

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 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 9:20 a.m., Friday, June 27, 2003.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner John McMasters gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

The Clerk called the roll.

PRESENT:	Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chairman, District Eight Frank G. Murray, Chairman Pro Tem, District Four Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One Joe Murray Rivers, District Two John J. McMasters, District Three Harris Odell, Jr., District Five David M. Gellatly, District Six B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven
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IN ATTENDANCE:	R. E. Abolt, County Manager R. Jonathan Hart, County Attorney Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk
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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, the only change in the agenda we made in the pre-meeting was to the Dr. Metts item, which is under Individual Items, Number 6. We're going to move that up as soon as Dr. Metts gets here. Other than that, the agenda will stay as printed.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. **PROCLAMATION TO DECLARE WEEK OF JULY 13–19, 2003 AS NATIONAL AQUATIC WEEK IN CHATHAM COUNTY. JENNIFER WHITE WILL BE PRESENT TO RECEIVE THE PROCLAMATION.**

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, individuals, organized forms of recreation and the creative use of free time are vital to the happy lives of all our citizens: and education, athletic and recreation programs throughout Chatham County encompass a multitude of activities that can result in personal accomplishment, self-satisfaction and family unity for all citizens, regardless of their background, ability level or age; and

WHEREAS, citizens of Chatham County should recognize the vital role that swimming and aquatic-related activities relate to good physical and mental health and enhance the quality of life for all people; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is extremely proud of the swimming facilities and aquatic programs of this community and their contributions to providing to all ages a healthy place to recreate, a place to learn and grow, to swim, build self-esteem, confidence and a sense of self worth which contributes to the quality of life in our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman, on behalf of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do hereby declare the week of July 13-19, 2003, as:

NATIONAL AQUATIC WEEK

and do urge all those in Chatham County to support and promote this observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed on this, the 27th day of June, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Frances Q. Rasmussen, Deputy Clerk

Ms. Jennifer White said, thank you very much. I truly feel that this will be a useful aid in not only promoting the Aquatic Center, but also aquatic awareness and water safety for many years to come. So thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. We appreciate you being here.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, I would like to recognize one I know you've all recognized individually, Ms. Kathy White. She has taken over an extremely difficult job at the Aquatic Center. She has not only turned it around, but is doing a masterful job from day to day and week to week in keeping that facility not only functional but highly serviceable to a variety of users, and as County Manager I want to thank one of our employees, Kathy White, for a job well done.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would like to echo the County Manager's comments. I see —, I get to the Aquatic Center at 5:30 every morning, Monday through Friday, and I see Kathy [White] there very early and she's done a lot for the Aquatic Center. I think we can truly say that the management at the Aquatic Center is run in a very efficient and proficient manner and I appreciate that. Ms. Kathy White said, thank you.

Commissioner Thomas said, I would like to also echo that. She runs a tight ship and I just want to say that I'm in the process right now of registering in one of the programs —. Ms. White said, good. Commissioner Thomas said, and also the Summer Bonanza program has been a part of the Aquatic Center for several years now and we're in the process of getting that moving forward. And so you'll be hearing from me in another day or two on that. But congratulations and keep up the good work. Ms. White said, thank you. Can I just say one thing?

Chairman Hair said, certainly. Come up, Kathy [White], and say whatever you need to say.

Ms. Kathy White said, I would like to thank all of you for your support. You have been very generous and very supportive to the Aquatic Center and, as a matter of information, there is a bid out for the painting of the pools and the walls of the facility. We want to know mainly how much and how long we'll have to be closed for. Also, a bid will be going out to replace the air conditioner for the bleacher section. It's taken us this whole year to get the Dectron [phonetic] units up working and functioning and relieving the humidity and getting the temperature controls the way

we want them, so now we're really in the progress and we'll move forward and hopefully there's light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, we appreciate the good work that you do.

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

None.

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUEST (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning. This is truly a wonderful pleasure for me to have this morning is to present to you our special guest, who happens to be grandson. He is from Burlington, New Jersey. He is here with his mother Deborah Thomas Cooper and his proud grandfather, Mr. Nathaniel Thomas, who is my husband. Clyde, Jr., we call him C.J., but Clyde has excelled in so many wonderful things and he is here this Summer as a special guest of Summer Bonanza, and he will be demonstrating the skills that he has learned in Tae Kwan Do. He has now earned his Black Belt and he is registered in Korea as a Black Belt Specialist. He's eight years old. He has achieved a lot. He's an honor student, he is an all-around sports person, he reads at least five books a day, and we're just so proud of him, and we want to welcome him to Savannah and Chatham County and also to the Chatham County Commissioners' Meeting. He hears a lot about grandma being on the Commission. She he has the opportunity this morning of seeing that and also we will invite you to let you know when he will be demonstrating those skills with the 200 Summer Bonanza kids. For those persons who may not know about Summer Bonanza, Summer Bonanza is a countywide program. It was initiated at the same time that the Youth Commission was initiated and since that time, we started awfully light with 35 students and right now we're up to 200-plus, and we had our first three graduates this year who had attended the Summer Bonanza. One was Ms. Te'Erica Johnson, then two other young ladies and all of them are going to college in the Fall. So we're very proud of those young people who have come through the ranks of this program. The program is designed to keep these young people off the streets, especially during the Summer, from June until August, and then we try to follow up on their achievements during the school year to make sure that they're doing very well. So we have to monitor their report cards and all this kind of thing. It's a lot of work but it's worthwhile and we're seeing a lot of accomplishments. And I want to tell you that the Summer Bonanza program out of 200 students, I would say that we had 90% of our children achieving either high honor roll or honor roll and no one missed a day in school. So that's a feat in itself. So today we want to welcome Mr. Clyde Gordon Cooper, Jr. Clyde, would you come up to the podium with grandma and I'm going to let you hold your belt. Okay, turn around and show it to the audience. This is his belt and inside his belt it has his specialization here in Korea. It makes it official. Okay? Clyde is very shy about talking around people until he gets to know you and that's, you know, the way most kids are. Is there anything you want to say? Mr. Cooper said, good morning. Commissioner Thomas said, good morning. All right. And these are all of the belts that you had to work in order to achieve the Black Belt status, right? Mr. Cooper said, right. Commissioner Thomas asked, how many are there? How many belts have you had, 10 or 11? Mr. Cooper said, 11. Commissioner Thomas said, 11. So he had to go through 11 steps in order to achieve the Black Belt. So we're going to be watching Clyde in another week or so as he demonstrates his skills to the Summer Bonanza children and we invite each of you to come to that event whenever we have it. We'll make sure that everybody is aware of the time and place. Okay? Thank you so very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Welcome to Savannah.

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2. TRADES AND LABOR IN SPLOST PROJECTS (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This —, I put this on for today's discussion because I thought back to the discussion that the Chairman and my colleague, Commissioner Odell, crafted not long after the

SPLOST agreement to try to set a goal to achieve a requisite amount of local minority participation in the large SPLOST referendum that was recently passed so successfully, and I applaud their efforts. I think that carried unanimously across this board. It was a very good thing to do, very proper thing to do, and it occurred to me in light of some of the things that are being constructed in the County that perhaps we should go further, and by that I mean labor and trades are craftsmen. They produce quality things, and I thought it was certainly reasonable that we look at trying to create some sort of goal within the scope of the appropriate SPLOST-approved projects to manifest a reasonable level to be determined in the construction of the projects. Specifically, I know that the Courthouse renovation is a large substantial piece of work. I know there's over ten million dollars, thanks to Commissioner Murray, in local roads building approved in this SPLOST. I would note that Ms. McCorkle is with us today —, welcome —, on behalf of the Library Board. I know that the Library is going to have an ambitious new facilities program that is I would hope you might take some of this message back to your board, and if you agree perhaps move in the same direction, Ms. McCorkle. But I met with the County Manager and the Assistant County Manager in the scope of a budget discussion and I went on to the subject and asked if it would be possible to arrange a meeting between trades and labor representatives here and our staff to take a look at what level, what goal, what working cooperative arrangement we might establish to ensure that as much local trades and union participation might be achieved in these projects. I would ask that you join me in your support, if you have it, to entertain the sort of dialogue between trades and labor and our staff and hopefully we might have a report at a future meeting of the results of those discussions, informally at this point, but this is —, this is my thought.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters, I commend you for this. I would certainly be supportive of that very much and I hope that we can proceed down those paths. Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I would like to totally endorse everything that Commissioner McMasters just stated, and I've lived in Chatham County since 1980 and it's a real concern to me, especially with government, be it the School Board, Chatham County or the City, we have contracts that are worth millions and millions of dollars over the year, but it's very disturbing to me the amount of money that goes out of State, and I think that we are blessed and I've lived all over the country, including the North and the Midwest, that our unions that we have in Chatham County have always been very businesslike, very professional and very reasonable, and I would support anything we can do, number one, to support our local unions and, more importantly, to make sure that tax dollars stay in this County and not go out of State. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Gellatly. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, one of the major problems that we have is that if you take a business person from Chatham County and that person submits a bid, a large portion of that bid is labor. If you have a competitor who does not pay prevailing wage, then it kind of makes the bid process unfair. I support the concept, John [McMasters]. I'd also like to seek prevailing wage. The impact of that is that if we have a project and that project is let low to a company out of Memphis, Tennessee, they will bring in employees. Those employees will not have health insurance or any other benefits. So they get sick or have some kind of emergency, we end up paying for it. I mean, we ultimately end up paying for it either through the Chatham County Hospital Authority and/or one of the other hospitals. The citizens of Chatham County should benefit for the monies raised here in Chatham County. Do you have some draft ideas that —?

Commissioner McMasters said, Harris [Odell], my —, I've had some preliminary conversations with [unintelligible] from trades and labor to roughly educate myself a little bit here. But I want to pause for a moment and say that I agree a hundred percent with you, Harris [Odell], and when we're looking at this budget for '04, we've got over four million dollars in indigent health care, and I'm confident you're absolutely right that's a result of people that are in jobs that can't afford health insurance, health coverage. Department of Family and Children Services, a huge cost to taxpayers, so to return to your question. I've had preliminary conversation with staff. They're in agreement. Labor is here today. I would hope that these two bodies could deliberate and discuss amongst themselves and perhaps come back with some preliminary recommendations for this Board. Chairman Hair said, and maybe even options that we could —. Commissioner Odell said, I would agree. Chairman Hair said, — that sort of thing.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to see us restrict the time and do that, have that placed at the next agenda that's not too large so that, we're going to get into budgets and I don't want this concept to be lost. I think it's an excellent concept.

Chairman Hair asked, could we possibly do one month instead of two weeks? I think it would be a little bit better to —, we want to do it right. It's better to do it right —, 90 days, how many do you want? Commissioner Odell said, I'm just teasing, Russ [Abolt], that's fine. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, no. First let me tell you, Commissioner Odell hit it right on the head. You do have a policy on prevailing wage. You've had that for a number of years. I was not aware of the need for a meeting, but we'll have the meeting with these folks. With the national holiday coming up next week and the fact that so many of us are focused on getting you prepared for your budget hearing on the 11th, I would like a minimum of 30 days, realizing —. Chairman Hair asked, Commissioner McMasters, do you —? County Manager Abolt said, realizing —. Commissioner McMasters said, yes, just as fast as possible given the things that are our targets. County Manager Abolt asked, but can you for the benefit of those present, obviously the focus in on the new SPLOST, which we'll not start collecting until the first of October. At the same time, we're doing something with minority businesses and local. We will have it all prepared. Obviously, this is a priority for you. We'll get it to you.

If you give me 30 days and at the same time guarantee you, certainly before the first of October, these issues of substance will be resolved.

Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you. Commissioner Rivers and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt] —. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Rivers asked, didn't we have in place —, I know we had in place the prevailing wages, didn't we have some policies in place regarding the use of unions, and I think we went through the Davis-Bacon Act and all the preliminary before and we still have that place now. County Manager Abolt said, my recollection, sir, is that this centered around a lot of concern and focus on the construction of the Trade Center. As a matter of fact, I —. Commissioner Rivers said, right. County Manager Abolt said, — I have a sign in my office that I've still got there that reminds me of that almost every day when I go into my office, but the issue there was before y'all to award —, the previous Board —, to award the contract on the Trade Center, there was a very vocal and intense demonstration as to the need to do just what Commissioner McMasters is talking about. You do have a policy, which has not changed, and it speaks specifically to the issue of prevailing wage. It was thought that that would be the clearest message that could be sent and the easiest way to solve the problems we were then facing. Commissioner Rivers said, well, I don't want us to reinvent the wheel. I think we need to incorporate whatever the unions see that they need to fortify that and then —, and then go ahead with —.

County Attorney Hart said, prevailing wage is —. Chairman Hair said, I think the important thing is to, as Commissioner McMasters said, we just want to get [unintelligible], as Commissioner McMasters said, we just want to make sure we have this dialogue and that we do, you know, do what's right for this community and make sure that everybody has a seat at the table. I think that's basically, and whatever we can do to promote that, that's what we need to do I think. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, yeah, that is what I wanted to say, Mr. Chairman, is that, you know, we have talked about this before. We brought this up several times before when we started the minority investigation and certainly that was part of the report that they be inclusive of this kind of thing, and I certainly am in favor of the concept that we don't lose it and that we need to move forward on this, and I do wish that we can move forward in a way that it would be acceptable, you know, to all of us, to the unions and everyone else, including the minority participation and different things because, you know, this is 2003 and we're moving into 2004 and we just need to have some things are very substantial and move forward with that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. And again, Commissioner McMasters, I think you for bringing this to us.

Commissioner McMasters said, sure. One final comment. I —, hopefully I did not —, I did not mean to infer or imply that the County has not been cognizant of arrangements. The question is we've learned a lot, we've come a long way, can we do more, can we do better? And that is the essence of my thought here. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Staff was asked to conduct meetings with labor and union members to take a look at what level, what goal, what working cooperative arrangement might be established to ensure that as much local trades and union participation might be achieved in the SPLOST-approved projects and that a report be brought back to the Commission at a meeting prior to the first of October.

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NOTE: Item IX-6 was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.\

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CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 9:50 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

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

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VIII. TABLED/POSTPONED ITEMS

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

None.

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION

(Unless the Board directs otherwise, adoption of an Action Item will mean approval of the respective County staff report and its recommended action.)

- 1. **REQUEST BOARD APPROVE THE FOLLOWING: AN AMENDMENT TO THE MULTIPLE GRANT FUND TO REFLECT AWARD OF \$906,180 IN REVENUE FROM VARIOUS GRANTS, A GENERAL FUND M&O BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE AN ADDITIONAL \$20,000 IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR PROBATE COURT FILING FEES, A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE \$7,500 IN REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES FOR SHERIFF/PEACE OFFICERS' RETIREMENT, A TRANSFER OF \$11,890 WITHIN THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS BUDGET FOR OVERTIME EXPENDITURES, A TRANSFER OF \$30,000 FROM THE CLERK OF STATE COURT BUDGET TO THE STATE COURT JUDGES BUDGET FOR MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING SERVICES EXPENDITURES, A SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$172,650 TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR BRIDGE REPAIRS, AND A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT TO RECOGNIZE THE \$172,650 TRANSFER FROM SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Kicklighter said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Russ [Abolt]. County Manager Abolt said, sir? Commissioner Murray said, on this \$172,650 transferred out of Special Service District Contingency —. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, it just says capital improvement program for bridge repairs. Do we have a breakdown on how much we're going to spend because that's the exact amount that was left in Contingency and I'd just like to know why? County Manager Abolt said, that's exactly the reason why. This is our last shopping at the end of the fiscal year. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that, but at the same time we get into all these budget things coming back and saying that we —, because of certain things we're going to have a budget shortfall even in Plan One now, to me it seems like we could put that money in Contingency or do we have bridge repairs that are ongoing right now that we need to spend the money on? County Manager Abolt said, you remember in your —, in your budget proposal from staff you received a few weeks ago, several weeks ago, we highlighted the need for bridge repairs. I was just trying to attempt to sequester this amount of money, realizing I think the request is like \$400,000, to in effect use this for a high profile and sometimes emergent need so we don't find ourselves like we did last year without having funds for the bridges. You certainly can choose not to do it. I just thought given the limited resources we have going into the next budget year and the way in which we get caught short in bridge repair, it would be best to sequester the money and put it in CIP. Absent that it will just fall into fund balance. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Are all these bridges in the Special Service District, because if they're not that money can't be used? County Manager Abolt said, all the bridges that you have in front of you from Mr. Drewry are within the CIP and identified as high profile. To the best of my knowledge are within the unincorporated area.

Chairman Hair said, well, Mr. Drewry's here. Mr. Drewry is going to answer the question. Are they all in the SSD? Mr. Robert Drewry said, good morning. Correct, yes, they're all out in the unincorporated area. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray asked, all the bridges? Mr. Drewry said, that's correct.

County Manager Abolt said, but again, Commissioner Murray, you have that choice. I just —. Commissioner Murray said, well, my only —, the only thing that caught my eye, that's the same amount that was left in Contingency. County Manager Abolt said, and that's the only reason we've done it. Commissioner Murray said, and I didn't see any breakdown and maybe I overlooked it. When I went through it, I didn't see a breakdown —. County Manager Abolt said, no. Commissioner Murray said, — on the bridges and I didn't know whether they were Special Service —, in the Special Service District or if they were in the corporate limits of one of the towns or what the policy is on that because I know that Special Service District money can't be used in the city limits. County Manager Abolt said, you hit the nail right on the head. This has no relationship to the need. We know the need far out exceeds the money. I've been trying to sequester the money before the end of the fiscal year and give it to bridge repairs. The bridge repairs have been enumerated in your budget proposal.

Chairman Hair said, I personally think this is proactive on behalf of staff. I think this is a good idea because we did get called last year with having to do emergency repairs and we didn't have any money to do it. Commissioner Murray said, I'm not saying we shouldn't do it, I just wanted to get these questions answered before we just —. County Manager Abolt said, but I do want to let you know if you don't want to do it, I mean, this is only my preference. If you don't want to do it, that is your choice. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray asked, but this money will be used on those bridges and it's an ongoing process now?

Chairman Hair said, and it's over \$400,000. Okay, do I have a motion —, I've got a motion. Do I have a motion and a second? The Clerk said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and McMasters were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve the following: An amendment to the Multiple Grant Fund to reflect award of \$906,180 in revenue from various grants, a General Fund M&O budget amendment to recognize an additional \$20,000 in revenue and expenditures for Probate Court Filing Fees, a Special Service District budget amendment to recognize \$7,500 in revenue and expenditures for Sheriff/Peace Officers' Retirement, a transfer of \$11,890 within the Board of Elections budget for overtime expenditures, a transfer of \$30,000 from the Clerk of State Court budget to the State Court Judges budget for Management and Consulting Services expenditures, a Special Service District contingency transfer of \$172,650 to the Capital Improvement Program for bridge repairs, and a Capital Improvement Program Fund budget amendment to recognize the \$172,650 transfer from Special Service District. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and McMasters were not present.]

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2. STATUS REPORT FROM CHIEF SPRAGUE AND CHIEF FLYNN ON POLICE BLENDING.

County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, as you recall, we're on a schedule to present —, bring it to you for your next meeting an agreement on the blending of police departments. It has been a very ambitious and a very high profile discussion going back since last month when the City Council gave us the okay to sit down and negotiate in earnest. What I have prepared for you is an analysis of the progress made and, more importantly, the most recent draft of the agreement. It is prepared as we've done in the past with different colors of type to indicate where changes have been made. I did point out and I did place in a printed fashion on one of the pages my concern and the lack of acceptance, if you will, for the language having to do with certain aspects of overhead, and I just want to make sure that we do not find ourselves, if the Board chooses to exercise and execute an agreement in this fashion in two weeks, that the County would have a surprise. So it's been my very direct communication with Mr. Brown, as well as other City representatives, that I would not recommend to you any agreement that would allow us to proceed into a budget year and then at the end of that budget year being told that we owe more for routine services. I'm not talking about the contingencies, but I'm talking a type of overhead support services that I know are problematic a bit for the City because we have overlapping fiscal years. But in conversation with Mr. Brown, I think between now and your next meeting we'll be able to protect that because I don't want to find ourselves in May and June, after we've gone that far through our 12-month fiscal year with the City sending us a bill for services we had not expected. That's one part of it. The other part has to do with what amounts to my tallying with the help of staff our obligation on this and realizing that a financial decision would be made prior to any signing of any agreement, and so we have prepared for you essentially that the negotiations and what the obligations will be to us in the current contract should have perceived, and I did send you a memo that was prepared yesterday. I referred to it as "Hip Pocket Financial Analysis on Police Blending," and at that point I've asked Mr. DeHaven, which he's done in a very fine fashion, to break down what we have in the Level 1 budget and then what our exposure would be over and above that, and please keep in mind Level 1, 2 and 3 of the County budget did not reflect any police blending because it was on the day we went to press on the budget document that City Council said they wished to negotiate, so all this is done only from the context of what, you know, how many coins do we have in our jeans and what might be the additional expenditures over and above those coins that we see in the agreement. Very cautious and in my memo to you I said caution. We are —,

there are many assumptions made and there are still some unknowns, and those unknowns will have to be nailed down between now and your next meeting before staff would come to you with an agreement, but the issue here obviously is magnified by the situation we find ourselves as you address the next agenda item dealing with the budget and what you may choose to do in July in adopting a spending program for the entire County for the next 12 months.

Chairman Hair said, I want to make a general comment before the Chiefs get up here and then I'll recognize Commissioner Kicklighter. I am personally becoming more and more concerned about this merger. I originally was very supportive of the merger and I'm still supportive of the merger, but I'm not supportive of the merger under the conditions that keep coming out. I think Commissioner Odell stated it very well at the last meeting, and his words have echoed in my mind a number of times in the last two weeks. What we are currently discussing is not a police merger, it's a takeover. That's exactly what it is. We can call it what we want to, we can dress it up in fancy clothes, but this is a takeover of the Chatham County Police Department by the City of Savannah. Pure and simple that's what it is. The two things that bother me most is when you look at the bottom line, you're going to find out that Chatham County is actually going to pay more to give our police department to the City of Savannah than we would have if we'd keep it ourselves. So I'm beginning to wonder why we should pay the City of Savannah to keep our police department, and that's what we're going to be. Let me give you an example of that. I know the Chiefs' going to respond to that. Let me give you an example. We —, I don't believe there's five votes on this Commission to support a police merger if one County employee loses one nickel, and I don't care whether you call it incentive pay, I don't care whether you call it health insurance, I don't care. If one County employee takes home less money under the merger than they're going to take home now, I don't think you've got five votes on this Commission, Chiefs. I just don't believe it's there. I don't even think you've got one or two. I know you don't have five. The —, you know, if our health insurance differs for our employees, you know, the City pay \$194 and I've got to pay \$78 and we've got to make up the difference, you know, we've got —, we're going to tax Chatham County taxpayers to pay the difference so that our people don't lose money. Well, we can just keep the police department and pay the same \$78 a month. Why are we doing this? You know, and I'm beginning to have serious questions. And my last concern, and I've raised it over and over, and it was initially fell on totally deaf ears and now people are beginning to rethink it, and I still think the best way to do this merger is through a police commission. Not under the County, not under the City, where you have equal representation on the police commission from the County, equal representation from the City of Savannah. Then it truly is a merger at that point and it's not a takeover by the City of Savannah. So I wanted to start this conversation out —, I don't —, I think it's going to cost us more as a County Commission to give our police department to the City of Savannah, and I'm opposed to that, and I do think it's time for us to rethink the Commission idea. I think it's fairer, I think we maintain control, and I think we'll protect the County taxpayer better. So with those opening comments I'll call on Commissioner Kicklighter and then Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, Mr. Chairman, I pretty much agree with you. I also want to force the —, well, force the issue with the City of Savannah because I hear publicly that they were supporting it and privately that they were against it, and I was just ready to see what they had to say. I supported the concept and I supported the concept of not one police officer losing money. I supported the concept that we were sold that it really wouldn't cost us any more money. I supported the concept of helping the City of Savannah and Chatham County add additional officers for about the same amount of money we're all spending right now, but now that the chips are being laid on the table I see —, I also see where we're going to have to pay more money. You know, I gained a little on the —, what you're talking about with the police committee —. Chairman Hair said, commission. Commissioner Kicklighter said, commission. But now basically what I see is happening is the City of Savannah has basically stuck it to us in a manner that it almost appears they want us to deny it. It's not a fair proposition. I'm at a point now where I've told one of my fellow Commissioners on the phone that I'm about ready to take the SPLOST money that we set aside and build precincts throughout Chatham County, add the additional officers we need, invest in it because, you know, although we can improve in the unincorporated areas of Chatham County with the policing, but I don't feel like we need to do it at that high level of funding that we're being asked to do now. And, you know, again I like the entire concept of merging, but his words, Commissioner Odell's, I guess echoed in my ears although I spoke against it, but I —, in thinking about it, it is appearing more and more like a takeover and I won't support it and we need to get back to what we were originally told, originally sold, you know, some kind of equality here with the City of Savannah where we're all within a reasonable budget and move forward in that direction or change directions totally and make the Chatham County Police Department the best that it can be without the assistance of Savannah.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I agree with both comments and, gosh, it's not often that you and I agree on anything, is it Chairman? I think the last time was Valentine's Day. Chairman Hair said, we also —, you know, Commissioner Rayno, that's interesting you pointed that out. That also points out the serious problems we face here. You know, when you've got people that don't normally agree, all of a sudden agreeing, I think that makes me feel even stronger about my position quite frankly. Commissioner Rayno said, the problem is we were given a package way back when and the package was a very simple package that said there's going to be three funding mechanisms to make this thing work, there's going to be more officers on the street initially, no problems through attrition that was going to happen, no officers would lose any benefits, et cetera, and then all of a sudden the thing gets tossed over to the City and they poke it and they work it around and we get it back and the original draft agreement that we thought —, the intergovernmental agreement, which I've told everybody, it doesn't matter what somebody says, it doesn't matter how many little computer programs they've got, how beautiful it's all going to be, the thing that really matters is the intergovernmental agreement. The legal document that joins the two and tells you specifically how everything's worked out. What they said, the pretty pictures and all the glamor and the glitz and the smiles and the holding the hands, same uniform, same ties, doesn't matter. You get to a court of law, what was the intergovernmental agreement? By

the time we get the agreement back, it's down to Draft 14. That's a long ways away from the original package we were sold on, 14 drafts later, and now we've got a final draft that's even different than that one, and we're told, "Hey, take it back, it's your package again." It's not Package A anymore. It's called bait and switch. It's now Package B. It looks completely different. And if you honestly look at the crime stats, that man, Chief Flynn, responded to the outcry of the public. He did his job. He went out there and started busting criminals that were doing bad things. So much to the point we have to reenact the Jail Population Control Committee because we're over 1,500 people in a jail that's designed to hold 1,225 people. They're doing their job. They're busting criminals. If you look at the stats, they're down. That doesn't help a person who's got their car robbed out of the yard. They think crime's rampant. That doesn't help a person who's lot a relative that got killed. That doesn't help a person that's been a victim of crime. They think crime is rampant. And I was in that situation back in the 90's. I thought crime was rampant when I got robbed six times in three months at my place of business. But crime is down. We've also pointed out, and the Chief might agree with me, the Bureau of Justice statistics say if you put more officers on the street, it doesn't necessarily mean crime's going to go down. But if there's no room in the inn, which is where the Sheriff is, where are you going to put the criminals once you start busting them? I make a point now if it's cheaper to keep the County the way it was, you do that. You take the SPLOST money —, you can't go building precincts like Commissioner Kicklighter said, you can't do that with that money, but what you can do is you can go to the Sheriff and say, "What do you need to make your jail a more viable place to hold those people." You get them the Muffin Monster. You get them the controls to keep locked in and things so they don't get out. You get them the equipment they need to make sure that we've locked them up. That's how you stop crime. You take these people and you lock them behind bars. You don't put them out on parol and you don't let them go gallivanting across the streets anymore. You lock them up. And we take the mentally ill and we divert them to treatment facilities, we take the deadbeat parents and put them in a payment situation where they pay their way, and we take the substance abusers and create an effective agency in town to deal with people that have drug problems. Get them out of the jails and make the space available for those hardened people who are out there doing the crime so that when Chief Flynn puts them in there, there's room. When the new Chief of the County puts them in there, they're there. But this whole thing where Package A that's mysteriously turned into Package B, and say, "Here it is; go for it again," I'm done with that. I don't like that. I'm not politically wishy-washy. People know I stick to my guns. But when factual information is changed, that's when I change my mind.

Vice Chairman Thomas recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, thank you. I think we're all singing basically the same song, and the same song is that whether this succeeds or fails is not due to either Chief's input or effort, and I want them to know that because ultimately neither Chief Sprague nor Chief Flynn will make the decision. So that everyone is absolutely clear, it is my humble opinion that the City of Savannah does not want this merger. The City of Savannah will accept this as a sub-contract, and I love this belief about blending. This is not blending, folks. Look at your dictionary. This is a takeover and that's —, the City of Savannah will take over our police department and they will charge us the second year and we will have, because of the contingencies in the contract, no way of controlling that cost. So bottom line is will this blending cost people in the unincorporated area more money? Yes, it will. Yes, it will. We're approaching the crime solution like Chiefs Flynn and Sprague control crime in Chatham County. There's some things that they can do, but we have a major larger social problem where parents have children and let the streets raise them, so we raise people who don't have values of human life. They could care less. And until we start addressing those issues or start addressing the drug issue, we can blend, we can combine, we can mix, the impact of which is going to be the same. So let's talk about what we're doing here to fight crime. We will be sold a bill of goods. We will subcontract our police department to the City of Savannah, but any of you who participated in the LOST and the SPLOST negotiations, you can add the police contract each year as a major way that the City of Savannah is going to even —, make it even —, equal for the control that we have for LOST and SPLOST. Technically, they don't want this to approve, but they want to give it to us so that we'll make it fail and we'll be the bad guys so that everyone who's just looking at the surface is saying, "My God, this is such a wonderful idea, going to do this, going to do that." It's not going to do this. We can take that same increase that we'd be paying the City of Savannah, improve patrol, but until we improve parenting, the crime rate's still going to be what it's going to be. Until we have a mental health system to deal with drugs that —, now that we have crack cocaine, if you leave a radio or your cell phone in your car, it's —, that person can get high for breaking your window, which you will cost you three or four hundred dollars, to get a \$19 radio. I wish they'd tell me, "I'm going to break in your car if you don't give me \$19." See, I'd give them the \$19 and I would save three hundred and some odd dollars by the sheer threat. I can be threatened. This will not work and the reason it will not work is it's going to cost our taxpayers more money. The City of Savannah is not genuine in its position that they want a blending. They want to take over. They want us to subcontract it. We're going to spend most of our lives doing an audit. There are too many contingencies here for us not to have not just one auditor, Russ [Abolt], I think we're going to have to have a couple. If this is blended, why is it that the only people who potentially might lose are County employees? I watched the City Council. Not one City of Savannah police officer is scheduled to lose. But we have the potential where our employees might lose. So —, they might lose as far as wages, they might lose as far as benefits. There's going to be a change as far as the pension. This is not blending, and we use that term in the hope that the general public is so naive that we get hung up on words and not results. The results is this is a takeover. The way it's written, it's not in the best interest of Chatham County, and we will get a bill every year from the City of Savannah and they'll say, "Here it is, pay it." We lose control in every way. The City of Savannah does not lose control. Am I the only way that sees that the City of Savannah does not lose control on one issue? The Commission loses total control. The only thing we control is writing a check. You know, this is a good concept, but I'm not willing to go along just to get along. I'm not willing to think that this is going to work out if we dream enough and want it enough. They're going to have an agreement and the —, John [McMasters] and Frank [Murray], who participated in the LOST negotiations, who were kind of spearheading on that, we had some taste of their negotiations. I know we differed then, but I don't think we're differing now. We had some taste of their negotiations, and if you liked it then, we're going to get more of it on this.

We lose control, and I like Billy's [Hair] concept about a commission. That takes us out of the status of being subcontracting our police department to the City of Savannah. And this is not the Chief's law. We are fortunate to have Chief Flynn, who's a really good man, knowledgeable and attends my community, my neighborhood association meeting, and tolerates all types of questions, which are not even in his purview. I appreciate you for doing that, Chief [Flynn], and Sprague has been our Chief and has done an excellent job. So, guys, this is not your decision. I know what you want, but we have an obligation to our constituents. The City of Savannah has an obligation to theirs. I'm not willing to have the City of Savannah Mayor and Aldermen fulfill their obligation to our expense, and that's what we're being asked to do by this contract. And we can sell it, we can call it blending, but ultimately we subcontract. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Odell. The order is Commissioner McMasters, Commissioner Gellatly, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Kicklighter and then we'll get Mr. Pierce. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to echo my colleagues' observations thus far this morning, but I want to talk about myself as representing District Three. The —, for the record, 97% of my district is within the City of Savannah city limits, and the residents of Bacon Park and Terrace Heights and Ranchland, as well as the downtown, want this consolidation. They believe that a consolidated department conceptually will help with the crime problems here in Savannah, Chatham County. They're citizens of the City of Savannah. They're citizens of the County. They believe in this and they want it. I think my job as their representative for the County is to try to facilitate that. And I have been trying to do that. I campaigned on trying to accomplish this, and it saddens me that we're at a point that we might not be able to accomplish this. I think that it's clear to everyone here and the people at home watching this broadcast that this Commission has serious reservations. It's not about the concept. It is not about creating a streamlined, more efficient combined police department. Anyone to characterize it otherwise, you haven't heard a single person up here express that. We all want to do better for our communities in reducing crime, and this is a concept that can easily accomplish that. Now the way this was presented —, and I'll try to cover this aspect briefly —, we were asked to come in and we were given individual briefings almost a year ago by the County Manager, and we were told that if you take the existing Chatham County Police Department funding levels, you take the CNT funding levels, you take Animal Control and Marine Patrol and you total all those up, we could pretty much facilitate this with the exception of the capitalization costs. Russ [Abolt], I —, for the record I met with the County Manager on a budget briefing on this. He does not recall probably these things, but I —, maybe some other Commissioners here who had those briefings might speak to it. The point is, the generalized budget, give or take what was called "nip and tuck," minus capitalization costs, we could pretty well facilitate this sort of concept. On behalf of the community we are now seeing that that's not true. Be that as it may, I have a couple of specific questions. Who thus far in the 14 versions of the intergovernmental agreement has been representing Chatham County in the financial structuring and negotiations, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, financial staff, myself, Chief Sprague. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, and some Audit staff too, sir. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. So County Finance staff, yourself and Chief Sprague. County Manager Abolt said, and Audit staff. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. County Manager Abolt said, and Human Resources. Commissioner McMasters said, do —, then let me just ask you, and I'm sure Chief Sprague will have an opportunity in a minute to answer the same question. Do you feel that this document, give or take a few minor modifications, is a fair deal? County Manager Abolt said, I've already indicated to you where my reservations are. I do take exception with your characterization that told you this would cost no more money. From the get-go, from the first presentation that Chief Sprague and Chief Flynn made at the Civic center, well over a year ago, we indicated —, they had a five-year chart showing the incremental additional cost. That was done, and when we did the briefings you're referring to, we gave you in a manila envelope various summary sheets, one of which was a report from Chief Sprague where he again reaffirmed that amount of money. There was an additional cost to this, and I said repeatedly —, I remember saying it in this room —, this was not a budget balancing strategy nor was it revenue neutral. We were making an investment. What Chief Sprague was saying repeatedly, given the crime problems in the unincorporated area, this was more economical as we saw it then than in effect allocating more resources in SSD to put officers on the street that in effect could come about as a result of the blending. Pure and simple. When we had the negotiations on SPLOST, repeatedly I told you the Attorney had to look at it, that we had taken all the incremental costs in the blending that were known then and we took out what we could that was SPLOST-eligible, but we said again at that time it was still an issue of an incremental addition. What transpired here when we had Draft 13, which went dormant for weeks, weeks, after you all made your motion which said conceptually you approved it, you wanted a similar response from the City Council, this went dormant. There was no movement on the part of our prospective partners. It came down to your asking them to give a response back to you by a date certain. They did not do that. Pressure obviously was put on and they eventually did it. Quite late into this, our fiscal year. When they did do it, they chose to handle it completely differently than what you all did. They, rather than dealing with, you know, the general concept of let's come together and meet and confer and work this out, they wanted to conceptually see what their staff would recommend to them given their certain reservations, and so they had a document. A document that was by their choice what they wanted to see done in any blending, merging, whatever you want to call it. That was Draft 14. County staff did not participate in Draft 14. There were attachments and reference to cost centers driven primarily by the financial interest of the City, which I understand and respect, to make sure that they did not subsidize the blending of this department. When we received that draft and made various iterations, which we gave you copies of, we told you repeatedly that more negotiations must take place. We're down to a point right now where I'm obviously following your direction where you said we're going to blend, I pointed out the reservations as recently as today and I said I'm not satisfied with that aspect, but I also want you to understand going into this thing, even if you were to say today, "Proceed with the negotiations," which is your choice, I will come back to you on the 11th of July, which is the deadline we set up and I will have that agreement for

you, but there are going to be cost considerations, cost considerations magnified even now by the fact that our digest did not come in at the level we expected it.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Russ [Abolt]. As the County Manager, do you feel that this document as it's currently manifest is something that we should be able to sell to our constituents as a reasonable blending financial apparatus? County Manager Abolt said, selling, I don't know about the term selling. If you can be satisfied as a policymaker that you want to blend and are willing to pay more money, then the document is satisfactory with the addition of the one referenced section I pointed out to you, but the issue here is police service is so important that this County, whether we blend or not, is going to have to commit more resources to it. We cannot get by with status quo. When Chief Sprague came forward over a year and a half ago and said let's do it, it was a very noble and worthwhile effort, but from the beginning it was never put in the context of it will remain status quo. This will cost money. I have reservations about this agreement. I've told many of you privately, I'm now telling you publicly, the issue is this. There's no question I will not be an alarmist and say it's a takeover, but the situation is this. I have a great deal of confidence in Chief Flynn. I have a great deal of confidence in Michael Brown, and I've told the Chairman and the Chairman counseled me from the beginning, as long as these individuals, the people that are kind of the birth parents of this, are in place we're okay. If I were to lose Chief Flynn or Michael Brown in the next year and a half, two years, I would be worried. Not because it wasn't in the best interest of all parties to bring this forward, but it goes beyond the word. It goes at the initial stages, that maturation of this particular process when you have to have well intended people who conceptually understand what must be done, and not only understand the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law. This is a great risk. I understand that up front, but it's a risk certainly you're willing to take at this point, but you have every right as policymakers and responsible to your constituents to say you don't want to afford it now. That is your choice.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Thank you. The —, I think we're kind of splitting hairs here a little bit here, Russ [Abolt], on the presentation in advance. I didn't say that your characterization or the Chief's characterization that this would be revenue neutral. What I said was that within the scope of our budget with a little massaging and solving some capitalization costs that this could go forward. That's not a fair characterization —. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir. Even in the —, no, sir. Even in the information we gave you in the manila folder back in the individual briefing, Chief Sprague went to the extent of working with Finance and showing the amount of millage increase that would be required to do it. He even netted out the fact that said it was not dependent upon new growth. So the millage increase would be less than if you had to be able to compen—, excuse me, — compute new growth. We never said to you this would be revenue neutral. My words, not yours. Commissioner McMasters said, I'm not suggesting you ever said it was going to be revenue neutral. Let me shift gears here. In the LOST agreement, isn't it correct that for the next 10 years we're subsidizing municipal prisoners by a third? County Manager Abolt said, I don't know the percentage, sir. Obviously beyond the 28 days there's a subsidy. Commissioner McMasters said, correct, once we [unintelligible]. So we're paying for City of Savannah prisoners by virtue of the LOST agreement by 33%. Is that —. County Manager Abolt said, I can't track your percent. Whatever you say, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, it's roughly a third, is it not? I mean —. County Manager Abolt said, I don't know. Commissioner McMasters asked, you don't know the LOST agreement? You don't know —. County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, it's not —. Well, you asked the question and I don't have it in front of me, sir. That's been months ago. Commissioner McMasters said, Russ [Abolt], well, I mean, why can't we just admit that it's about 33% that we're subsidizing in the scope —. Chairman Hair said, if you want to make that statement, you can make that statement. I don't think you're —. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, can somebody —? Chairman Hair said, okay, if it makes you feel better, it's about 33%. Okay? Commissioner McMasters said, okay. All right. Chairman Hair said, it's about a third. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. My hope here, and I'll turn this back over, my hope here is that this body, we give you as policy-makers very clear instructions to go back and work a document that is much more equitable and fair than the document that's been put in front of us. Let me reiterate. We conceptually support unanimously the concept and the logic of the merger, the blending, whatever you want to call it, but we cannot accept a document, Russ [Abolt], that puts the burden on the County, and I think —, I hope —, my hope is that this Board gives you clear instruction to try to solve that. County Manager Abolt said, well, sir —. I mean, that's —.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, that's easily said, but difficult to do. For example, at your last meeting you wanted to make sure that there was no disproportionate pay based on the lack of incentive pay. There are substantive issues, all of which have been addressed in this draft today. I've taken exception with one. To the best of my ability we're putting together an agreement that is mutually, you know, acceptable. It's incumbent upon the Board because you have the agreement in front of you, in my estimation, to give me specificity rather than generalizations to make it fair.

Chairman Hair said, well, I think —, and we've got five here in order, but I think for the first time in a long time what I'm hearing on this Commission unanimously from nine people that don't always agree on things is that we don't want to call off the engagement, but we want to delay the marriage until we renegotiate the prenuptial. Okay? I think that's what we want to do here. Okay? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, yeah. I'm going to request something and I hope that I'll have the support of my fellow Commissioners. I think a lot of points have been raised here recently. I mean, right now about the police merger. I think the majority of them are above the Police Chief's pay grade. I would hope that we would not submit these two Chiefs to our political buzz saw at this point in time. I would think that the questions need to be addressed and answered by the County Manager and the City Manager, and the City Manager is not here, but they're certainly at their level, and I don't think the Police Chiefs should be exposed to them.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, then Commissioner Kicklighter and then —.

Commissioner Rivers said, [inaudible]. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, go ahead. Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I know I'm going out of line, but, you know, I asked for a workshop once we got all this document and stuff here together, that we would meet with the City and resolve these differences and come out of that room whether we're going to merge or not. I think all the things, the discussion that we're doing back and forth here and airing this out, we could easily resolve within a workshop and come back whatever we want to add to it or whatever we want to take away from it. If they're not in agreement, then we back out of it. Chairman Hair said, I don't object to that. I do think though that there are some things I think that have been brought up today that are workshop issues. I think there are other things today that have been brought up that are not workshop issues. I think you've seen some philosophical differences today as to what a certain word means. You know, I mean, what does merger mean? Is it a blending or is it a takeover, and I think that's not going to be solved by a —. Commissioner Rivers said, but that's not —, you know, when you get face to face with the City, if you feel that it's a takeover, then we metter [phonetic] the agreement out where it isn't a takeover. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray [sic], I don't agree —, don't disagree with the concept, but I think that if you see where we have problems, you can't get nine Commissioners and nine Aldermen in a room, you've going to come out with a pony that's going to look like a camel. Okay? You can't get 18 people negotiating an agreement, and I think the issues that we're talking about I think needs to be —, I think what we agreed to earlier was that certainly a workshop at some time might be appropriate, but we've got so many questions now that I don't think we're anywhere close to a workshop. I think we've just got some bigger differences and then at some point I think that's a very appropriate statement. Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah. Russ [Abolt] —. County Manager Abolt said, sir. Commissioner Murray said, first of all, I think in one of your comments you said that we said we were going to do the blend. I don't think we ever said we were going to do it. I think we said that we were going to move forward and negotiate and if we could put the things together, fine. I don't think we said we're definitely going to do it one way or the other, but we accept the concept and want to move forward and see if we can work out the differences. I, too, and after thinking about it, feel very strongly and even more than two weeks ago that for this to work and for everybody to have the controls that they should have as government bodies, that it should be done with a commission. It should not be done with either manager having the say-so. That's my personal opinion and I've looked at it from both sides, and I know it's going to be some agree and some disagree with that, but I think it's something we've got to look at and move forward with. The other areas, and I'll be giving you a long list of questions that I had. It's come back to me. I haven't had time to go through all of it thoroughly. I'm still looking at it, but two areas that I still have problems with on that is the fact that the first year the County employees would have an option on their pension plan to either buy it out and transfer it with the City or they could keep it with the County. I've raised the question about the health insurance plan and I don't know why they could not have that same option within the first year, a one time choice, they're either going to stay with the County or they're going to move to the City. County Manager Abolt said, we're costing them out that they would stay with the County for medical benefits. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, is that full time or just for the first couple of years? County Manager Abolt said, I'll have Chief Sprague correct me, but if you look at the attachment when we did the costing, we would assume that they would stay on the County's medical plan, period. Commissioner Murray asked, so they stay there? County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir, and the reason for the one year on the pension plan is we have actuarially looked at the status of the plan. Commissioner Murray said, all right. The —, but the figures that we're being given on the insurance show an increase if they stay on our plan. Is that correct? County Manager Abolt said, yes, for health insurance ----. Commissioner Murray asked, why would there be an increase when it wasn't even figured in the proposed budgets that we're looking at right now? This merger was not figured in those proposed budgets, so those people are figured in our health plan already. So why would it be an increase? County Manager Abolt said, no, sir, they were —, and Chief Sprague can help me remember this. We would assume that they would go to the City's plan. Commissioner Murray said, wait a minute, Russ [Abolt]. You told us that those three proposals that you have given us for our budget for 2004 did not have the police merger costs in it. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. That's correct. Commissioner Murray asked, so those costs for moving those County employees over to the City plan would not be in that, so we're still paying that difference so we should not have an increase. County Manager Abolt said, but again, sir, if you look at the overall —, and this is netting. Not going into the specifics of any one line item of expenditure, that was the purpose of my memo to y'all yesterday to indicate all the money we had in Level 1 for the sake of discussion how much money was it compared to what we knew about the blended budget, and we in effect have analyzed, given all of what you've referred to, as a deficit in M&O of \$494,450 and \$343,000 in SSD, and there still are some unknowns, sir. Commissioner Murray said, I just feel like that we've still got a lot of things, a lot of issues to work out on both the City and the County's side. I am one that if one of our officers gets hurt in this, I will not support it, and I mean that, and I've been one that's been pushing to move forward. It affects my district probably more than any district in Chatham County because of the makeup of that district and the size of it right now. There's only one municipality and that's Tybee. The rest of it's unincorporated and I'm responsible for the health, safety and welfare of those citizens I represent, and I will not do something that I believe is going to harm them in any way when it comes to law enforcement. My point in saying that is that these increases that we see and are being proposed right now to go into this merger or takeover or blending or whatever you want to call it, to me we could take that same money and add the officers we need to put on the streets and still do it within the confines of the County Police Department with those kind of cost increases that we're looking at right now. So I don't know where the benefits are really going to come in on it. I don't see the amount of officers that we're being told that will be on the street being on the street any time soon. That bothers me. That bothers the people in the unincorporated area, and believe me I'm getting an awful lot of phone calls on it now and a lot of questions being asked, and I answer them the best I can, but I just do not believe at this point that we've come close enough and far enough that we can say yes we're going to do it or no we're not going to do it. I think it will still take a lot more work and this July deadline that we've got, I just don't see how it's going to be met.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Kicklighter next.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it's clear that the entire Board here supports the concept of the merger, but as circumstances have definitely changed over the course of the first approval of the conceptual approval, so knowing that we all support the concept, I want to make it very clear in a motion that the concept that we support and we would love to work with the City of Savannah with this concept in making a police merger work, and at this time I will make a motion to support the concept of a police merger with a police commission overseeing operations and with the assurance that all County employees will not receive a reduction in pay or benefits and the County SSD taxpayers receive no millage increase to cover expenses.

Chairman Hair asked, does the motion have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion —. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, this is a policy decision.

Commissioner McMasters asked, Dean [Kicklighter], could you accept a friendly amendment at this point that just let's keep the millage increase not stipulated in the motion. We can deal with that at a later point in time. And in all fairness, we have been told that this might cost a little bit more. The question that I've been struggling with is what the definition of a little bit more, and I'm certain that if my —, my constituents would pay a little bit more to facilitate this. The question is —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, well, that's at a later date and time. I can remove that portion of the motion, I guess.

Chairman Hair asked, okay, will the second do that? Commissioner Odell said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Murray and then we're ready —.

Commissioner Murray said, my only thing was the same thing because I feel like whether we keep the County Police Department or whether we put them together, we're going to have to pay more for law enforcement.

Chairman Hair said, all aright, one quick comment and then we're ready to vote. It's a policy decision.

County Manager Abolt said, please. I wouldn't bother you if wasn't —. This is a —, we have a —, I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, go ahead. County Manager Abolt said, we have a —, I have a very practical problem. Chief Sprague is retiring. Chief Sprague told us, you know, well over a year ago and he could technically retire next Tuesday, and my issue —. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Abolt, I clearly understand that, but this Commission is not going to be forced, I think, if anything today —. We're going to take this engagement as long as it's necessary and if we wind up marrying, okay. If we don't wind up marrying, okay. But we've got —, you've got to move forward on a parallel track. You can't —. County Manager Abolt said, okay, you —. Chairman Hair said, I'm not going to be held hostage to that kind of —. County Manager Abolt said, I'm not going —, I'm not asking —. What, sir —. Chairman Hair said, I don't think this Commission wants to do that. County Manager Abolt said, I don't think we're disagreeing. I have to recruit —. Chairman Hair said, you move forward. Do what you've got to do. County Manager Abolt said, okay, and then I will have to —, please. I will have to answer the questions of candidates I interview how long is this going to be. Chairman Hair said, and we don't know. You just tell them you don't know. Okay? That's the only thing and honest thing you can say. Commissioner Kicklighter said, and appoint an Interim Police Chief in the meantime. Chairman Hair said, that's up to him. County Manager Abolt said, please if I may comment for the public. An Interim Police Chief, an interim department head in this situation is not the way to go. We did that in years before —. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Abolt, that's your decision. County Manager Abolt said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, he works for you. That's your decision. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to support the concept of a police merger with a police commission overseeing operations and with the assurance that all County employees will not receive a reduction in pay or benefits. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 3. PRELIMINARY TAX DIGEST INFORMATION AND NEED FOR DIRECTION FROM THE BOARD AS FOLLOWS:**
- **DO YOU WISH TO SET HEARINGS THAT WOULD NOT ROLL BACK THE MILLAGE AND/OR INCREASE TAXES?**
 - **WHAT DO YOU WISH TO DO ABOUT LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3 BUDGETS TO INCLUDE EMPLOYEE COLA?**

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, thank you, Dr. Hair and Dr. Thomas and gentlemen. I'm focusing this on the deadline, the budget calendar you adopted some time ago, which would call for your action in approving the spending plan on the —, what? —, the 25th, the last meeting in July. To do that I need certain directions, and that direction should come today if you feel at all at ease with it, but I am asking you in effect for some sensing as to your desire on whether or not you wish to advertise to not roll the millage back, if you wish a millage increase, and then as some of you indicated in your goals session, once the digest was in hand you wanted to give some direction as to a COLA. This is very much time sensitive. If you will look at the staff report, and particularly page four of the staff report, Mr. DeHaven has put together what amounts to a schedule driven by legal advertisements and also in the issue of the rollback situation or any millage increase, the State requirements, which we're all familiar with, that requires three separate public hearings prior to your adoption of the budget. So if you're to remain on your current track for adopting a budget on the 25th of July, you would have to give some indication to me today as to your preference on the rollback and any millage increase. As we indicated in the staff report, certainly it is your option to advertise, if you wish, for a millage increase greater than you might eventually choose with the understanding that you could do something less. But we're at a point now, absent the previous desire to have budget workshops, we're up against the deadline. The option to you, if you don't agree with trying to make some consensus decision today, you would have to, as you did last year, delay your date for adoption of the budget to your first meeting in August. We would still have the public hearing already advertised on the 11th, but your adoption of the budget and the millage and everything else that must be done would not take place until a later date.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we maintain the millage rate for the next fiscal year for the M&O budget, what it is this year, and maintain the millage rate for the SSD, what it is this year for the next fiscal year, and set the hearing schedule that was advised by staff on page four of the staff report. Chairman Hair asked, would you also address the rollback in your motion? The rollback issue, that's a separate issue. Commissioner Rayno said, right, no rollback. Chairman Hair said, no rollback, okay. All right, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Gellatly said, second.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, and may I just —, your previous sitting as a CAT Board, are you also assuming that CAT, that we advertise no rollback for CAT. Commissioner Rayno said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair said, yeah, it will be the same thing for CAT.

Chairman Hair said, okay. You know, I think we can discuss this motion for a long time too if we wanted to, but I think —, I think we're in exactly the same situation we were last year that we can sit up here and talk for hours, but I think there's no —, there's not five votes on this Commission to raise the millage rate no matter how people individually feel that it should be raised, and I just think again we can debate as long as we need to, but I think the vote's going to be five to four in the worst case. So now I'll have a call for the motion. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to maintain the millage rate for the next fiscal year, 2003-2004, with no rollback in the budgets for M&O, SSD and CAT. Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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- 4. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE ADVANCE FUNDING CERTAIN SPLOST 2003-2008 PROJECTS TO JUMP START THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN AN ATTEMPT TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON OPERATING FUNDS IN FY 2004 OR HELP START PROJECTS REGARDED AS PRIORITY.**

Commissioner McMasters said, we skipped one. Chairman Hair said, no we didn't, we didn't skip any. Commissioner Rayno said, number four. Chairman Hair said, that was number four. Commissioner Rayno said, no, no, no. That was number five, you were talking about —. Chairman Hair said, okay. Well, I read four. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, can we return to four for a —? Chairman Hair said, yeah, we will. That was number five. Okay, item number four is the SPLOST projects. That's the one I read into the record. County Manager Abolt asked, where are we, sir? I'm sorry. Chairman Hair said, item number four, the SPLOST funding. That's the one you've already explained. County Manager Abolt said, thank you for bringing me back. Chairman Hair said, you've already explained

it and Mr. Hart's already explained it. County Manager Abolt said, [unintelligible] has a great memory. Thank you, sir. Chairman Hair said, yes. So do have any questions? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. The only question I have is on the attachment to advance funding of projects, SPLOST 2003-2008, and I've asked this question in a prior meeting about Runaway Point Park, and I notice that Runaway Point Park is not on this list, and it was the will of this Commission, I believe, to finish unfinished —, to finish unfinished, started but unfinished prior SPLOST parks: Tom Triplett, Mother Mathilda Beasley and Runaway Point. So for both Dean's [Kicklighter] benefit and my benefit, where are two unfinished SPLOST parks? Assistant County Manager Pat Monahan said, let's just add them. Commissioner McMasters said, beautiful. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, add them. Commissioner McMasters said, add them. Chairman Hair asked, you want to do that? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, well, basically that's what I did was —. Chairman Hair said, okay, well, why don't you make a motion to —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, the design and engineering costs we estimated at roughly 10% of the capital project costs. All this does is it advances funding or gets them started. So all we're going to do is take 10% of the value of those two projects and set aside an account for design and engineering to get those started within the next 30 to 45 days. Commissioner McMasters said, point of clarification, Pat [Monahan], on my park, on Runaway, I've had a meeting with —, I don't know if you were there —, with Al Lipsey and —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, I don't recall. Commissioner McMasters said, and that, it's already planned, designed —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, yes, it is. Commissioner McMasters said, — and engineered. Okay? So some of my constituents would like a little more information on what the next two phases are —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, okay. Commissioner McMasters said, — and when —, estimation as to when funding will be available and work will begin on those remaining phases, and I then said I would disseminate that directly to them. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, okay. Commissioner McMasters said, if they wanted to have a meeting, I know staff would —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, and if you provide us with a list of the —, we have the Phase 2 and 3 outline. I think, in fact, we provided that list previously —. Commissioner McMasters said, just like a recap. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, — and you can tell them that once we get the project bid, let's say within the next 45 days, we'll start. Commissioner McMasters said, great. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, it's that simple.

Chairman Hair said, do we have a motion —, was that —? Commissioner McMasters said, my motion is to amend —.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, yeah, I just want to ask, would it cost a lot to add the —, I know it's going to take years. From dealing with the EPD as far as the permitting for the flood pumps on Triplett —, I mean, on Pipemaker's Canal. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, right. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, would it take a ton of money to start the permitting process for that because I know it will take a while to get the —? Assistant County Manager Monahan said, I went through all of the projects and —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I'm talking about the pumps. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, — and called the person, the staff member responsible for that and I talked to Mr. Bungard about that. He did not see any advantage in jump starting that project. All this does is to get the project started before June of 2004. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, I mean, I know —. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, he did not see any advantage —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — we have a lot to do on the canal before we can even get to that. Assistant County Manager Monahan said, that's what he told me. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, and that also might take some time too, Commissioner Kicklighter, what you're going to do out there on the canal. Okay, that —, we didn't get a second to that motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request to authorize advance funding of certain SPLOST 2003-2008 projects to jump start their implementation in an attempt to reduce the burden on operating funds in FY2004 or help start projects regarded as priority. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF A REVISED *INMATE SERVICES FEE AGREEMENT* WITH EACH MUNICIPALITY FOR PAYMENT TO CHATHAM COUNTY FOR HOUSING OF THE CITIES' INMATES AT THE DETENTION CENTER.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Chairman, Dr. Thomas, gentlemen, this was an idea that came forward from County Attorney Hart that was effected by my assistant, Pat Monahan, as opposed to binding arbitration, which as you recall in negotiations with our partner and feedback from their attorney, they did not feel was appropriate. The idea from Mr.

Hart in effect is to have what amounts to a mediation process that we feel is an acceptable alternative and I refer to Jon [Hart] for the defense of this.

Chairman Hair recognized County Attorney Hart.

County Attorney Hart said, the issue there is whether the County and City can basically delegate their arbitration powers and there's one case in the State of Georgia that goes one way and one case sort of goes the other way. The City Attorney's opinion and the County Attorney's opinion have sort of leaned one direction or the other. This is a delivery services agreement and the State of Georgia provides an act dealing with delivery of services agreement, and what we did was we inserted the Code section under the delivery of services agreement that provides a means and mechanisms by which you can have court-ordered mediation and if there's a disagreement over that, they'll have a mediator that will sit sort of semi, like a special master, and then, you know, if that doesn't resolve it, then the parties should go into Superior Court, and I think in effect it's worded different, but it pretty much gives you the end result of a way to solve problems.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, since I led the charge causing this impasse, I'll move ahead with staff's recommendation. Chairman Hair said, I think it is good. I appreciate that, Commissioner Rayno. I think it is —. Commissioner Odell said, I'll second.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve a revised Inmate Services Fee Agreement with each municipality for payment to Chatham County for housing of the cities' inmates at the Detention Center. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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6. REQUEST FROM DR. METTS REGARDING PAY AND BENEFITS, DEPUTY CORONER. DR. METTS HAS BEEN INVITED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Metts has arrived now and, Dr. Metts, just before you arrived we agreed to move your item up, so we'll go ahead. This is Item Number 6. Dr. Metts is here to tell us —.

Dr. James Metts said, I appreciate you giving us the opportunity to appear early. I'm going to be out of the country July and August and I was afraid this would come up and I would be out of the country. Basically, it's a request for a salary increase for the Deputy Coroner and the request that she recover County benefits. I have a handout here which —. Chairman Hair said, give it to the Clerk. Dr. Metts said, basically it compares the salaries in other counties with the Coroner's salary. My Deputy Coroner's qualifications are here. She's served as Deputy Coroner for a total of 18 years, only the last 12 of which she was compensated for. She's a Registered Nurse, she's an Intensive Care Nurse, she's a Surgical Nurse, she's a Rehabilitation Nurse, she worked for Community Cardiovascular Council's Stroke Project. She's a Nurse Practitioner, which is what much above an assistant or what have you. A Nurse Practitioner, when they come out of the program, generally start around \$60,000 a year. That's without the other qualifications that she has. For your consideration I have some other counties in Georgia of comparable size to Savannah's population 150,000-200,000. Bibb County's Coroner makes \$62,000 a year; Richmond County he's paid \$92,000, the Deputies get \$48,000 and \$38,000 each; Muscogee the Deputy, one gets \$40,000 and one gets \$35,000, while Chatham County, the current population is 230,000, my salary is \$42,000, which is not the consideration because I don't want a raise at all. I'm asking for a raise for my Deputy Coroner —.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Metts, some of the people are having difficulty hearing you. If you'd speak in the microphone.

Dr. Metts said, I'm sorry. I mumble. I'm terribly sorry. What all do you need to go back to? Commissioner Kicklighter said, just keep going. It was just hard to hear you. Dr. Metts said, oh, yes. I have some salaries of Coroners and Deputy Coroners of comparable counties and we're below those. I have here a list of her salaries that she was paid going back 12 years. The six years before that, she served as Deputy Coroner without a salary. She started off at \$7,000 and that was her salary for about the first five years, as you can see, and gradually it's come up. Her salary now is well below what she would earn as a Nurse Practitioner and well below the salaries paid to Deputy Coroners in comparable areas. I wouldn't bring this up at a time of budgetary crisis except I think it needs to be done. It's the thing to do, and she does request that she be covered by benefits, such as health insurance.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Metts, I personally would support this. I think it's a reasonable request and I would be —, hope that my fellow Commissioners will support this also. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, good morning, sir. I tried to return your phone call yesterday. Your cell phone was blinkie like you said it would be. Dr. Metts said, it's terrible. I need to junk it. Commissioner Rayno said, I support your request. The only thing I'm concerned about is that you were tracking the amount of expenses over the years for each

and every department, including constitutional officers, and the majority of the departments, majority of constitutional officers, tracked very well this year in terms of maintaining their budget. Yours was one of the few budgets that went over budget, and I'm wondering if we gave you the new position with the higher salary and with the budget you're requesting this year, do you think you could stay within budget? Dr. Metts asked, how did it go over budget, do you know? Commissioner Rayno said, well, your cell phone usage was one that was well over budget. Dr. Metts asked, about what was that? Commissioner Rayno said, off the top of my head I don't know. Dr. Metts said, the reason I asked that is my cell phone, the County pays my basic \$67 a month cell phone bill and because I have a lot of personal phone calls and other things, I pay any excess over and above the —, which was purchased by the \$67 a month by the County. The County does not pick up all that horrible bill that you see. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. Dr. Metts said, I pick up —. Commissioner Rayno asked, so anything in that line item would be reimbursed by you? Dr. Metts said, I'm sorry, what was your question? Commissioner Rayno asked, anything in that cell phone line item would be reimbursed by you, is that what you're saying? Dr. Metts said, over and above \$67 a month. Commissioner Rayno said, okay. I didn't realize that. Thank you, I appreciate that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Metts. Any other —, have any other questions? I think we'll be supportive of that and we'll move for approval.

Commissioner Odell said, I'll make a motion to approve Dr. Metts' request. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, we have a second.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, let me ask for just clarity. What do you want to take the salary from the —, what, \$42,000 to what? Chairman Hair said, no. Dr. Metts said, I'm sorry. Initially —. Chairman Hair said, take it to \$39,000. County Attorney Hart said, \$26,460 to \$39,000. County Manager Abolt said, if you would please, Dr. Thomas and gentlemen, just look at the fourth piece of paper on this agenda item and you'll see from Mr. Read DeHaven, Budget Officer, that the —, again, it's very easy for you if you choose, you essentially are making an allocation of a total of \$49,620, which includes salary and benefits.

Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Rivers said, Russ [Abolt] —. Chairman Hair said, we understand. Commissioner Rivers said, a question, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers asked, where are we going to get this from? Are you going to be able to pull it from —? Dr. Metts said, we should have some reduction in budget because the Georgia —, the Examiner's Office has been moved out to —, out of here. So we've had to pay a lot of autopsies not done by the State because we've had to go through those local —. Commissioner Rivers said, what I'm interest in, Dr. Metts, is where are we going to get it and is it continuous stream of revenue. That's my —.

County Manager Abolt said, to make it easy and realizing the consequence of this amount of money, it's very small in relation to what we'll all be dealing with in a few weeks. Why don't you just in your motion direct me to amend the Level 1 budget for Coroner to reflect the \$49,620 and then we'll be able to deal with the overall County budget issues in total as opposed to trying to focus —. Commissioner Rivers said, I'll offer that as an amendment.

Chairman Hair asked, will you accept that? Chairman Hair said, from Mr. Rivers, I'll accept. Chairman Hair asked, and Dr. Thomas' second? Commissioner Thomas said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay. All right —. Commissioner Odell said, and for John [McMasters] today, you've been good. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner Kicklighter has another question.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, Russ [Abolt], what does that person make right this second? County Manager Abolt said, Dr. Metts says \$26,460. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and we want to take them to \$49,620. Chairman Hair said, no, that's with benefits too now. \$39,000 is the salary. That includes the fringes, the benefits to —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. [Inaudible] what the other counties are, so that's good. Chairman Hair said, right, there are still a bunch below. Dr. Metts said, a Nurse Practitioner —.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion passes. Thank you, Dr. Metts and Ms. Smith, thank you. We appreciate you —. Dr. Metts said, I extend my thanks to the Commission. Thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Metts.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from Dr. James C. Metts for a pay increase for the Deputy Coroner from \$26,420 to \$39,000, and authorize the County Manager to amend the Level 1 budget for Coroner to reflect \$49,620, which includes County benefits of FICA, medical benefits and pension. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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X. ACTION CALENDAR

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

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? Commissioner Odell said, move for approval —. Commissioner Murray said, E. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, E. Okay, E. All right, I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of —. Commissioner Rayno said, hold on, hold on. Chairman Hair said, come on, Jeff [Rayno]. Commissioner Rayno said, number seven please. Chairman Hair said, seven, okay. All right, we have a motion and a second to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 1 and 10-G. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

[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 JUNE 13, 2003, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of June 13, 2003, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD JUNE 4 THROUGH JUNE 16, 2003.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period June 4, 2003, through June 16, 2003, in the amount of \$4,662,747. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE REQUEST FOR EARLY ACQUISITION FROM MR. AND MRS. BRADFORD SMITH AT 9115 WHITFIELD AVENUE DUE TO THE WIDENING PROJECT. [DISTRICT 1.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Smith for early acquisition of 9115 Whitfield Avenue due to the widening project. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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4. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED FIVE-YEAR SHORT TERM SOLID WASTE WORK PLAN. [ALL DISTRICTS.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the resolution adopting the updated five-year short term Solid Waste Work Plan to maintain compliance with the requirements of State legislation. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

WHEREAS, Chatham County has completed a Five-Year **Solid Waste Short-term Work Program for the period 2003 to 2007**; and

WHEREAS, the Short-term Work Program Update has been approved by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs per the Solid Waste Planning Act of 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Chatham County Commission does hereby adopt the Short-Term work Plan Update as an Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Plan, as per the requirements of the Georgia Solid Waste Management Act of 1990.

Adopted this 27th day of June, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk of Commission

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5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM UPDATE TO RDC.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to adopt a resolution to submit the Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program Update to the Regional Development Center (RDC) and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commissioners herewith inform the Georgia Department of Community Affairs that the following action was taken on June 27, 2003; and,

WHEREAS, the one public hearing regarding the updating to the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program was held on May 22, 2003, in order to obtain public input and comment which were incorporated into the Short Term Work Program; and

WHEREAS, the Chatham County Commissioners, in order to maintain compliance with the requirements of State legislation regarding review and updating of comprehensive plans, have reviewed the updated Comprehensive Short Term Work Program, which is attached to this Resolution.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chatham County Commissioners hereby transmit to the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center and Department of Community Affairs, the updated Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program for

Chatham County via this Resolution, and request that the Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center and Department of Community Affairs enter the Chatham County Comprehensive Plan Short Term Work Program into the review process.

ADOPTED: This 27th day of June, 2003.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk of Commission

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6. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH GEORGIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to enter into a grant agreement with Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) for Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to receive funds in the amount of \$61,568 for updating Chatham County’s Local Emergency Operations Plan (LEOP). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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7. REQUEST BOARD AFFIRM CHAIRMAN’S SIGNATURE FOR THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CHATHAM COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT DRUG COURT AND THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I just wanted to take this time to thank Judge Bass for his excellent work and his program and the fact that he took some time to approach the Regional Board to ask for these funds and they came through. I think it’s a great program. I will help keep people out of the jail system, and I wish them the most success.

Commissioner Odell said, it’s an excellent program and it will help intervene and hopefully we won’t have that revolving door which some of these people —. It’s a tough program.

Commissioner Rayno said, with the success rate he’s had, which is well over 90%, that should be true. I make a motion to approve. Commissioner Odell said, I second.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion to approve. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Before we move [sic] that though, just to comment. I concur with Chairman —, Commissioner Rayno about —. I promoted him. Commissioner Rayno said, I’m moving it up. We had a good day today. Chairman Hair said, Judge Bass really has —, has done a yeoman’s task with this Drug Court and I think you probably had something in your packet. The reason that we’re affirming the signature was because there was a timing issue and Judge Bass needed me to sign the agreement in advance of the —. I just wanted to make sure the record reflects that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to affirm the Chairman’s signature for the contract between the Chatham County Superior Court Drug Court and the Georgia Department of Human Resources. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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8. REQUEST FOR NEW WINE POURING LICENSE FOR 2003. PETITIONER: GARY C. GRIFFIN, D/B/A SMITH BROTHERS VILLAGE MARKET, LOCATED AT 50-C MEETING STREET.

[DISTRICT 4.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the petition of Gary C. Griffin, d/b/a Smith Brothers Village Market, located at 50-C Meeting Street, for a new wine pouring license for 2003. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO RENEW LIABILITY AND HULL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR SPECIFIED MOSQUITO CONTROL AIRCRAFT.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve a request to renew liability and hull insurance coverage for specified Mosquito Control aircraft as follows: \$1 Million Combined Single Limit (bodily injury and property damage) for any one occurrence for three aircraft - \$3,000; \$5 Million Combined Single Limit for MD 500-E Helicopter - \$4,000; hull coverage (physical damages) for (1) MD 500-E Helicopter (valued at \$450,000) - \$34,000 (deductible \$1,000 not in motion; \$40,000 in motion) and (2) Piper Aztec PA-23 (valued at \$350,000) - \$26,250 (deductible \$250 not in motion; \$35,000 in motion) for total renewal premium for all coverages in the amount of \$67,250. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. SQL server	Tax Commissioner	Dell Marketing, LP (state contract)	\$16,461.24	General Fund/M&O - Tax Commissioner
B. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms to provide mowing of approximately 142 miles of drainage canals	Public Works	Myers and Son	\$47,474.80 per cycle	General Fund/M&O - County wide drainage (pending Board adoption of FY 2004 budget)
C. Annual contract with automatic renewal options for two additional one year terms to apply herbicide to approximately 137 miles of drainage canals	Public Works	Public Works	\$32,725 for the first cycle and each subsequent cycle at cost stated	General Fund/M&O - County wide drainage (pending Board adoption of FY 2004 budget)
D. Data network infrastructure	ICS	Cisco Systems, Inc. (state contract)	\$32,407.27	General Fund/M&O - Communications
E. Change Order No. 7 to the contract for the design of the Middleground Road/ Montgomery Crossroad Widening project	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	\$22,455	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road Widening project
F. Change Order No. 7 to the contract for the construction of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway at S.R. 21 for additional work	SPLOST	R .B. Baker Construction Company, Inc.	\$10,273.22	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Jimmy DeLoach Parkway Interchange
G. Five (5) year service agreement for the County portion of the 800MHz Smartzone communication system	ICS	Motorola, Inc. (sole source)	\$825,131.19	General Fund/M&O - Communications (pending Board adoption of FY2004 budget)

As to Items 10-A through 10-G, except Item 10-E:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-G, except Item 10-E. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

As to Item 10-E:

Change Oder No. 7 to the contract for the design of the Middleground Road/Montgomery Crossroad Widening project; SPLOST; Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung; \$22,455; SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road Widening Project.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Al [Bungard], I'd just like to ask, I know that they have the original contract on that. County Engineer Bungard asked, sir? Commissioner Murray said, I know that Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung has the original contract on this. County Engineer Bungard said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, and this is Change Order No. 7. County Engineer Bungard said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray asked, do we have to by law go with them or can that part of it go with another company? County Engineer Bungard said, I don't think it makes much sense to go with another company. Commissioner Murray said, I move to table it for two weeks so we can discuss it more. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor of tabling it vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-G, except Items 10-E. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table to the next meeting the change order outlined in Item 10-E. Commissioners McMasters and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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XI. FIRST READINGS

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

None.

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

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). None for this agenda.**

No items were presented for this agenda.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written reports were received as information.

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- 4. **RESPONSE TO DATE REGARDING ISSUES RAISED ON INSPECTIONS PROCESS. (Note: This staff report will be distributed on Wednesday.)**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Odell and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 12:05 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:50 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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APPOINTMENTS

1. PERSONNEL ADVISORY BOARD

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Thomas moved to appoint Tammy Cox Stokes to the Personnel Advisory Board to a term which will expire 12/31/06 to replace James Brown. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to four.

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2. LIBRARY BOARD

Chairman Hair called for votes to be taken individually on the six nominees for appointment to two positions on the Live Oak Regional Library Board as follows:

Dr. Daniel Brantley:

Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the nominee. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The appointment of Dr. Brantley was approved by a vote of five to four.

Dorothy Pelote:

Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the nominee. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The appointment of Dorothy Pelote failed by a vote of five to four.

Norman Ravitch:

Commissioner Rayno voted in favor of the nominee. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of Norman Ravitch failed by a vote of eight to one.

Louis S. Off:

Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in favor of the nominee. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The appointment of Louis S. Off failed by a vote of five to four.

Neil C. Johnson:

Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the nominee. Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of Neil C. Johnson carried by a vote of five to four.

Jocelyn Shilling:

Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the nominee. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of Jocelyn Shilling failed by a vote of five to four.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. A vote was taken to appoint Dr. Daniel Brantley to the Live Oak Regional Library Board to a term to expire June 30, 2006, to the position previously held by Velma McKenzie. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in favor. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in opposition. The appointment of Dr. Brantley was approved by a vote of five to four.
2. A vote was taken to appoint Neil C. Johnson to the Live Oak Regional Library Board to a term to expire June 30, 2005, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cathy Johnson. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the nominee. Commissioners Rivers, Murray, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of Neil C. Johnson carried by a vote of five to four.

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3. CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

Chairman Hair called for votes to be taken individually on the two nominees for appointment to one position on the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors as follows:

James A. Gunter:

Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the nominee. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of James A. Gunter was approved by a vote of five to four.

The appointment of James A. Gunter having been approved by a five to four vote, it voided the need to vote on the remaining nominee, Charlie Williams.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A vote was taken to appoint James A. Gunter to serve on the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Jimmy Fields, which term will expire June 27, 2005. Commissioners Rayno, McMasters, Murray, Gellatly and Kicklighter voted in favor of the nominee. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, Odell and Thomas voted in opposition. The appointment of James A. Gunter was approved by a vote of five to four.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2003

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

SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK