

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 2, 2003.

=====

II. INVOCATION

Chairman Hair gave the invocation.

=====

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

=====

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
John J. McMasters, District Three
Harris Odell, Jr., District Five
David M. Gellatly, District Six

ABSENT: Jeffrey D. Rayno, District One
Joe Murray Rivers, District Two
B. Dean Kicklighter, District Seven

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

=====

V. ACTION ITEMS

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
A. Annual Price Agreement for the "as needed, funds available" basis, model year 2004 Crown Victoria Police sedans	Fleet Operations	J. C. Lewis Ford	\$20,276.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •CIP - Vehicle Replacement •General Fund/M&O - Various •SSD - Various •SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I'll move for approval with discussion. Chairman Hair asked, is there a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, point of clarification, Dr. Hair. In the memo of August 25th that you sent out calling this meeting you said that this meeting would be exclusively for the sole purpose of this one item and the agenda has three items. Can we legally proceed on the additional two items? Chairman Hair said, yes, I've added those items and I sent out the information to all the Commissioners. You should have gotten it last week. That should have been added and you had the staff background before that. Commissioner McMasters asked, so we're okay in terms of notification to the press this meeting wasn't exclusively for the one purpose then? Chairman Hair said, I believe that is correct. Madam Clerk, could you —, where's the attorney? We probably need to get the attorney here. See if we can get —, Mr. Kaigler, would you go next door and see if you can get Ms. Garrard and we'll ask the attorney the question. Whatever [inaudible]. I believe the law clearly allows for me to set the agenda. I believe that's correct. While we're waiting, I think we can go ahead and entertain your questions about this item to save time. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Commissioner McMasters said, I'd like to point out that the original discussion that we had in the pre-meeting of August 22nd characterized this as a —, as a purchase and we were unclear as to how many vehicles were the subject of this purchase, and it was my request that for the public to be able to have as much access and ability to participate in this democratic process that we not handle this in any other fashion except in this meeting, so I'm glad that we're holding this meeting. Should we ask the County Attorney the question or should I continue? Chairman Hair said, continue with this item. This item is not question. Let's finish this item and then we have him answer —, I'll ask the attorney.

Commissioner McMasters said, I have some specific questions about the vehicles, but I want to make the distinction that in the pre-meeting of August 22nd no one seemed to know the number of vehicles that we were purchasing. The County Manager thought it was 10 and we've since learned that it is, I think, 36 vehicles. County Manager Abolt said, I didn't say 10, I said many. Commissioner McMasters said, my understanding was —. County Manager Abolt said, I think Mr. Monahan said 10. Commissioner McMasters said, I think Mr. Monahan said more than 10, but that's immaterial, Russ [Abolt]. We now know that it's six, seven hundred thousand dollars worth of vehicles and we know the funding is from SPLOST. I'd like to know if these vehicles are what is known as the police interceptor models. Mr. Stuart Chatham said, yes, they are. Commissioner McMasters asked, Mr. Chatham, is that correct? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. And are those —, is that model more costly than the basic Crown Vic? Mr. Chatham said, it depends, but generally yes, it is some more expensive. Commissioner McMasters asked, so it is more expensive? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner McMasters asked, and you don't know by how much? Mr. Chatham said, no, we haven't bought an administrative Crown Vic in probably five or six years. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I'll defer if anyone else has any questions, but I'll probably have a couple more questions.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Stuart [Chatham], on the —, maybe you don't know the answer to this —, I noticed on the list we were faxed today that the District Attorney's office has two vehicles and those two vehicles will be Crown Vics also, the same vehicle? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, why would they need a vehicle like that rather than a smaller vehicle? Or was —, is it —, well, go ahead and answer. Mr. Chatham said, we've found through experience that the Crown Vics are an extremely durable vehicle especially in high mileage slots like the DA uses, like Child Support uses, Police and Sheriff. They last so long that their purchase price is offset by the number of miles that they're capable of traveling. Commissioner Murray said, okay. All right. Mr. Chatham said, so it makes it —, basically it's just a question of economics. Commissioner Murray said, okay. The other question I had, I was looking at —, maybe you wouldn't be the person to answer this. Russ [Abolt], maybe somebody else —. County Manager Abolt said, whatever you think. Commissioner Murray said, it's to do with the bids. County Manager Abolt said, yes, sir. Commissioner Murray said, and I know we've got a policy that we set a number of years ago that the low local bidder would have an option to match the lowest bid from an outside-the-County bidder if that outside-County person is lower, which is the case in this. I guess my real question would be is O. C. Welch has facilities in Savannah also and in Beaufort. Now was this sent specifically to Beaufort? County Manager Abolt said, I'd have to ask —. Commissioner Murray asked, or was it a purchase —. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Parson? Commissioner Murray asked, — or would

it have been out of the [inaudible] and would have that have put him as the low bidder locally, too? Mr. Chatham said, his bid was from his Beaufort office. Commissioner Murray said, okay. Mr. Chatham said, on the cover sheet of our bid package is the company name and address. Commissioner Murray asked, so had he bid that through his Savannah office, they would then have been the low local bidder? Mr. Chatham said, it would at least have been questionable because I think his Savannah office is used cars, not new cars. Commissioner Murray said, but they sell —, I don't know, maybe that's just trucks they sell, I don't know. Chairman Hair said, yeah, I'm not sure that legally he can sell new cars. Mr. Chatham said, but it did come from his Beaufort office. Commissioner Murray said, okay. That's my question.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters asked, Mr. Chatham, do you know on this list of 36 vehicles to be replaced any idea how many of the mileage —, how much of this mileage is, approximately, take home miles as opposed to patrol miles? Mr. Chatham said, no, I don't. No, sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, the disposition of these 36 vehicles, what is our plan —, your plan to dispose of them? Mr. Chatham asked, the 36 that are coming out? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, sir. Actually I see three are salvage, so —. Mr. Chatham said, right. Commissioner McMasters said, — we'll call it 33. Mr. Chatham said, the units that come out will be put up for public auction per our ordinances. That's a requirement and that's what we do with them. Commissioner McMasters asked, so they'll be —? Mr. Chatham said, sold. Commissioner McMasters asked, — auctioned, sold? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner McMasters asked, where will the —, where will the revenue go? Mr. Chatham said, in the last six or seven years we've worked with David Persaud to have that money plowed back into the Vehicle Replacement Fund. County Manager Abolt said, that's the way —, that's the way it's done by policy. Commissioner McMasters asked, so since the purchase is —, if I understand this, we're going to purchase it with SPLOST money and the salvage or auction money is going to go back into Vehicle Replacement? County Manager Abolt said, replacement. Mr. Chatham said, it will not go back into SPLOST because SPLOST didn't pay for the cars that are going away, but it would go —, traditionally it has gone back into CIP. County Manager Abolt said, and traditionally we have used it to replace —, because we've had no money, so what we tried to do is eke out a little bit. You might remember, it happens very infrequently during the year, we'll replace one or two vehicles at just deadline and you'll see in there it says from the sale of. So we get a little bit of change and we use it to buy up new vehicles. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. The —, you know, my mother and father-in-law have a Crown Vic, heavy duty chassis, rear-end. [Inaudible] up here and they've got about, I believe, 160–65,000 miles on it. It's a very reliable car and it's an excellent choice. Could you just help us understand how —, there's only one vehicle —, I'm sorry, two vehicles on this list of 36 that have more than 150,000 miles. So my guess is that a lot of these miles are take home miles. I know the Sheriff doesn't do high speed pursuit on a regular basis, it's more of an administrative type of driving. How is it that these vehicles in your estimation are in need of replacement at 102,000, 104,000, 106,600? Mr. Chatham said, the column that you're looking at is how many miles they have now. The column next to it would be our projection for how many miles they will have by this time next year at their current rate of use. With '98 model year and newer, we replace —, or we plan for replacement when they reach 115,000 by the start of the budget year or if they're going to go over 125,000 by the end of the budget year. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. What are you going to _____ the projected next fiscal year if it's only six vehicles that will surpass 150,000 miles? Mr. Chatham asked, 160? Commissioner McMasters said, 150. Mr. Chatham said, right, we use 125 as our change out. Commissioner McMasters asked, do you have any idea what other counties experience with this model vehicle in terms of reliable mileage, figures with their —? Mr. Chatham said, we've been trying to find where the bottom, if you will, of the Crown Vics are and we've been creeping up for a number of years. We really haven't found exactly where the end of the car is. Ten years ago the replacement criteria was 75,000 miles, but one of the benefits, if you will, of having a very poor replacement program is we've been able to follow cars for quite a number of miles and to see how reliable they are and where they tend to start falling apart. What I could add is that the car which your family has is probably not used eight hours a day like many of these cars are, and where a car sits and idles for a long period of time when you're filling out reports or whatever you're doing, the miles won't reflect completely the entire use of the car. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Well, would you consider these cars with 102,000 and 106,000, 107,000 considerably unreliable? Mr. Chatham said, they're reaching the area that makes them questionable enough for us to include in the list, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so not now, but in the next fiscal year. Mr. Chatham said, right. We're at the point where we need to replace —, we're at the point where we've finally gotten some money and we're planning to make some replacements, and I've always looked at this as a seasonal thing. Commissioner McMasters said, sure. Mr. Chatham said, you replace it when you get the money based on what you plan —, what you see coming at you —. Commissioner McMasters said, right, so it's your —. Mr. Chatham said, — and that's very hard. Commissioner McMasters said, forgive me. So it's your position as the Fleet Maintenance Director that these cars in the near future ought to be replaced —. Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, and that they're reliable now. Mr. Chatham said, they're reliable at this point, and just because —, what we tried to factor in is their cost curve. Where we try to cycle in and out of the fleet is based on their economy. If you looked at a curve of value, you would see it dropping from the point of ownership and getting lower and lower and lower in the out years. At the same time, the cost of operation of the vehicle is rising as the vehicle gets older. At the point that those two curves meet is the optimum point of replacement just based on cost. We did a study that covered probably about seven or eight million miles of operation about four years ago, and it had the cross of the graph at about 100,000 miles. That was what the math showed was the change out point. We're pushing well past that on these.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, I want you to know I appreciate your stewardship in Fleet Maintenance and in reference —, I mean, this was presented as a critical purchase and a severe problem and yet the data from you and also your testimony seems to indicate that this is a very necessary thing, but it's going to be a planned phased rotation of vehicles. So I appreciate your testimony, but I'm kind of wondering why we're having a special meeting. Chairman

Hair said, we're having a special meeting because you raised the issue that you needed to ask questions and I gave you that opportunity.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Gellatly.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I want to make a personal observation on the bid process, and I have a personal interest in that O. C. Welch's brand new multimillion dollar dealership is right in the middle of my district. He has another business in Savannah also. He lives in Savannah and as far as I know he's been a resident, if not life-long resident at least for a long time in Chatham County. He is not an obscure dealer from Atlanta and I think when he makes a bid that we should, if legal, we need to give that fair and adequate consideration because obviously he pays more taxes —, he's probably in the top 10% in the entire county as far as paying taxes are concerned. So I personally think that if it's legal and he was the low bidder, in this case he should have gotten the bid. He is, in fact, a local dealer as far as I'm concerned. Secondly, just some observations I want to make from my experience from another life when I used to work for a living. You know, 20 years ago the word police interceptor meant a super big charged engine that would go 130 miles an hour just like that. Today that doesn't mean that. As a matter of fact, you're probably getting one of the smaller V-8 engines that Crown Victoria puts out and what it does mean is that a police interceptor has heavy duty equipment that's not likely to wear out as quickly as the average car. Such things as batteries, alternators, frames, transmissions, heavy duty shocks and things of this nature. I, too, want to make sure that we don't buy expensive automobiles unnecessarily, but I think that we all recognize the fact that if you don't replace a vehicle, why the maintenance is going to eventually cost as much as the replacement of the vehicle would be also. One of the reasons that obviously the Chatham County Police and it's obvious to all of us why their marked vehicles need to be replaced in a timely manner, but it's not maybe so obvious for the Sheriff's marked cars. The Sheriff's marked cars might not go on high pursuits very often, if ever, but on the other hand what they do do is they transport some of the most vicious, dangerous criminals in this County, and what we don't need is for one of those vehicles to break down in the middle of nowhere with a deputy and things of this nature, and those things can and do happen. Another problem with high mileage cars in law enforcement is that a vehicle —, you know, and times have changed over the years. You can correct me, but vehicles will develop stress cracks in frames and they can sometimes present themselves in the worst possible conditions when they get up in miles and those are the things that we have to take into consideration. I think this is a chunk of money at one time for us to have to spend for vehicles, but then I would ask my fellow Commissioners if we all look back through no fault of our own over the last several years why we haven't had much money to replace these vehicles, and one of the ways that we had to keep a balanced budget was to reduce the number of replacement vehicles, and this is basically a chicken that's come home to roost since we have the money and I think we need to purchase the vehicles. I would hope that —, I would have to trust your judgment. I don't know what —, not to pick on the District Attorney's cars, I'm not —, if you're still saying in this day and time a Crown Victoria is a —, money wise is a efficient vehicle to buy for them, why, I have to trust your judgment. On the other hand, that's an awful big luxury car and it could send the wrong message to the taxpayers. That's all I have.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell, Dr. Thomas and then myself.

Commissioner Odell asked, are some of these vehicles taken home by the officers? Mr. Chatham said, yes, sir. Commissioner Odell asked, is that true? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, okay. And why do they do that? Sheriff Al St. Lawrence said, the only people that take vehicles homes in my department is some of the street personnel because they're on call and administrative staff, and I'm talking about when I say administrative staff, I'm talking about _____, the Under Sheriff and myself, because quite often we're called to come back in. Commissioner Odell said, sure. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'd like to point out that we have a fleet of about 45 vehicles right now and some are transport _____ and et cetera, but 45% of those or 45 of those vehicles or 47% have got over 100,000 miles on them now. Now through no fault of your own, we haven't had the money the last few years. I've gotten three cars in the last three years. That's why —. Commissioner Odell said, _____. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, — that's why we're in the condition we are now and age makes a difference too. I've got 44 vehicles that are 10 years old, 44 that are 10 years old. Nothing last forever. I'm very grateful that we were able to get within SPLOST and we're going to get some vehicles. I need these vehicles. Urgency. I've got nine in the salvage yard right now and I've got two more that Mr. Chatham talked to me about putting in the salvage yard. I can't afford to part with them. It's going to take three or four months if you order these cars tomorrow to get them here and get them in service. That's our problem because we haven't kept up with the last three years in M&O and there's been a reason for that. There has been no money. I think a year, year and a half ago when I was up here for my budget, Commissioner, you asked both myself and Danny Powers to work with you, and I sat back and I, you know, there wasn't no money, wasn't no point in taking a fuss about it, but that's not the case now. I need the vehicles. I need to get them on order, and as soon as I can get them the better and get them in service. That's all. Commissioner Odell said, Al [St. Lawrence], I'm going to support the purchase of vehicles _____ made that determination. The gist of my question was whether or not at some point during my stay here an official told me that having the officers take the vehicles home is a way of deterrence. My question is some of these vehicles, maybe not here, maybe the Police Department, the people live in Bryan County and Effingham and other places. While I'm concerned about Bryan County and Effingham, I don't care about deterring their crime. I'm concerned about Chatham County. That's apparent though so taking a vehicle out of the County for home concerns me. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, that's not happening. Commissioner Odell said, and I'm not —, I didn't think that it was with your department. That's one concern. The other concern is most people do not realize how many subpoenas your people have to serve and they attribute that all to lawyers suing over hot coffee in the lap, but most of it's collections where people are being sued over bills, which nonetheless have to have a subpoena served, and I've seen the guys running from pillar to post to do that and this Commission has been served a fair number of times with law suits _____. Commissioner Gellatly said, just this morning. Commissioner Odell said, just this morning. I don't have a problem with the vehicles.

If you're happy with the purchase —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'm not happy. I wish we could get rid of the fleet, at least 25% of it a year, and stay in good shape. I mean, you don't get the work done, Commissioner, when they're sitting at the shop getting repaired. You don't have any pool vehicles at all because it's been so long since we've had any vehicles. If I —, you know, that's no problem of y'all, but there wasn't no money. I understand that. Commissioner Odell said, yeah, but, Al, we are the ones who create the money. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I understand that. Commissioner Odell said, so we're the only people who can raise Chatham County citizens' taxes —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I'm not asking you to do that. Commissioner Odell said, — I know that we're not, but my point is to play the safe _____ it's not our fault. I take exception to that. I assume full responsibility. It is our fault. We're the reason you have not had vehicles. This is an opportunity for you to have vehicles, some of the vehicles. Some of them. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yes, it's not going to cure all our problems, but it's certainly going to put us in better shape than we've been. Commissioner Odell said, and you're happy with the purchase. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I think anytime you can buy a Crown Vic, the heavy duty suspension for \$20,276, that's probably the best price we've had in the last three or four years. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas, Commissioner McMasters and then me.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just wanted to say that I certainly am in favor of allowing these vehicles to be purchased basically because, as everyone has said, for a long time there was a need for making purchases, but we did not have the funds to do so. So, therefore, we made a concerted effort to make sure that this was included in the SPLOST funds so that this would give us an opportunity to make some purchases that were needed, and I really feel that over the years during the time that I have been on this Commission I know that the Sheriff has been very prudent in terms of making requests in terms of purchases that were needed. So, therefore, when we look in terms of durability, longevity, cost factor and that kind of thing, I'm for that. You can look at maybe something that costs even less, but what about the longevity of the purchase, and I'm that way at my house. If something needs fixing, I don't like patching. I can't stand patching. I mean, if you're going to fix it, fix it. So here we have an opportunity to allow these needs to be purchased, and I would like to go on record to say that I do support that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Chatham, I don't know if you're the right person to answer, but I'm going to try it. Take, for instance, the Sheriff's Jail vehicle 772. It's a Crown Vic with 165,000 miles on it. When that vehicle is replaced with one of these new vehicles, who determines will that new —, my question, will that new vehicle go into the Jail to replace that vehicle and likewise in the Patrol Division or 795 with 148,000, will one of the new vehicles be going into Patrol? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the Colonel and I will make that decision, but I can tell you right now you're talking about transport vehicles and they will be replaced with new ones because those are the vehicles that made the runs up and down the road all the time transferring prisoners. I've got 22 people outside Chatham County, 12 of them outside the State that need to be brought back to Chatham County in the next couple of months, and these are the cars that you're talking about and they are going to be replaced. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so the 36 vehicles that are outgoing will be replaced with the incoming new 36? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, I've already got some in the salvage yard. I've got nine in the salvage yard now. So I'm going to have to make up that number between the 36 and whatever the number is and what I've got in the salvage yard now. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, so —, but forgetting the salvage vehicles, the ones that are on the road and in use now in either department 3300 or 3326, which is the Jail versus generic Sheriff, those vehicles will go into those respective areas. Mr. Chatham said, in the 60 to 90 days that it takes to deliver these cars, the circumstances may change. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, sure. Mr. Chatham said, we will get rid of the worst cars in those two fleets at the time that the new cars are available. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and that worst outgoing car will be replaced with the new car? Mr. Chatham said, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, and that person that drove that worst car will be driving the new car. Is that correct? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, not necessarily. Not necessarily. Commissioner McMasters asked, why not necessarily? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, your transport it would be whoever's on transport at that particular time and the other area deputies that have been here longer may get a new car and their car may go down to another deputy. Mr. Chatham said, see, he could already have his worst cars in low use slots so that he can slide the next worst cars down into the low use slots and put the best cars in the most necessary points. He can —, we suggest that they slide their stuff all around to kind of level out the use and keep the most needed and dependable vehicles in the toughest spots.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Sheriff St. Lawrence, are you anticipating installing radar in any of these vehicles? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the only car that I have radar in is the one that's assigned to K-9, which they —, it's a State training facility out here for canines and they do interdiction with that officer and he does have a radar in his car, yes. Commissioner McMasters said, so just out of curiosity, do you know about how much —, how many units do you have with radar? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, I think I only have one? John _____ said, we have some units _____ do the traffic periodically. Commissioner Odell said, I think his question is installed. Chairman Hair said, he's talking about —. Mr. Chatham said, hard mounted. Commissioner Odell said, installed. Commissioner McMasters asked, is that the expression, hard mounted on —, in dash? I've seen a few in cars so I'm just curious. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yeah, yeah. Well, I know it ain't that many, but John [_____], do you know how many exactly it is? Mr. _____ said, no, sir. It's probably two more on top of the one K-9 that you're referring to. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, okay. Commissioner McMasters asked, so you're not going to be needing in these? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, no, I'm going —, all the equipment that we've got is interchangeable with what we have. Commissioner McMasters said, right. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, cages will fit —, the cages we're using now will fit and so forth and so on, radios will be transferred. Commissioner McMasters asked, so is that the plan, you swap out —? Mr. Chatham said, it's a big jump that happens whenever a bunch of cars come in. All the stuff has to be pulled out

of the old ones and reinstalled in the new ones. Commissioner McMasters said, right. Okay, I just wanted —, I'm obviously supportive of this, I just wanted to be able to ask these questions and have —, I think any time that we spend a huge amount of taxpayer money, such as this, that we should do it —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, the only reason —. Commissioner McMasters said, — in open session and in no other way should we do it except in this manner. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, the only reason we are, Commissioner, it's been a while since we've updated the fleet and, as I told you, I've got 44% of the cars are 10 years old and, you know, as Commissioner Gellatly pointed out, age takes its toll on vehicles as well. Commissioner McMasters said, doesn't it. Well, I wasn't around for those dark years, but —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, well, I know. Commissioner McMasters said, — I'm glad the County's in better financial shape and that we're able to do this. Chairman Hair said, it was not that dark. Commissioner McMasters said, Harris [Odell].

Chairman Hair asked, are you finished? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, thank you. Chairman Hair said, I have a question. First, Mr. Sheriff, is it your opinion —, you're a constitutional officer, correct? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, correct. Chairman Hair asked, is it your opinion that you have the authority without any permission of this Commission to assign cars to anybody you need to assign cars to? Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. I'm going to run my department now. I can appreciate the questions people don't understand, but I'm going to make those decisions about where those cars go. Chairman Hair said, and that's as it should be, Mr. Sheriff. I mean, it's your job —. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, absolutely. I know where the greatest needs are and what the problems are. Chairman Hair said, I just wanted to clarify that and that that's not our role, Mr. Sheriff. Sheriff St. Lawrence said, okay. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Chatham? Mr. Chatham said, yes, sir. Chairman Hair asked, do you consider yourself an expert? Commissioner Odell said, say yes. Mr. Chatham said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Chatham, would you consider —, let me rephrase the question. Do you consider yourself probably more knowledgeable about the fleet and cars and maintenance than most people on the staff? Mr. Chatham said, I'm the best you've got. Commissioner Murray said, and we're glad to have you too. Commissioner Thomas said, all right. Chairman Hair said, and I personally appreciate the job you do. I think we should always listen to you since you are the expert. We pay you the big bucks to be the expert and I hope that in the future we listen to you.

Chairman Hair said, all right. I'll call for the question. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 1-A. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

POINT OF CLARIFICATION

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Attorney, Commissioner McMasters has raised a point of order. It is my understanding that in setting the agenda that I have the right to add items to the agenda. He's questioning my authority to add Item 2 and Item 3 even though they were submitted in advance. I need to get a ruling on that. County Attorney Hart said, you have the right to add things to the agenda. This is a specially called meeting and in order to meet the requirements under the Open Records Law, those two items would have to be listed in the agenda, and in discussing that with the County Manager, it's my understanding it was properly advertised and noticed. Chairman Hair said, they were properly advertised, okay. Thank you.

=====

2. REQUEST FOR BUSINESS NAME CHANGE OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2003. PETITIONER: NANCY LUCKEY, D/B/A DRIFTAWAY CAFÉ, LOCATED AT 216 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. BUSINESS WAS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS DOC AND BENNIE'S. [DISTRICT 4.]

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray, this is in your district. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I move for approval. Everything's already been [inaudible]. Chairman Hair said, everything's in order. Do I have a second? Commissioner Odell said, I'll second.

An unidentified gentleman in the audience said, it's not read right. It's a change of name. Chairman Hair said, it's a change of name only. An unidentified lady in the audience said, right, and also —. Chairman Hair said, the location stays the same. Is that correct? The unidentified lady in the audience said, yes, and also, you know, we need more than just the Sunday sales of course. Commissioner Murray said, well, that's all there. Chairman Hair said, well, that's

what it says. The unidentified gentleman in the audience said, okay. Chairman Hair said, it says and the liquor pouring license. It says both. We just want to make sure you get [inaudible]. The unidentified lady in the audience said, okay. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, okay, thank you very much.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the petition of Nancy Luckey, d/b/a Driftaway Café, located at 216 Johnny Mercer Boulevard, for a transfer and business name change of a previously approved renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2003 for a business previously known as Doc and Bennie's. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL LEASE AGREEMENT WITH MELAVER FAMILY PROPERTIES, INC., FOR APPROXIMATELY 1,202 SQUARE FEET OF OFFICE SPACE LOCATED IN PHASE III OF THE WILMINGTON ISLAND SHOPPING CENTER AT A COST OF \$1,502.50 PER MONTH WITH A 3% ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT. THIS SPACE WOULD BE USED FOR THE RELOCATION OF THE WILMINGTON ISLAND SATELLITE TAG OFFICE.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Commissioner Odell said, let's have a discussion. Danny [Powers] is here. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to enter into an annual lease agreement with Melaver Family Properties, Inc., for approximately 1,202 square feet of office space located in Phase III of the Wilmington Island Shopping Center, to be used for the relocation of the Wilmington Island satellite tag office, at a cost of \$1,502.50 per month with a 3% annual adjustment. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present.]

=====

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Hair said, that completes our agenda. We appreciate everyone coming.

There being no further business to come before the Commissioners, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

APPROVED: This _____ day of _____, 2003

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk