should be some idea if —, if there is going to be an escape clause, I think there should be something worked out, whoever does the escaping, how much —, because —, will it cost the unincorporated area of the County to reestablish its own police department, because it's going to be big bucks if we lose, close down, a lot of our equipment and dispatch, things like that. So I would think there would be a lot of extra start-up costs, but like I said, that would be —. Chief Sprague said, with regard to that, Mr. Earls, we are already coming up with an implementation plan. We will be identifying every piece of County equipment at the police department, Animal Control, Marine Patrol and CNT. With regard to the buildings themselves, they remain —, those that are County remain County property. So with ample time to —, for somebody to back out, five or ten years down the road or something, there needs to be time to do the —, to do the back step. Mr. Earls said, right. That's why I asked. Chief Sprague said, but the County's cost won't increase from what it is now, because those buildings are funded now and they will be in the MPD from the County's side of the budget. Equipment is being replaced with SPLOST. All those items will just go back to the County. Where it will take a little bit of time is coming back into this, the County's administrative system, going back that way. Mr. Earls asked, hiring a new chief? Chief Sprague said, yeah, hiring a new chief, but it can't be accomplished in, you know, a day, and say, "Well, we don't want to —." Mr. Earls said, well, that's why I asked. Chief Sprague said, no, but as far as costs go, I would say there would be almost none. Uniforms, if they're a lot different, those kind of costs, but those are not, in my mind, deal-breakers, if that were to occur. Personally, I think if this comes in and we get through after a year, you're going to see former City officers and former County officers, and the new officers coming in will be MPD officers, and I went through a merger in 1973. I was with U.S. Customs and I went into the new agency, DEA. And I felt very iffy about it when Congress voted it in. But after about six months working with members of the former Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, I was from Customs, they were from BNDD, it blends in because you become mission-orientated, and that's what this merger is about, to become more targeted against crime using the resources of two to do it as one. And that's where it gets outside the —, it doesn't have anything to do with finances.

Mr. Earls said, and one last question. Will this Commission have any authority over that Police Department? Chief Sprague said, yes. Mr. Earls said, if I have a problem with the police —. Chief Sprague said, you will —, you have several —, you can call your Commissioner, you can call the County Manager or you can call the Chief of Police. County Manager Abolt said, there'll be no difference. Mr. Earls said, there will be no —, I mean, my only thing is I see this more —, you all are calling it MPD, so I guess that would be Metro Police Department? Chief Sprague said, right. Mr. Earls said, that it is basically being run by the City. I mean, that's the way it seems like it's going to be? County Manager Abolt said, I'll —. Mr. Earls said, and if I have a problem, I can call Commission Gellatly. And I don't think —, in a lot of ways, I don't see how that will —, he won't have any power. County Manager Abolt said, if I may, and again, Mr. Earls, we can discuss this at length, but until we actually have the agreement in front of you, these are issues we've only talking about conceptually or as of Draft 13 and even in Draft 14, but —. Mr. Earls said, big issues. County Manager Abolt said, — but the County Commission, and certainly I would not recommend anything that would disengage the type of relationship we're talking about right now. It gives to me and those who come after me full control of the operation of the MPD, if you want to refer to that, in the unincorporated area and those are the areas where the County has responsibility. Mr. Earls said, that's what I'm talking about. County Manager Abolt said, if a citizen has a problem, just like they do now, they can call me, they can call their Commissioner, they can call the Chief of Police. Period. Mr. Earls said, well, that's one thing I'm talking about, the jurisdictional squabbles between staffs and commissions. The City does not represent me, and how many times —, I'm sorry —, you all have sat up here and said, "The City is irrelevant," and how many times has the City said, "The County is irrelevant." That's my concern and I'll just wait and see what you all come up with in the next meeting and then I'll come back up here.

Chief Sprague said, well, with regard to any complaints you may have or issues that need settling, right now you can call me. Mr. Earls said, oh, I know I can call you. Chief Sprague said, yes, sir. Mr. Earls said, that's what I'm trying to —. Chief Sprague said, and I have one in-basket. If I were the chief of this new organization, MPD, if it's approved, I would have two end-baskets, one from the City Councilmen, one from the Commissioners, the City Manager or

County Manager. I'd just have two in —. Mr. Earls said, well, I would agree —. Chief Sprague said, — but I would have staff to respond to those issues —. Mr. Earls said, actually I agree with you 100 percent. Chief Sprague said, — just like I do now. Mr. Earls said, I know I can call you. I —, we can call our people. We know our people and, if this goes through, I don't know if any of our people will be around or have any authority to do anything. Thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much. I think Mr. Earls has a very valid concern, and he isn't the only one with that concern, because I've had that to be asked of me several times also. The only thing I would like to say is that we make sure that we address those concerns and that the citizens of Chatham County understands those concerns and how it will be relevant to their situation. And it will help to make for a smoother transition should we, you know, have the blending of the two entities. And I think the bottom line here is to make sure that we can provide the kind of services to our citizens that they so rightly deserve. Thank you so very much.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I want to make a —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Commissioner Gellatly said, I would just like to make a comment. I think Mr. Earls had some very legitimate concerns. You know, right now, if I receive a concern or a need that needs to be addressed from the Police Department, say a traffic problem or what have you, why he will —, Mr. Earls would call me. I would contact the County Manager and the County Manager would, that day, contact the Chief of Police to look into it to give him a report as to what occurred and, in that same day, mail would go out to Mr. Earls as to what is going to occur, and then a follow-up if it's necessary. I would insist that the same level be continued, if and when we go into this merger. The City doesn't quite do it that way. But as far as the citizens in the unincorporated area, we must insist that our level of service doesn't go down any way, shape, or form. Secondly, in all probability, I'm going to vote for and support the police merger. Obviously, I want to see the last —, the final agreement. I think we all need to go into this with our eyes open, because I would —, I don't think we're disagreeing. Maybe I heard you a little bit differently, but I can assure you, if three years down the road we decided that we want to back out of it, it is going to be a very expensive proposition. You're going to have to undo a consolidated 911, and to go back, it's going to be very significant. So when we go into this, we want to go into it with our eyes open. I agree with almost everything that the Chief said. I think that there's a great potential of a lot of good going into a metropolitan police effort. As a matter of fact, I think if you look around, most all of the progressive metropolitan areas in the United States has some form of a metropolitan police department, but I think that it's been handled so far very professionally by the two Chiefs and by the two Managers. We're not kidding anyone. It's not cost-savings at all. It's going to cost more money to start it up. It would cost even more money to take it apart. So we don't want any confusion. I think that the Chief of the new department is going to have some very tough, tough administrative decisions to make in the first few years. One of the obvious effects, you're going to have way too much rank, more rank than you could ever use, you know. And so, somehow, we're going to have to get rid of that glut of rank, you know, and one way to do it, obviously, would be with those that are ready to retire, give them a really nice package to make it attractive for, you know, a one-time situation. My concerns are that you have a significant number of —, most all of them, as a matter of fact, the officers on either department, are highly professional, highly qualified people, highly motivated people. They're very professional. I think that the typical 30-year-old that's been on the department for five or ten years would have some serious concerns with a merger as to their ability to move ahead in that department, and they need to have some reassurances that, you know, that 30-year-old that has worked hard to get promoted does not want to wait five or ten years for the glut of rank to clear out, and I think that's a problem that's going to have to be addressed by the two Managers and the Chiefs, and I have every confidence that it will be. That's all.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is this just information on it? County Manager Abolt said, yes, that's correct, just information at this time. Because of the priority and [unintelligible] we put it on this part of your agenda. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. If there's no further discussion on this issue, we'll move to the next. Request Board approve action —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Chief. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE ACTION PLAN REGARDING TIMING OF ISSUING TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, I'm going to introduce Mr. White here in a moment, but I think this again is indicative of Mr. White's close management and due diligence when it comes to financial affairs. We are in a position now of bringing you two choices having to deal with the issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes. As you remember, in addressing our cash flow concerns in December, you authorized and you drew down from SPLOST, 11.4 million dollars. We have the option now either of taking the initiative to issue TANS and pay that back now or, as Mr. White and Mr. Hinely, the Acting Internal Auditor, have done in the cash flow analysis, if you choose, you can save what Diane McNabb, our financial advisor, tells us is about \$50,000 by not issuing the Tax Anticipation Notes at this time, but continuing the loan of the SPLOST money, paying it obviously back at the interest prescribed, but essentially, like I said, the possibility of saving about \$50,000. Reese [White]?

Mr. White said, good morning. Several Commissioners said, good morning. Mr. White said, this is pretty simple from our perspective. We can issue TANS and pay back SPLOST or we can carry SPLOST until December, avoid a TAN, and then when our —, the glut of property tax comes in November or December, pay back SPLOST at that time. So we're going to track it carefully. Whatever interest is owed SPLOST, it's going to be paid, whether you pay them off now or in December. So, those were the choices that I've put on the report. And I talked with Diane McNabb, our

financial advisor at A. G. Edwards, and she estimated about \$50,000 in issuance costs for a TAN. So I'm simply giving you this option, trying to tell you that maybe we can save that amount of money by —, by not issuing a TAN.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, how much have we got on a TAN? What would be the amount that we would have to spend in interest? Mr. White said, it would be —, Diane [McNabb] estimated 1.25 percent. I haven't —. Commissioner Rivers said, what do —, give me a dollar amount. Mr. White said, I haven't put that into dollars. So, it would be —. Commissioner Rivers asked, are we talking about half of a million? What are we talking about? Mr. White said, just a moment. No, it's going to be —, it's going to be less than that. It will be, in fact, less than \$300,000, because —. Commissioner Rivers said, what was that, again? Mr. White said, it's going to be less than 300,000, the way I'm looking at it here, because you know, the interest rates are just ridiculously low right now. Commissioner Rivers asked, so we would save \$50,000 in doing it —, \$250,000 by SPLOST? County Manager Abolt said, yeah, you —, yes, sir, because you're still playing the interest to SPLOST. Mr. White said, well, your interest is going to be about identical regardless of whether you get a TAN or whether you pay SPLOST. County Manager Abolt said, the only variables is in SPLOST. Mr. White said, because the only thing I'm talking about is the \$50,000 that you could save by not issuing a TAN. Commissioner Rivers said, right. I understand.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to borrow it from SPLOST. County Manager Abolt said, Alternative 1. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to approve Alternative 1. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, on the table is a motion to approve Alternative 1. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion is carried.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you for saving money, too. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to authorize staff to postpone the repayment of SPLOST III funds until December of 2003 with the intent of avoiding the necessity for a Tax Anticipation Note [TAN] in 2003. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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6. REQUEST BOARD ADOPT THE RESOLUTION NECESSARY FOR THE RETIREMENT OF THE BOND DEBT ON THE MIGHTY 8TH HERITAGE MUSEUM AND HENDERSON GOLF COURSE, AND AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN TO ACCEPT THE BEST BID.

County Manager Abolt said, this is a —. I'm so glad that you all [unintelligible].

Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to adopt the bond resolution, including authorization for the Chairman or Vice Chairman to accept the best bid (lowest interest rate) on the general obligation bonds that will be used to acquire the assets of the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum and Henderson Golf Course. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

BOND RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY (THE "COUNTY") TO REGULATE AND PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF \$16,000,000 IN PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF CHATHAM COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION SALES TAX BONDS, SERIES 2003 (THE "BONDS") AS AUTHORIZED BY A VOTE OF THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY IN AN ELECTION HELD MARCH 18, 2003, PURSUANT TO AND IN CONFORMITY WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA; TO REGULATE AND PROVIDE FOR THE FORM OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF A DIRECT ANNUAL TAX SUFFICIENT IN AMOUNT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST

ON THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE SALE AND ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE VALIDATION OF THE BONDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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**7. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REFUND FOR UNUSED PORTION OF LICENSE AND TAX CERTIFICATE FEES PAID FOR 2003. PETITIONER: ED O. BRAZZELL, D/B/A CHRIS' BEVERAGE.
[DISTRICT 6.]**

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, good morning. Vice Chairman Thomas said, good morning. Mr. Anderson said, what's before you this morning is a —, for your consideration, is a request for a refund of a business tax certificate for a business that is anticipating going out of business. The ordinance is really silent on how we handle this issue, other than any refunds must be approved by the Board prior to issuance.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, we denied one like this last time? County Manager Abolt said, yes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I make a motion to deny. Commissioner McMasters said, second.

County Manager Abolt said, the citizen you might be here first.

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion? Vice Chairman Thomas recognized the County Manager. County Manager Abolt said, well, I wanted to make sure that we give the citizen the opportunity to address it. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is there anyone in the audience who would like to speak to this? No? No one. Any further discussion?

Commissioner McMasters said, I just want to say for consistency sake, I concur and I appreciate you pointing it out that we need to be consistent at all times in our application or our ordinances and rules and regulations. I thank you for that.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, if there is no further discussion, all in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to deny the petition of Ed O. Brazzell, d/b/a Chris' Beverage for refund of unused portion of license and tax certificate fees paid for 2003. Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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8. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO WAIVE SET FEES ESTABLISHED FOR SPECIAL EVENT TO BE HELD AT HUTCHINSON ISLAND. MS. JACKIE MANSON, AGENT FOR MERCEDES BENZ CLUB OF AMERICA, INC., HAS BEEN INVITED TO ATTEND.

Ms. Jackie Manson said, hi.

Mr. Gregori Anderson said, yes, this is also a request for your consideration of the waiver of the special event fees for a proposed event on Hutchinson Island. Within the ordinance it does give you the authority to waive event fees for charitable nonprofit organizations. Now, this particular organization is a 501(c)(7) tax-exempt operation, and the owner is here to answer any questions you may have.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I need to ask for consistency's sake, when this came before us before, with a nonprofit, did we deny that? Do you remember, or did we approve it?

Commissioner Rayno said, no, we approved it. It was a 501(c)(4). It was a motor club organization that wanted to use it, and I made the recommendation at that time, just remember, if you do that for them, if the NRA comes up, which is a 501(c)(4), you've got to approve them, too.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Well, let's stay consistent. I make a motion to approve. Commissioner McMasters said, second.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion passes.

Ms. Manson said, thank you. Vice Chairman Thomas said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the request of Ms. Jackie Manson, agent for Mercedes Benz Club of America, Inc., to waive the set fees established for a special event to be held at Hutchinson Island on June 14, 2003. Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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9. REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF HIRING FREEZE:

- **MOSQUITO CONTROL: MOSQUITO CONTROL OPERATOR - ONE (1) POSITION; MAINTENANCE SERVICES SUPERVISOR - ONE (1) POSITION**
- **CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT: CASHIER SUPERVISOR - ONE (1) POSITION; DEPUTY COURT CLERK II - ONE (1) POSITION; CLERICAL ASSISTANT IV - ONE (1) POSITION; REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST II - TWO (2) POSITIONS**
- **SUPERIOR COURT ADMINISTRATOR: CLERICAL ASSISTANT III-COUNTER CLERK - ONE (1) POSITION**

Vice Chairman Thomas asked, do we want to take them individually? Commissioner Rayno said, we talked about it in pre-meeting. Commissioner McMasters said, I think we did in pre-meeting to take them separately. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved to approve of Mosquito Control, Madam Chairman. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, is there a second? Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what was that motion? Vice Chairman Thomas said, Mosquito Control.

Commissioner Rayno said, it's like —, it was pointed out in the meeting, we're only looking at 30 days left in the fiscal year. It's going to take them at least a couple of weeks to hire somebody and then you're not going to pay them for two weeks, you might as well approve everything. All of these particular areas have tracked their budgets very well this year.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, did you make a motion to approve? Commissioner Rivers said, I'll restate my motion to approve all of them in their entirety unless somebody else wants to pull anything out of there. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rivers moved to approve waiver of the hiring freeze and authorize the Human Resources to advertise the following positions: Mosquito Control: Mosquito Control Operator - one (1) position, Maintenance Services Supervisor - one (1) position; Clerk of Superior Court: Cashier Supervisor - one (1) position, Deputy Court Clerk II - one (1) position, Clerical Assistant IV - one (1) position, Real Estate Specialist II - two (2) positions; and Superior Court Administrator: Clerical Assistant III - Counter Clerk - one (1) position. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were 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.)

Vice Chairman Thomas said, let's see. Action Calendar, we need approval on that. Approval of the —.

Commissioner Rivers said, so moved approval of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Rayno said, would you just pull 3, please? This will be very quick. Vice Chairman Thomas asked, anything —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and 5, briefly. Vice Chairman Thomas said, 3 and 5. Anything else? May I have a motion please to adopt —. Excuse me? County Manager Abolt said, I believe Commissioner McMasters had a question on an item on the purchasing report. County Attorney Hart said, Item C. Vice Chairman Thomas said, Item C. Okay. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, 3, 5, and C. May I have a motion to accept the others. Commissioner McMasters said, motion to approve the balance. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 3, 5 and 9-C. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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

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1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE PRE-MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2003, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of May 9, 2003, as mailed. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 30 THROUGH MAY 13, 2003.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period April 30, 2003, through May 13, 2003, in the amount of \$2,521,669. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, CLERK OF COMMISSION, AND COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE RESURFACING PROGRAM (LARP) WITH GDOT FOR THE RESURFACING OF COUNTY ROADS.

[DISTRICTS 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, AND 7.]

Commissioner Rayno said, I just wanted to point out that Norwood Avenue is one of the roads on this particular list. It was listed in Vox Populi as the Pothole Parkway, and so hopefully within a year or so —, I can't guarantee the time frame —, but they should see some kind of road resurfacing. I make a motion for approval. Commissioner Rivers said, second.

Commissioner McMasters said, may I comment? I just want to —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, discussion. Commissioner McMasters said, Jeff [Rayno] and I share Norwood as a boundary line, and on my side of the equation I've had several constituents call about the condition of Norwood and I have to concur completely that this should be a priority as well. Commissioner Rayno said, all of the potholes are on his side of the district. Commissioner McMasters said, not true.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay. Please vote. The motion carried unanimously. Vice Chairman Thomas said, okay, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission, and County Engineer to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in the Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the resurfacing of County roads. Commissioner Rivers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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4. REQUEST FROM PETITIONER, MICHAEL A. GROOVER, 121 DOGWOOD AVENUE, TO DECLARE THE UNOPENED PORTION OF DOGWOOD AVENUE RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO HIS PROPERTY ON WILMINGTON ISLAND AS SURPLUS AND TO QUITCLAIM THE PROPERTY.

[DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve the request from Petitioner, Michael A. Groover, 121 Dogwood Avenue, to declare the unopened portion of Dogwood Avenue right-of-way adjacent to his property on Wilmington Island as surplus and to quitclaim the property. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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**5. CONFIRMATION OF A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GDOT AND CHATHAM COUNTY AS SPONSOR TO CONSTRUCT SHELTER, RESTROOM AND WELLHEAD AT TRAIL HEAD LOCATED AT TOM TRIPLETT PARK.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just wanted the public to know that the restrooms are finally on the way. I make a motion to approve. Commissioner McMasters said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we had, Russ [Abolt] and —. Commissioner Gellatly said second.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may? Vice Chairman Thomas asked, discussion? County Manager Abolt said, Commissioner Kicklighter on more than one occasion has said, and I remember the discussion about making sure that we were very careful in protecting our relationship with GDOT in Atlanta. I've heard you say it many, many times. Here is an example where that relationship pays off. At your request a call was made to Tom Coleman; Transportation Commissioner Mr. Coleman interceded. We got the paper back —, paperwork back in really quick time. You're now able to do this because of that good relationship between Chatham County and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, and I want to thank Mr. Coleman publicly also. County Manager Abolt said, yes, please do that and if you see him in person, tell him. Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you.

Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion, please vote. The motion carried unanimously. Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to confirm a resolution to enter into an agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Chatham County as sponsor to construct shelter, restroom and wellhead at trail head located at Tom Triplett Park. Commissioners McMasters and Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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**6. REQUEST BOARD DIRECT STAFF TO CORRECT THE ZONING MAP FOR ISLAND AREA COMMUNITY PLAN TO REFLECT THE CORRECT T-B ZONING OF PROPERTY ON U.S. 80 EAST WHERE CASTROL CAR CARE CENTER IS LOCATED.
[DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to direct staff to correct the zoning map for the Island Area Community Plan to reflect the correct T-B zoning of property on U. S. 80 East where Castrol Car Care Center is located. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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7. AMENDMENT TO UNFUNDED CIP TO INCLUDE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS ALONG WALTHOUR ROAD.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to amend the unfunded CIP to include drainage improvements along Walthour Road. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE RENEWAL OF A CONTRACT WITH THE CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT TO UTILIZE FUNDS FROM GEORGIA SUPERIOR COURT CLERK'S COOPERATIVE AUTHORITY FOR DIGITAL IMAGING AND OTHER REAL ESTATE PROJECTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve the renewal of a contract with the Clerk of Superior Court to utilize funds from Georgia Superior Court Clerk's Cooperative Authority for digital imaging and other real estate projects. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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9. 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 to provide for the purchase of gasoline and diesel fuel	Various	•Sommers Oil Company •Barrett Oil Company	Varies by item	•General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various
B. Two (2) Ford Crown Victoria pursuit vehicles	Sheriff K-9 Unit	Bobby Jones Ford	\$39,910.42	Sheriff's Department K-9 Grant (pending Board acceptance of the State grant)
C. Professional Services Contract to provide traffic engineering professional services	Engineering	Tina D. Bockhold	\$30 per hour	SSD Engineering
D. Professional engineering services to prepare closure certification package for the Thomas Avenue Landfill	Public Works	Hodges Harbin Newberry and Tribble	Not to exceed \$27,500	Solid Waste Management Enterprise Fund

As to Items 9-A through 9-D, except Item 9-C:

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve Items 9-A through 9-D, except Item 9-C. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

As to Item 9-C:

Professional Services Contract to provide traffic engineering professional services; Engineering; Tina D. Bockhold; \$30 per hour; SSD Engineering.

Mr. Bungard said, I understand there was a question. Commissioner McMasters said, there is. May I? Vice Chairman Thomas said, yes. Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, I didn't get any back up on this and the thing that concerns me is just the fact that it's an unlimited —. It doesn't say how many hours you're projecting Ms. Bockhold might be needed for, so it's kind of a blank check. If you could just get us comfortable with how long you're going to need her. Mr. Bungard said, okay. The contract is a one-pager that we've used before. There are two key elements to it. One, all the work is directed and approved by me. It's by task. It's not like somebody comes in and works at a desk, you know, for a certain amount of hours per week. I've limited the work to both permitting, plan reviews, and to limited SSD if we get a request for a traffic signal study or a traffic light. In no case —, in every assignment of work, it will be by hours by task, and it will be charged —, SSD kind of work, we'll charge it to the SSD account, and my budget officer keeps track of how much money is left in that account. On the permitting side, we have so many dollars set up for Contract Services, and before every work is assigned, it's not to exceed. But it's under my direction or that of the existing County Engineer. Commissioner McMasters said, but you still haven't told me about how much time you're going to need her for. Mr. Bungard said, it depends on the task. Right now, for instance, we continue to get plan reviews, certain require traffic

engineer study reviews, some don't. So it's limited to no more than, you know, 40 hours a week. I expect it will be no more than 20. In some cases, we've been able to handle some of the reviews, you know, with what some of us know about traffic engineering. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. So you're going to use her on a per-project basis? Mr. Bungard said, yes, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, could some of these projects conceivably overlap? Mr. Bungard said, no. Commissioner McMasters said, so there will be —? Mr. Bungard said, it will be very clear cut. Commissioner McMasters said, — start and stop and start usually? Mr. Bungard said, yes, by task. Commissioner McMasters said, well, would you mind giving us before each project your estimation of how many hours Ms. Bockhold would be needed on that project? Mr. Bungard said, but we're talking about like two hours here or —. Commissioner McMasters said, it's minor? County Manager Abolt said, it's minor. Commissioner McMasters said, I'm trying to get an idea of how much time —. Mr. Bungard said, oh, okay. Yes. Commissioner McMasters said, — and don't even say how much —. County Manager Abolt said, no. It —, we used to have a full-time person on staff that did this. In the interim, this lady has agreed to come back and work on interim. You —, it's minor. I mean, for example, we had an issue on President Street at the entrance to a subdivision, how many accidents were there? Mr. Bungard did not have the service of a traffic engineer. He had to go back and have clerical staff to go through it. This is so insignificant and such a good use of a person that has been trained and was on our staff to help us out in the interim. Mr. Bungard said, it might be two hours here, four hours there, six hours there, you know, a plan review. We're not talking about 20 or \$30,000 designs or stuff like that at all.

Commissioner Rayno said, he's well within the constraints of his budget. Vice Chairman Thomas said, exactly. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Mr. Bungard said, I guarantee I will not exceed my budget. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, motion to approve. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Vice Chairman Thomas said, all in favor of the motion. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.] Vice Chairman Thomas said, the motion is carried. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner McMasters moved to approve Items 9-A through 9-D, except Item 9-C. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]
2. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 9-C. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray and Odell were not present.]

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Vice Chairman Thomas said, the Chairman has now come in and we're at First Readings. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

1. **TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, AMEND SECTION 2, DEFINITIONS, TO ADD NEW DEFINITIONS (1) ISLANDS COMMUNITY, AND (2) SOUTHEAST CHATHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY, AND TO AMEND SECTION 4-12, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL OVERLAY (EO) DISTRICT, SUBSECTION C. (2), TO ESTABLISH A 30% MANDATORY GREENSPACE STANDARD FOR THE ISLAND COMMUNITY. PETITIONER: CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. MPC FILE NO. Z-030425-50817-1 NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT, UNINCORPORATED AREA**

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

Chairman Hair asked, do any Commissioners have any comment on that? Commissioner Rayno said, just one question to Mr. Hart. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, for the people of the Southeast land area, what stops them for asking for equal protection to have mandatory greenspace for their area? County Attorney Hart said, they could have the right to make that request if they wanted to. Whether it would be granted or not would be another issue. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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2. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A CASH BONDING SYSTEM FOR TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL POWER AND AMENDMENT TO THE REVENUE ORDINANCE TO INCREASE BUILDING PERMIT FEES FOR RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION. Note: Staff report also addresses issues raised by the Commission on the 25th of April.

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

Chairman Hair asked, does any Commissioner want to comment on that one? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Dr. Hair. As was discussed in the pre-meeting, there is much work and many unanswered questions on this entire subject prior to any recommendation on a bonding system to solve this problem, and I was assured in the pre-meeting that this is entirely a fundamental necessity for this first reading and that there will be ample time between the first and second reading to provide all the answers to all the homes that don't have certificates of occupancies and all the associated questions on that subject. So I do not want to let this go by as just a perfunctory first reading without making that comment. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, and also we would have the option at the second reading if those questions remained unanswered, we could always table it, you know, until we get those answers. So that's good. Commissioner McMasters said, correct. Chairman Hair said, okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written reports were received as information.

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4. FURTHER STATUS ON PERIODIC REPORTING ON FUTURE SPLOST PROJECTS. (Note regarding minority contracting program: Status report will be provided on the 13th of June.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

County Manager Abolt said, no Executive Session is needed. Chairman Hair said, very good. Thanks.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.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