

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2003, IN THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE CHATHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, 124 BULL STREET, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Billy Hair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., Friday, December 19, 2003.

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**II. INVOCATION**

Mr. Van Johnson gave the invocation.

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**III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

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**IV. ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Chairman Hair introduced the following Youth Commissioner who was in attendance: Ashley Jackson, a Junior at St. Vincent's Academy.

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## **V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. PROCLAMATION FOR HAROLDENE "DENE" SALTER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE LIBRARY.**

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, library assistants are required to perform various duties and are very instrumental in ensuring the successful operation of libraries, and in that regard, we salute one who performs those duties, Haroldene "Dene" Salter; and

**WHEREAS**, she began her career with the Port Wentworth Branch Library on February 13, 1989 as a Library Assistant II and has worked there in that capacity ever since; and

**WHEREAS**, Haroldene Salter has decided to reap the rewards of her labor and will be retiring December 31, 2003.

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

#### **HAROLDENE "DENE" SALTER**

and express appreciation for over fourteen years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chatham County and extend best wishes for a happy, healthy and long retirement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 19th day of December 2003.

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Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

#### **ATTEST:**

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Salter said, I'll just take a moment. I remember a few years ago I was very eager to go out and find a job and I did find a perfect one for me. Right now though the time has come when I'm eager to stop working and do some other things. I have enjoyed this time with the library, and I hope the future is going to be bright. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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### **2. PROCLAMATION FOR ST. VINCENT'S ACADEMY VARSITY VOLLEYBALL TEAM.**

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to read one proclamation, but we have copies of the proclamation for each one of the team members. Chairman Hair then read the following proclamation into the record:

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County is privileged to have talented, committed youth that set goals and aim high to accomplish them, and in that spirit we salute with great pride, St. Vincent's Academy Volleyball Team; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 8, 2003 in the Westminster School in Atlanta, Georgia, after seven years in the making, all the hopes and dreams of the St. Vincent's Academy volleyball players, their parents and the coaches came true when in just a split second following a consistent pass, the perfect set and a well-placed kill, they tasted the sweetness of victory; and

**WHEREAS**, the opponent was Sequoyah Chiefs of Cherokee County and this was considered the true battle of the best teams in Georgia but often referred to as David versus Goliath. St. Vincent's Academy, a small, private, all girls catholic high school with a total enrollment of 360, faced off with Sequoyah High School, a large public school with a total enrollment of 1590, and came out victorious.

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

**ST. VINCENT'S ACADEMY VOLLEY BALL TEAM**

for their exciting win that earned them the title of State 5A Champions and salute them for their year- end awards which include having Margaret Madison named 5A Player of the Year and Chrissy Barbee, Savannah Morning News Player of the Year.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia to be affixed this the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

**ATTEST:**

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Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Sister Pat Cowart said, I am Sister Pat Cowart and the Athletic Director and Vice Principal of St. Vincent's, and I would like to on behalf of the girls and the coaches thank you for this honor today, and just to make a few remarks about the team and the program. I am very conscious of Mr. Abolt sitting here. In 1990 when we began this program, his daughter was a part of that initial program. It was a lot of fun then. We were City champs three years in a row. We played three other teams. Now this team goes on the road on a consistent manner to Atlanta to meet tough competition weekend after weekend and bring Atlanta schools to Savannah. So we have indeed been ambassadors for Savannah in the Atlanta metro area. I would like to congratulate some of our players for some additional accolades, if I may. Georgia Volleyball Coaches Association gave special recognition to Margaret Madison, Chrissy Barbee and Emily Barbee as naming them to the Senior All-Star Team. Margaret Madison and Chrissy Madison, as mentioned, were named to the All-State Team and Margaret Madison was named 5A State Player of the Year. The Savannah News Press [sic] awarded recognition to Emily Barbee, Chrissy Barbee, Shannon Trees and Margaret Madison on the first team for the All-Coastal Empire, and on the second team Elizabeth Shearouse and Lauren Bach and, as you heard, Chrissy Barbee was named Player of the Year, and the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association named John Bach and Dawn Odom as Region and State Coaches of the Year. So we are very proud of everything they've accomplished, and once again we thank you for this honor today. Thank you.

Commissioner Rivers asked, does Danny Powers have a daughter in this school? He was back there cheering. I was wondering why he was jumping up. He was the only one jumping up and down back there. Mr. Powers said, mine have graduated.

Commissioner Thomas said, I would just like to say congratulations and to commend you on your feat. I have been keeping up with you for quite some time and every time I would open the paper or listen to the newscasters, I would hear something about St. Vincent's, and I want you to know that we are deeply proud of the things that you have accomplished together as well as individually, and I just wanted to say to you, continue to keep on keeping on and we'll keep our eyes on you because you are great ambassadors. Thank you so very much. Sister Cowart said, thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Ashley Jackson.

Youth Commissioner Jackson said, on behalf of the Chatham County Youth Commission and as the Youth Commissioner representing St. Vincent's Academy, I would like to congratulate my classmates and my friends on their win at State, and personally I would like to congratulate the Chatham County Commission for recognizing the accomplishments of the youth of today. So often society magnifies the negative effects that youth have and I would like to thank you for recognizing the positives.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Congratulations.

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**VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS**

None.

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## **VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS**

### **1. SAVANNAH AREA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE (COMMISSIONER MURRAY). SEE ATTACHED MEMORANDUM FROM STAFF.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Murray to introduce this and then introduce Micheal Elliott, who's going to make a —.

Commissioner Murray said, since I have put this on the agenda there have been some changes, and I understand that, Mike Elliott, that you wanted to speak this morning. Is that correct?

Rev. Micheal Elliott said, good morning. It's an honor to be with you all again today. As you know, I would first like to introduce Craig Cashman, who is also the Executive Director of the Authority for the Homeless, as well as a board member of the Savannah Area Behavioral Health Collaborative and Kathy McRae, who's our Chief Executive Officer for the Savannah Area Behavioral Health Collaborative. As you know, and I've tried to keep you informed and up to date on what's happening as Chatham County tries to regain control of services for Chatham County, and we've made great progress in the last two years, first with substance abuse services and now as we try to implement the contract for adult mental health services. There has been a vacuum and our citizens who are in need of those services have gone without. For the better part of the last four years, as you know, services have been exported out of Chatham County into other segments of the region. The Collaborative is determined to bring those services back. We have appreciated your past support with two unanimous resolutions which has legitimized our efforts with the Department of Human Resources. Nevertheless, we —, as my letters to you have indicated, a great deal remains to be done. The current level of funding is not what it has been historically, meaning that services are being provided in other counties at the expense of those in need in Chatham County. We are determined to rectify that and we need your support. The particular item that we had on the agenda was to ask for your assistance with the Minis Avenue property. We are absorbing the current locations for services that Gateway has been leasing. I don't know if "they're providing services" is the right word, but they've been leasing so that those consumers that have been going to those locations would have the least amount disruption. We're trying to put together a quality program that delivers quantifiable results in a way that makes services accessible to consumers who need them without disrupting services to those consumers who have been accessing them. We appreciate what you've done so far with us on Minis Avenue. We're going to need your continued support because Chatham County government —, because county governments in this State are expected to be partial supporters of behavioral health services. You know, we are your stewards and your ambassadors as we try to address the problems of services for consumers in Chatham County. We need your support with the Minis Avenue site budgetarily because the level of funding for services is not what it has been historically. We're going to need your support in advocating with DHR to restore that level of funding to its past and we may come back to you for particular assistance on renovating it with the Minis Avenue site at a later point in time depending on what happens budgetarily with DHR. If we're able to advocate appropriately with DHR so that the funding is restored quickly, then there's no problem. If not, obviously we're going to need your help to support the people of Chatham County.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Rev, Elliott, thank you, and Mr. Cashman and —, I've forgotten your name. Dr. McRae said, Kathy McRae. Rev. Elliott said, Dr. McRae. Commissioner Odell said, Doctor. I'm concerned that it appears that not only in the State of Georgia, but the Federal Government has absolutely forgotten those people who suffer from mental health disorders and from mental retardation. It's concerning what we have done over the last ten years in the State of Georgia. We take a very fragile group and we have manipulated, changed the system at least three or four times so that people come out of the system. I cannot but believe that this is an intentional effort to reduce the number of people providing the services. I am further concerned about the impact of, and I don't think we're out of the woods with Georgia Regional closing. We're not. That is going to substantially impact this community. Memorial Medical Center recently announced that as of February 1<sup>st</sup> they are closing their Clark Pavilion. It's troubling times, but it's more troubling time for those people who need government the most, and anything that I can do to help. I appreciate what you all are doing. The fight has not been an easy fight. It's been continuous, but it's not easy, but I think we're getting on the right track. Jesup, Georgia, did not need to be the center for mental health for this region. The purpose of the Regional Board was to make services and the board accessible to those who utilize the services. We were the big fish. Chatham County was the big fish and we're running down to Jesup, Georgia. I don't know if I was the only one, but that to me seemed like it deserved an award for the worst idea in the last five years. If it's not the first, it ranked up in the top five. We need to have it back here. Jeff [Rayno] is on that board and Jeff's going to be speaking later. I think that you have a united front as far as this Commission. I think every single Commissioner shares my concern that we need to do more than what we're doing for those who have mental health problems and mental retardation. If we did it to people who had strokes, people who have cancer, it would make national news, but I think that those who suffer from mental disability that those are just as serious as any other disorder and should be funded accordingly. And I thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Rev. Elliott said, thank you. If I can just say a couple of things. Thank you, Commissioner Odell. You've always been available and accessible to us to talk about these things and get your guidance. I would like to say a couple of things. We, too, think it's one of the silliest ideas to locate provider services somewhere other than Chatham County, which is why this Collaborative came together. I would like to say that, you know, we've had a plan that we've been working towards for the past three years. Part of that plan is the development of community based services. Hospital based

services have proven to be inefficient, so the closing Clark is not imminent. I mean, it's something that's planned and many of those services are going to be transferred to community based services that SABHC will have at the Union Mission Fahm Street Campus, so we have a good action plan. We've already demonstrated quantifiable results with substance abuse services. We know that we can be efficient in the same with behavioral health services, mental health services, and a couple of years from now I think what Chatham County has will be considered both innovative and replicable throughout the State, and the Governor's office is already paying particularly close attention to what we're doing at SABHC, and I appreciate your guidance and support as we continue to develop.

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

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd like to thank Commissioner Odell for his comments for you folks because both he and I share the same sentiment towards your organization. I would like to thank Mr. Cashman for your work with the homeless, particularly at this time of the year when the need is of most importance because of the temperature outside and just the time of the year it is. Thank you to Micheal Elliott for his work and his tireless efforts to pull this Collaborative together. I believe it's the wave of the future for services for people with problems that we're talking about and if it turns out to be that this is a model for the rest of the State, that's going to be a wonderful situation and, of course, Dr. McRae, we were sad to lose you as the Regional Board staff, but I'm sure they were very happy to gain you over there in your new position. Welcome aboard. I'm looking forward to great things that you'll be doing in that position. I'm very concerned about this \$2.1 million, which was reallocated to different organizations. Not to slight these organizations that they don't have certain needs, but to take \$2.1 million and reallocate American Works, to reallocate it to Behavioral Health Link, to take \$400,000 and set it into an account and say we'll use it later when the need is now doesn't make a whole lot of sense. It's incumbent upon us as a Commission to unanimously ask our State Legislators to pull those contracts, reallocate that money back to Chatham County where it belongs. That's where the population base with these projects exists, that's where the need is, and that's where an effective program is being built. Every dollar should have the most bangs for the buck and at this time —, and I'd like to make comments after it —, I'd like to make a motion that we pass a resolution asking our State Legislators to reallocate the \$2.1 million of DHR funds back to Chatham County, specifically to be given to SABHC.

Chairman Hair asked, does the motion have a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner Rayno, you said you wanted to make additional comments.

Commissioner Rayno said, yes. It's —, I've been dealing with DHR now for two years and what they want to do is sit in Atlanta and tell the rest of the State exactly how they should handle human services and, regardless of what people say within each community, they just disregard it. They had a focus group the other night and they wanted us to send them just the top three priorities. There's many priorities with human service delivery all throughout the County, and what we did was the 40 people that showed up, we thumbed our noses at the DHR and said we're not going to send you the top three priorities, we're going to send you 18 priorities in the fields of substance abuse and the field of prevention, which we feel is just as important, and I don't think they liked that, but it's time that we stood up and told DHR we're not going to take your plans anymore, which have failed in the past. There needs to be a shake-up of the system. There needs to be certain delivery programs, like the ones that SABHC is doing that make a difference in this community. Last year we pulled roughly \$300,000 from Gateway because of our lack of confidence in that organization. I think in the next budget cycle, the next fiscal year starting this Summer, we need to re-look at what SABHC is doing and consider replacing those funds back into an organization like SABHC so that they can become what they envision they should be. It's important to do that. It's important to make that commitment so that DHR knows that we're serious about taking care of these people within Chatham County.

Chairman Hair said, okay, we have a motion and a second to pass the resolution to reallocate \$2.1 million. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you. Appreciate y'all —. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, I'd like to move that we table the original reasons that we put this on the agenda until the second meeting in January. That should be plenty of time to find out whether or not some of this funding is going to be restored or not, and if not what we have to do for the other side that we discussed earlier.

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

Rev. Elliott said, thank you. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate you being here.

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

1. Commissioner Rayno moved that the Commission adopt a resolution Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table this matter until the second meeting in January 2004 regarding the original reasons it was placed on the agenda to determine whether or not any funding has been restored. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

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**2. RESOLUTION REGARDING WATER WITHDRAWAL (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, I was sent a resolution that approximately 58 other counties and municipalities throughout the State had adopted on the water withdrawal and also keeping this managed by the State rather than some of the other discussions that have been going on over the last year or so. When receiving this, I sent it to the County Manager and requested, since the City of Savannah had also adopted this resolution, that it be sent to them to make sure that what we were adopting was the same as what they had adopted. There were some changes that needed to be made. Those changes are in the resolution that is in your agenda book, and I would move that we adopt this resolution. Commissioner Rayno said, second.

Chairman Hair asked, you made a motion, right? Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I made a motion. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Murray said, Jeff [Rayno] seconded it. Chairman Hair said, very good. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to adopt a resolution regarding water withdrawal and in support of the State of Georgia managing the surface water and ground water resources of this State. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Kicklighter was not present when this vote was taken.]

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia has been endowed with abundant, renewable, but not unlimited, natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, use of limited natural resources must be managed to maintain a healthy ecological balance between human and non-human demands on the resource; and

**WHEREAS**, demand for water for homes, farms and industries of Georgia is taxing the limit of sustainability of natural water resources in areas of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County believes that the surface water and ground water resources of the State of Georgia should continue to be managed by the State in the common interest of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia manages water resources through a permitting system administered by the State.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Chatham County recognizes and supports the principles outlined above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Chatham County supports creation and implementation of a comprehensive statewide water resources management plan coordinated with local and regional water use plans appropriate for sustaining the water resources utilized within each region of the State.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Chatham County calls on the Governor and Legislature to fully fund development of such comprehensive statewide water resources management plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Chatham County calls on the Governor and Legislature to fully fund an unbiased scientific study of Georgia's existing water resources and future water needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Chatham County opposes any change of Georgia law which would allow an individual to surrender a water withdrawal permit with a stipulation that a permit for any portion of the surrendered volume of water be issued to any other specified individual or individuals, a practice sometimes referred to as permit trading.

**DULY ADOPTED**, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2003.

**ATTEST:**

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Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners of  
Chatham County, Georgia

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Sybil E. Tillman, County Clerk

[ S E A L ]

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### **3. DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR STEPHENS-DAY, CREATION OF NEW STATUTE (COMMISSIONER MURRAY).**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, yes, last week I'm sure most of you saw the article that was in the paper about I guess more or less listed as the widow tax that was in the paper, and I think when the Stephens-Day Bill was originally adopted and it passed that was one of the loopholes that was left in there that if a property is in one name rather than both husband's and wife's names and the person dies that the property is listed in their name, then when the property is transferred over to the widow, then they end up having to pay the higher rate of taxes on it. I've talked with Rep. Ron Stephens about it and he said it would help if we did a resolution supporting him and supporting our delegation when they go back into session in January to try to make the changes in this to avoid that from happening in the future. There are also some other things that would come out of this that I think can be handled maybe in-house, but I would also recommend that as we adopt this resolution that we also include the Board of Assessors and the Board of Assessors' attorney to work along with our attorney, the County Attorney, because he's been involved in it right now to come up with a buy-in from all of them. Danny [Powers], did you want to say something? Tax Commissioner Danny Powers said, yeah. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Tax Commissioner Powers said, when y'all draft it, I was wondering if you're planning on taking it back to the —. Commissioner Murray said, no, no. Tax Commissioner Powers said, — to the base year because that's still going to leave a tax bill that is outstanding for most of these folks that have been affected by this. Commissioner Murray said, well, that —. Tax Commissioner Powers said, but I think that's a good —. Commissioner Murray said, — that's probably going to be up to the legislators to work that part of it out and I'm not sure how they're going to work it out, and it's also from what we found out in the last week that there might be a way to handle this in-house if all the legal parts can be worked out, and I would think that he [Powers] should be involved in this too —. County Attorney Hart said, sure. Commissioner Murray said, — since it's going to affect his office.

County Attorney Hart said, one other thing that I would add to your comments, and you and I have talked about it at length, is if we're going to make changes in the Stephens-Day, we're going to probably have to do it by referendum, which creates, you know, other issues of getting it on the ballot and all the things that go with doing referendums. And Legislative Counsel at the State Legislature has raised some issues that quite frankly we had —, some of them we had considered when we looked at it initially, so I think it's one of those situations that's probably going to need to go to the Board of Assessors and be kicked around to see how to create an exemption for the intended purpose of exempting widows and some type of joint application process, so as —, but at the same time not create this —, create such a loophole that you just —. Tax Commissioner Powers said, open a Pandora's box. County Attorney Hart said, — open up this extended property freeze such as putting, you know, property in your kids' names and lots of other little things that you could do to extend the freeze. So it's going to have to be carefully thought out.

Commissioner Murray said, well, I would recommend that you, as the County Attorney, take the lead and set up a meeting with Danny Powers and the Tax Assessors Board and their attorney, then —, to resolve this. I'm sure that you've had discussion with a number of people. I know you and I have talked a good bit this week about it, so —, and also you might want to talk with Ron Stephens some about it too because he's fully —. I know he gave you a call after I had talked with him. He's been involved and he knows basically what the Legislative Counsel has told them what should or shouldn't be done too, so I would move that we adopt a resolution, but at the same time that we adopt this along with it.

Chairman Hair asked, does this motion have a second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, okay. We'll recognize Commissioner Odell and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Odell said, two things. One is I just wanted to thank Frank [Murray] for bringing this issue up. It's something that we need to address and I commend my fellow Commissioner for doing that. Jon [Hart], if we have to do this by referendum, my concern is that that may be an option. Okay? If we do, there are certain deadlines that we have to meet and I think incumbent in Frank's [Murray] bringing it up is that if we say the election date is X and we back it off and look at the statutory dates and what have you, we'll have a drop-dead date as to when we must be in a decision-making position to say if we have to go referendum, then we have sufficient time to do all these things. When you do your investigation, can you provide us that information? County Attorney Hart said, yeah. I talked with Rep.

Stephens this week and that was one of the issues he brought up in our conversation, and he was going to try to get back to me on some dates. Apparently they set dates on when they can introduce local legislation, he's going to give me some dates on that, and we'll certainly do that. The other thing we're looking at is to see if there's some way to adopt it as some sort of administrative procedure. You've got to be careful to make sure that you, you know, don't do something contrary to the intent of the State law. We'll just have to look at it. Commissioner Odell said, thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you. I just wanted to say that I concur wholeheartedly with his recommendation and I'd like to thank Commissioner Murray for bringing it up because I, too, had a grave concern about it after having reading [sic] about it in the newspapers, and I have talked to some of the legislators in terms of this to try to see if we can fix it. We knew that when the Stephens-Day Bill was created that it was not perfect and that we are hoping that they would look at all of the loopholes that might occur from time to time so that we won't have the —, have to go back and continue to ask for re-fixing, re-fixing, re-fixing, and I think while they're in the process of doing this, I'm hoping that they will do this, that they will take the time to go back as far as looking at all of the loopholes that they might be able to straighten out. Thank you.

Chairman Hair said, we have a motion and a second. 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 Murray moved to adopt a resolution supporting the creation of a new statute to correct loopholes in the Stephens-Day Bill when property is transferred to a surviving spouse, whose name was not originally on the property deed, and is assessed higher taxes and that the County Attorney set a meeting with the Board of Assessors, their attorney and Tax Commissioner Danny Powers to review the options available in this regard. Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County has, with the assistance of the local legislative delegation, accomplished a passage of local legislation commonly referred to as the Stephen's Day Legislation so as to create a statute that would permit the fair market value of a residence to remain frozen in value during the period of continuous ownership although the property would continue the assessment process which would not change the tax value until such time as the property is transferred, sold or a major addition made to the property; and,

**WHEREAS**, the above legislation was designed for the purposes of providing ad valorem sales tax relief to the citizens of Chatham County upon their homes and to more particularly extend a tax exemption for the benefit of older citizens of the community on fixed incomes so as to avoid being taxed out of their homes; and,

**WHEREAS**, that it has come to the attention of the Board of Commissioner's of Chatham County that in certain cases, property may only be titled in the name of one spouse and upon the death of said spouse constitutes and results in a technical transfer of property for ad valorem tax purposes and the loss of the Stephen's Day homestead exemption resulting in the remaining living spouse and triggers a re-evaluation of said property to its current fair market value to the remaining spouse, especially those on a fixed income and constitutes an unfair "widows tax"; and,

**NOW THEREFORE**, in open meeting and by unanimous decision, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners call upon the Chatham County Board of Tax Assessors to provide assistance to the local delegation to introduce appropriate legislation so as to amend the Stephen's Day bill to provide that the filing for a Stephen's Day exemption by one spouse shall be considered an exemption for the other spouse or constitute a joint filing for purposes of a tax exemption, even when only one name may appear upon the deed and that upon the death of one spouse, the said death should not constitute a transfer of property for ad valorem tax purposes under Stephen's Day and that the value of said property shall continue to be frozen until the death of the remaining spouse, sale by said spouse or a major improvement triggering a re-evaluation of said property.

ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2003.

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman  
Chatham County Commission

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sybil Tillman, Clerk  
Chatham County Commission

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**CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

The Board recessed as the County Commission at 10:00 a.m., and reconvened as the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

The Chatham Area Transit Authority was adjourned and the Board reconvened as the County Commission at 10:43 a.m.

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**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Commissioner Odell said, with permission of the Commission —. Chairman Hair asked, you want to ask to change the agenda? Commissioner Odell said, yes. On the Action Calendar, I'd like to move #9 —, I'm sorry, 10-F. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell is asking that we go ahead and change the agenda and move 10-F up. Does anybody object to that? Okay, without objection, I will change the agenda. We'll wait just a moment to get everybody out of here.

[NOTE: At the request of Commissioner Odell and without objection, Item 10-F was taken out of order and was heard at this point on the agenda.]

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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 APPROVAL TO CREATE THREE PART-TIME POSITIONS TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT OF THE WHITEMARSH ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER AND CONCURRENTLY APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO TRANSFER PRE-APPROVED FUNDS FROM MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT SERVICES TO SALARIES AND WAGES.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Murray said, I move for approval with some comments. Chairman Hair said, okay, and do I have a second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, second from Dr. Thomas. Okay, Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, what has happened on this —, for those of you that may not know —, we had a contract with St. Joseph's/Candler to operate the community center. They have now are not going to renew that contract and

the three employees that worked with them and operated and ran the programs at the community center are the ones that they negotiated with and have come up with a fee, so what we're doing is transferring the funds out of the, I guess, the contractual part of it into the personnel. Even though it will reflect three new personnel in Recreation, the funds are being transferred from where we've been paying under contract to open the —, to offset the cost. So, I'll move for approval.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to create three part-time positions to provide management of the Whitemarsh Island Community Center and concurrently approve a budget amendment to transfer pre-approved funds from Management Consultant Services to Salaries and Wages. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**2. BOARD APPROVAL TO AMEND THE PERSONNEL PROCEDURES MANUAL TO INCLUDE EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION IN THE GRIEVANCE PROCESS.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner McMasters said, so moved. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, moved and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve the request to amend the Personnel Procedures Manual to include employee representation in the grievance process. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**3. ADVANCE COPY OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES. NOTE: THE FINAL COPY WITH MANAGEMENT LETTER WILL BE PLACED ON YOUR AGENDA IN JANUARY AND THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS INVITED TO BE PRESENT.**

Chairman Hair said, we discussed this in the pre-meeting and no action is to be taken until January. You have that before you.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Received as information.

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**4. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FOR ADVANCE FUNDING FROM THE 2003-2008 SPLOST TO START THE W. W. LAW ARCHIVE.**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, I move approval. Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair said, motion and second. Any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve a request for advance funding from the 2003-2008 SPLOST to start the W. W. Law Archive. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**X. ACTION CALENDAR**

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

Chairman Hair said, the first one —, we're going to pull Item 5 for Commissioner Odell and Item 9 for Commissioner Rayno and 10-B for Commissioner McMasters, and I'll entertain a motion to approve the balance of the Action Calendar. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

[NOTE: Item 10-F was discussed and a vote taken thereon prior to this motion being made. Therefore, Item 10-F was excluded from the overall approval of the Action Calendar.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Items 5, 9, 10-B and 10-F. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

[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 DECEMBER 5, 2003, AS MAILED.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of December 5, 2003, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 25 THROUGH DECEMBER 10, 2003.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period November 25, 2003, through December 10, 2003, in the amount of \$2,370,038. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**3. REQUEST BOARD TENTATIVELY SET MEETING DATES FOR 2004. THIS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE FIRST MEETING IN JANUARY.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to tentatively set the following time and meeting dates for 2004: 9:30 a.m., on the second and fourth Fridays in January through October (except April), on the third and fifth Fridays in April, and on the first and third Fridays in November and December. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**4. REQUEST FROM EMC, ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, BILLY HERRIN, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR BRYAN WOODS PROFESSIONAL CENTER, PHASE 1A, AND ACCEPT THE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE. [DISTRICT 4.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request from EMC, engineer for the developer, Billy Herrin, to record the subdivision plat for Bryan Woods Professional Center, Phase 1A, and accept the construction agreement and financial

guarantee. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**5. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A STREETLIGHTING PLAN AND ASSESSMENT RATE DISTRICT FOR WILDWOOD AVENUE, GARRARD AVENUE AND PINE DRIVE.  
[DISTRICT 5.]**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I just wanted to have that approved so that the people on Garrard Avenue, Wildwood Avenue and Pine Drive —, we got it done and I move for approval. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request to establish a streetlighting plan and assessment rate district for Wildwood Avenue, Garrard Avenue and Pine Drive. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**6. REQUEST BOARD QUIT CLAIM TWO UNINCORPORATED AREA VACANT LOTS HELD BY TAX DEED TO THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.  
[DISTRICT 4 - 0 WOODRIDGE DRIVE AND 0 BOXWOOD DRIVE]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to quitclaim two unincorporated area vacant lots held by tax deed to the City of Savannah as follows: (1) 0 Woodridge Drive (PIN 1-0040-01-049), Well site LT Woodridge Estates, Phase 1, Part B (Wilmington Island), and (2) 0 Boxwood Drive (PIN 1-0040-01-056), Well site LT Woodridge Estates, Phase 1, Part B (Wilmington Island). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**7. REQUEST BOARD DECLARE AS SURPLUS FOUR VACANT LOTS IN THE CITY OF SAVANNAH ON DUFFY LANE, EAST 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET, RICHARDS STREET AND ST. MORITZ COURT, AND AUCTION THE COUNTY'S INTEREST IN THESE PROPERTIES HELD BY TAX DEED.  
[DISTRICT 6 - 2 ST. MORITZ COURT]  
[DISTRICT 2 - 608 DUFFY LANE]  
[DISTRICT 8 - 1303 RICHARDS STREET]  
[DISTRICT 8 - 319 EAST 32<sup>ND</sup> STREET]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to declare as surplus the following four vacant lots in the City of Savannah and auction the County's interest in these properties held by tax deed: (1) 2 St. Moritz Court (PIN 2-0780-03-004), Strip between Lots 55 and 54, the Village Subdivision, Phase 1, in the City of Savannah, 20 feet wide by 70 feet long; (2) 608 Duffy Lane (PIN 2-0054-06-004), "Part of Lots 15 and 16, Weed Ward, in the City of Savannah, 30 feet wide by 53 feet long; (3) 1303 Richards Street (PIN 2-0019-03-005), Lot 43 and western part of Lot 44, Morel Ward, in the City of Savannah, 60 feet wide by 90 feet long; and (4) 319 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street (PIN 2-0053-33-015), Eastern part of Lot 70, Cummings Ward, in the City of Savannah, 20 feet wide by 50 feet long. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF THREE (3) BOARDS OF EQUALIZATION AS AUTHORIZED BY GEORGIA LAW.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request to approve a resolution to provide for the use of three (3) Boards of Equalization as authorized by Georgia law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL TO ACCEPT A PASS THROUGH GRANT TO BE MANAGED BY CEMA TO PRODUCE VIDEO AND WRITTEN MATERIALS COVERING “HURRICANES AND THE RETIRED.”**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I was hoping that Phillip Webber would be here. I know his hands are full with the upcoming G8 Summit in the Summer, but we owe him a debt of gratitude for all the hard work he does and we’re very lucky to have him as the head of CEMA and particularly to take the time to gather a video to help retired individuals in the event that we have a hurricane again so we can have a very fluid transition to get people out of town safely and we thank him for that.

Chairman Hair said, I’ll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Rayno said, motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request to accept a pass through grant to be managed by CEMA to produce video and written materials covering “Hurricanes and the Retired.” Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
A. Multifunction top dresser	SPLOST	Turf Care Products	\$16,888	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Soccer Complex
B. Engineering contract for the Charlie Brooks Park improvements	SPLOST	Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble	\$90,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Charlie Brooks Park
C. Contract for the construction of the Georgetown Lagoons Improvements, Phase I, project	SPLOST	Shaw Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc.	\$199,586	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Fawcett Canal project
D. Contract for the repairs of Hunt Drive Bridge	Bridges	E & D Coatings, Inc.	\$101,200	CIP - Bridge Repair
E. Contract for the installation of a metal building to house the sand mixer operation at the new Mosquito Control facility	Mosquito Control	Wassaw Construction, Inc.	\$29,000	Savannah Airport Commission funds
F. Contract for M/WBE consultant services	Human Resources	Diversiplex Riverview Consultants, Inc.	\$375,150 (to be negotiated) \$180,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Pending Board approval of fund usage
G. Purchase and installation of a square tier pavilion at Tom Triplett Community Park	SPLOST	Hasley Recreation and Design, Inc.	\$28,365	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Tom Triplett Community Park - Phase II

**As to Items 10-A through 10-G, except Items 10-B and 10-F:**

Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-G, except Items 10-B and 10-F. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

**As to Item 10-B:****Engineering contract for the Charlie Brooks Park improvements; SPLOST; Hodges, Harbin, Newberry and Tribble; \$90,000; SPLOST (2003-2008) - Charlie Brooks Park**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you, Dr. Hair. Russ [Abolt], in the information provided on the item under three it says prepare master plan for park upgrades and improvements, then the last line says there will be a meeting with park users to seek their comments. Am I correct in understanding that when we meet with the coaches and the people that depend on Charlie Brooks Field that their suggestions and comments will play a key role in preparing the master plan? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. I certainly understand that their comments would be consistent with the revenue we have. Obviously if they're beyond the budget and all that —. Commissioner McMasters said, well —. County Manager Abolt said, — but yes, we want to make them part of it realizing that the major issue, as all of us know so well, is subsidence and we must deal with the continued undulation and sinking of fill over the landfill and we must come up with some acceptable ways of stabilizing not just the land, but also the support structure like the illumination standards and what have you, but we do want to involve as many of those that are interested. Some, as we all remember a few weeks ago, were in this room and we do not want to disenfranchise anyone from the standpoint of furnishing and improving a very bright spot in the future of Wilmington Island. Commissioner McMasters said, well, you know, Russ [Abolt], that the patience that the people that use Charlie Brooks has been great and I'd like to know when you anticipate being able to schedule this meeting. County Manager Abolt said, I'll have to defer to Mr. Drewry. I don't know, sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Robert Drewry.

Mr. Drewry said, good morning. Mr. Steve Harbin, who is the consultant that we're recommending award to is in the audience and, if you don't mind, I'd like to defer that question to him, if that's okay. Commissioner McMasters said, before we go to him —. Mr. Drewry said, sure. Commissioner McMasters asked, — do you have a contact list of all the coaches and teams and organizations that sign up with the County to use that? Mr. Drewry said, yes, we have a contact list and —. Commissioner McMasters asked, through Al's [Lipsey] office? Will you please direct correspondence directly to each and every one of them advising them? Mr. Drewry said, yes, we can do that. Commissioner McMasters said, I mean, the list is not [inaudible]. Mr. Drewry said, we know that a couple of folks, for example, the gentlemen that stood in front of us at the last meeting to discuss this, is a good point of contact and, I mean, I'd like to use him as a focal point. Commissioner McMasters said, well, I'm really asking —, not everyone that's ever used the facility, but how about within the last season and cycle of football and baseball, that you at least go to those coaches —. Mr. Drewry said, okay, we can do that. Commissioner McMasters said, — because they're the ones that are actively using it and not depend on one person to carry the weight for the entire group. It wouldn't be fair to him. Mr. Drewry said, we can accommodate that.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Harbin. Mr. Drewry said, Mr. Steve Harbin, if you don't mind.

Mr. Harbin said, good morning, gentlemen. The question at hand —. Commissioner Thomas said, and lady. Mr. Harbin said, — is when we will schedule this meeting. Commissioner McMasters said, and lady. County Manager Abolt said, lady. Mr. Harbin said, oh, I'm sorry. Ladies and gentlemen, excuse me. My peripheral vision didn't catch you. I ask —, I apologize. Regarding that, we had in our approach so that this is Chatham County's park and we wanted to get input from players, coaches, parents, general public, so that we could be sure and make sure that we try to incorporate everything that they would like to have in it within budget. Our initial time line includes looking at this within the first 30 to 45 days from the time that we're awarded the job. As far as addressing immediate needs, the settlement and such, we have taken by faith and my geotechnical engineer is supposed to meet me after this meeting out on the site to look at the settlement problems and then we will meet with staff immediately and determine the basic needs and then we will convey those needs and get input from the public as well.

Commissioner McMasters said, I appreciate you being here today. I think it would be provident to interface with the County Police when you hold that meeting with all the users, the players, the coaches and the parents because this facility has had a history of graffiti and fires and all sorts of miscellaneous vandalism so the extent to which when that meeting occurs I think their input to that side of the issues affecting Charlie Brooks Park would —, might be helpful in your master planning. Mr. Harbin said, it could. Commissioner McMasters said, I'd just —. Mr. Harbin said, as far as security is concerned. Commissioner McMasters said, yes sir, access, security. Chairman Hair asked, any other questions? Commissioner McMasters said, no, so it's 30 to 45 days after award a meeting of the requisite people is envisioned including the police department. Mr. Drewry said, correct. Mr. Harbin said, yes sir.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray said, Mr. Harbin, you pretty much answered one of my questions. This meeting will not be designed just for coaches and parents. It will be designed for citizens of the Islands area that utilize that facility. It's a public meeting, it's a park that's being renovated by SPLOST funds and, therefore, it needs to be advertised that way that it's a public meeting. I assume this meeting will be held at the community center, I don't know, but I would assume that's where it will be held and I would also like to be notified since I represent that district of the meeting and the time and location for it. Mr. Harbin said, the only thing that I can see that might hamper our scheduling of it would be to make sure that we have adequate advertising time from the time that we're awarded to get that out to all of the residents. The only thing that we might suggest is that one of the other counties that we've worked for when we were seeking input, we also sought written input and made forms or whatever available so if people wanted to write down what they'd like and to turn that in in written comments, we would do that as well. Commissioner Murray asked, now is this contract just for the Charlie Brooks contract or is it for the annexing we have where we allocated some funds also that, I think, St. Joseph's was going to come in and do some work —? Mr. Harbin said, [inaudible] field thing. Commissioner Murray said, yeah. Mr. Drewry said, no, this is just the Charlie Brooks site. Commissioner Murray said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, okay. All right, we need a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioners McMasters and Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

**As to Item 10-F:**

**Contract for M/WBE consultant services; Human Resources; Riverview Consultants, Inc.; \$180,000; SPLOST (2003-2008) - Pending Board approval of fund usage.**

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, Mr. Chairman, I move that we adopt the proposal submitted by Diversiplex as an alternate to the Riverview Consultants. The rationale for my motion is that Diversiplex is a Georgia company; the other two companies are from Florida. We have a representative from Diversiplex, who just happens to be from the First District, who is a Harvard graduate and you may know him. His dad is The Honorable —, The Right Honorable Robert James. Having lost my own son approximately a year ago, I take a lot of pleasure in seeing some of the sons from our community go on to do great things. I've had a chance to speak to this young man. He is eminently impressive. I move that we go to Diversiplex.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I can't second a motion. If I could, I would —. Commissioner Gellatly said, second. Chairman Hair said, — but I am totally in favor of —. Chairman Hair said, second, Commissioner Gellatly seconded the motion. Okay, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes —.

Commissioner McMasters said, there are questions. Chairman Hair said, okay, well, I asked and nobody. Who wants to discuss it? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. When this very sound concept was initiated by Commissioner Odell and Dr. Hair, we voted unanimously to attempt to create a goal for women and minority participation in SPLOST contracting. The subsequent paperwork and development work by staff seemed to indicate that staff would require an additional staff person to —. Is that correct, Russ [Abolt]? County Manager Abolt said, that's correct, sir. Yes. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, — to man —, thank you —, to manage this work. We fiscal conservatives, I think, questioned whether or not having just restored the budget to Finance adding additional staff, if it could not become part of their work load. Some discussion occurred as to the viability of adding that work to the new staff members and we sort of came to a middle ground where maybe the best thing to do is out source this. That is, we theorized the cost of an additional staff person with benefits and salary and we realized that outsourcing might in fact be the way to go to facilitate this noble and worthwhile concept. The thing that I find out of context is the costs associated in the bidding process to do this are in one case six times what a staff person might cost us, in the middle bid range almost four times, three and a half times what a staff person might cost us, and at the low range double what a staff person might cost us. So I'm not understanding the —, just a second —, understanding the fiscal logic of doing this. Further, I have to wonder why when we put out an RFQ or RFP of this type and everybody gets the same information, how in the world could we come back with bids that run from \$575,000 a year to \$375,000 a year to \$180,000 a year. I don't think everybody was looking —, I can't believe everybody was looking at the same specs. Could staff explain the range of quotation on this?

County Manager Abolt said, let me do that, but I also want the opportunity to attempt to not just respond, but clarify. My understanding of what happened back in March, the solicitation, which is an RFP which gives you maximum discretion, we're asking for services —, this is not a bid —, involved the culling out of the best, and as you might recall in recent times we have now held to the last the envelope that has the bid —, the proposal price in it, and that's when in effect we got the very numbers you're talking about. The real answer to your question would have to be addressed by those who submitted the proposals. You're looking at something that is not as defined as building a road or building a building and some obviously have overhead differentiations or what have you. You can see in our evaluation of the three proposals on page eleven, the big factor of variance is —, I don't want to use the term sticker shock —, but the very thing you talk to from the standpoint of why is the cost so much, and that was their estimate, their estimates in separate situations of what they felt it would take to do the required task that we put out for them. Remember —, and I don't mean it the way it sounds —, we did go out initially with the proposal that have specifications to it and it was thought after a subsequent bid —, pre-bid conference that it was too large, too much didn't really address what we needed, so they were modified and we had to delay the whole solicitation process. So there was a lot of time by Mr.

Kaigler and others to refine the specifications with the participation of those who ultimately proposed. So, again, my answer to your question, why does it vary from 188 [sic] to almost 600,000, you would have to ask the proposers. Now let's —, let me —, give me an opportunity, which I appreciate, to respond to the genesis of this back in March after the SPLOST vote was approved. There was the need to do something to encourage and to do all we could to facilitate the participation of minority, female, local and then, as we all know, labor and trades people. Commissioner McMasters said, that's my next question. County Manager Abolt said, we desired to do all of that. Never did we purport to be able to do that with a person on staff or one person off staff. This requires too much documentation outreach and, in effect, being able to substantiate possible disparity in the way in which business is now done within Chatham County as a geographic area. It also has the magnitude of embracing our other major bureaucracies that buy things, the School District and the City of Savannah. So we have a way of breathing life back into a diversity study and disparity study, I should say, of some years gone by. The idea behind a staff person was to recognize the work that we're now —, you're about to award, it has a finite life to it, and it will take about a year or so to get to the point where everything is current. We had hoped to have ongoing at a much less cost and from the standpoint of continuity a staff person in Purchasing that would monitor this thing, enforce it and be accountable as opposed to paying a whole lot more for someone else to tell us what time it is by looking at our watch.

Commissioner McMasters said, well, thank you for that, but a follow-up question for you that I have to ask is given that this was a Commission concept and directive —, staff did not come to us with this, we went to staff —, correct? County Manager Abolt said, correct. Commissioner McMasters said, and it was Commissioner Odell and Dr. Hair —. County Manager Abolt said, I don't recall who it was. Commissioner McMasters asked, am I correct, Harris [Odell]? Commissioner Odell said, I think so. Commissioner McMasters said, yeah, and I —. County Manager Abolt said, eventually y'all did it. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Why when you —. Commissioner Murray said, [inaudible]. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Why, when an Evaluation Committee is created to review the proposals, and that consisted of Assistant County Manager, Director of Human Resources and Services, Assistant County Engineer, and Purchasing Agent, would it not have been provident in the evaluation process at least involve some one from the Commission? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, no sir. And first —, let me first explain it in a much more direct fashion than your question allows me to. We did something very unusual on this. Because of all the things you said about the genesis coming from this Board, we actually went back to you with the specifications. Normally you tell us to do something, we prepare the specifications and then we bring the results back. Y'all gave us the okay on that and we came up with a schedule. We have never nor would I ever recommend that policymakers, members of the County Commission, be involved in the evaluation, the reason being is all nine of you are involved right now to make a policy decision and there's a very important differentiation between administration and policy, and to involve any one of you in the preliminary process is, in effect, a violation of that. You have the full opportunity to review it at this juncture and that is your role. Our role is to bring a recommendation to you, our role is to administer what will eventually become policy. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, well, I accept that, Russ [Abolt]. In terms of your view of policy, tell me so I can understand this, is the scope of work that we're being asked to consider granting today, does it include what may ultimately transpire, and that is the trades and labor initiative goal for SPLOST. County Manager Abolt said, Mr. Kaigler assures me it does. Mr. Michael Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, it does? Mr. Kaigler said, we specifically —, and I want to address another issue that you raised. I'm confident that all of the vendors who submitted a proposal, they understood the process. We had substantial —, we had two pre-proposal conferences and we went over this. During the interview process we indicated that it was the Board's desire to do nothing that would exclude the labor and trades. We expressed that to each one of the vendors. They understood that. Commissioner McMasters said, well, let me thank you, Michael [Kaigler], for having the foresight, even though it has not been adopted as Board policy, to wrap that around this proposal and bid and evaluation process. I honestly salute you for that and I'm much more comfortable knowing that with whatever level of work we may or may not approve today that that is included in it. Are we in agreement? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. That completes my questions.

Chairman Hair asked, it does not? Commissioner Rayno, I ask you, do you want to speak now? Commissioner Rayno said, no. Chairman Hair said, okay. We've got Commissioner Murray and then Commissioner Odell. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Murray.

Commissioner Murray asked, weren't you next? Commissioner Odell said, no, you were. Commissioner Murray said, the questions —, one of the questions that's been asked, asked about what all this covers. The other that I want to ask, out of these three companies that have bid, do any of them have an office in Savannah or at what level —? Let me rephrase that —, in Chatham County? Mr. Kaigler said, no sir, not currently. Commissioner Odell said, correction. There is. Mr. Kaigler said, no, they —. Commissioner Odell said, Diversiplex has an office in Chatham County now. Mr. Kaigler said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, okay. The other question I have is how many of these three firms are from out-of-state? Mr. Kaigler said, Riverview is from —, both the —, both of the other firms are from Florida. Diversiplex is a Georgia company. Commissioner Murray said, I also understand Diversiplex is willing, if they receive this bid, to negotiate this price that they have bid on this. Mr. Kaigler said, we have had some indications that they're willing to negotiate the price. Commissioner Murray said, I'll be honest with you, we're dealing with SPLOST money, we have all talked about over the last SPLOST plus the one we're getting ready to enter into, about keeping as much local as we can and keeping everything at least within the State of Georgia, if not within Chatham County, and I cannot support when we have a local group coming in that is willing to work with us on this going with an out-of-state or out-of-town firm, and I will support the motion. Mr. Kaigler said, one thing that we have to also mention is that funding hasn't been set up as of yet for the project. We will have to come back to you in January with the funding set up, and at that time we will —. Commissioner Murray asked, but that will be paid for out of the SPLOST budget —? Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, — because it's a SPLOST project. So we know the funding will be there. Mr. Kaigler said, yes sir.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Pierce and then Commissioner Odell. Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Pierce. Chairman Hair asked, are you Mr. Pierce? Mr. Hutson said, no, I'm Willie Hutson [phonetic] from Riverview Consultants in Jacksonville, Florida. Chairman Hair said, well, let me get Mr. Pierce first, Mr. Hutson, and then I'll get you.

Mr. John Saxon [Piccolo] Pierce said, I want to say one thing. I've been holding up my hand a long time. That's discrimination. Talking about cuts, tax cuts and things like that there, y'all don't ever [inaudible]. Every time you come to meeting, you say tax cut, cut. What's y'all family going to have you keep on cutting? They ain't going to have nothing. I tell you one thing, you keep on cutting, the government going to come down. The government come down Somebody going to ask them where their money at, but [inaudible] cut there. I know you don't want to go to [inaudible] because you know why? Y'all sit round there and say tax cut, that [inaudible] being cut. Where all that money in the tax money going to make? You at the Courthouse and everything else. People need some buses, people need some bus [inaudible], give some staff some that tax cut money. Give it to them. They work hard for it. Every day they work hard. That's just [inaudible]. You listen to Joe Rivers, you have something. You listen to anybody, you won't have nothing because I'm telling you, Billy Hair know that. That tax cut ain't going to get him nowhere. So let's get together and deal with that tax cut and do right. Give everybody a fair chance on that tax cut. Don't cut it that way and don't cut it —, everybody gets a fair chance without cutting it.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Pierce. Mr. Pierce said, that's right. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, I've got everybody in order here. Commissioner Kicklighter said, I was going to call for the question. Chairman Hair said, Mr. Hutson, I'll recognize you. Chairman Hair said, state your full name for the record, sir.

Mr. Hutson said, thank you. My name is Willie Hutson. I'm representing Riverview Consultants, Incorporated, Jacksonville Florida. In response to some of the comments that were made from you, I would like to direct your attention to the request for proposals that were sent out for this particular task. The request for proposal did not say that you were preferring to hire someone from the local community; however, our company selected two young men from this community who have over 20 years experience in economic development within Savannah, Chatham County. Those two men, Rudolph Quarterman, used to run the Minority Business Development Center. He is accustomed to doing this kind of work in Savannah. The other young man, Mr. Charles McMillan, was the Department of Commerce's representative —, regional representative to oversee that particular area, and he has actually written disparity studies for the City of Atlanta and some other places so we did hire two men from this community to assist us in this effort. With regards to the cost disparity, the only one that I can really address is the \$180,000 that we bid. That bid was based on my 20-some years of experience in this industry. I do this work every day. I don't do it periodically. I have several contracts where we have actually done this work for other people and we have done it within budget within —, and in time. So our \$180,000 cost is also in line with what Massachusetts Port Authority has been paying one of their consultants for about five or six years. They started around \$175,000 and I think they went up to like \$200,000, so as far as the industry norm for cost, our cost is right in the line. As far as the competence of our firm, we have conducted over close to 1,300 MBE/DBE/small business jobs over the last 20 years. So we probably are the most experienced company of the four that bid in doing this work. My \$180,000 price was based on the experience that we have done this work. We know what to do. We can do the work with the two local men here plus our experienced company. Anything beyond that is not —, was not addressed in the proposal. So we bid the letter of the law. We attended two pre-bid conferences and we applied and we developed what was selected as the most attractive component —, total price for you guys. So I ask you to consider being fair to us who responded as you had asked us to respond and just give us the job please.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Hutson. I'm going to call on Commissioner Odell. Commissioner Odell said, call for the question. Chairman Hair said, all right, call for the question. This is to award the job to Diversiplex, and call the question. All those in favor of the motion to award to Diversiplex —. Vice Chairman Thomas said, excuse me.

Commissioner McMasters asked, what's the motion? Chairman Hair said, call for the —, the motion is to award the contract to Diversiplex. Okay? Commissioner McMasters said, but there is —. Chairman Hair said, *Robert's Rules* is that we have to vote. All those in favor of the motion —. Commissioner McMasters said, clarification, Billy [Hair]. Chairman Hair asked, what? What's your clarification? Commissioner McMasters said, well, staff is —, my understanding —, I can support this if in fact they're going to work with staff to reduce their cost, and that's what the testimony we've received. Chairman Hair asked, well then what else do you need know then? Commissioner McMasters asked, well, is that part of the motion? It says to award what we've been presented, which is a fixed price. It doesn't —, the motion isn't perfect. Commissioner Odell said, okay, the motion is —. Chairman Hair said, restate your motion. Commissioner Odell said, the motion is to award the contract to Diversiplex and to direct staff to meet with Diversiplex. It is my impression that Diversiplex has indicated a willingness to negotiate price. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, all right. All those in favor —. Sir, we called the question. 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:**

1. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Items 10-A through 10-G, except Items 10-B and 10-F. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rayno, Rivers and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

- 2. Commissioner Murray moved to approve Item 10-B. Commissioners McMasters and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]
- 3. Commissioner Odell moved that Item 10-F be awarded to Diversiplex and direct staff to meet with Diversiplex to negotiate their proposed price of \$375,150 based on Diversiplex having indicated a willingness to negotiate. Commissioner Gellatly 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.

**1. AMENDMENTS TO ZONING ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE NOTIFICATION ON A REZONING APPLICATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE CITY OF SAVANNAH.**

Chairman Hair said, actually it's identical to the City of Savannah.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**2. PETITIONER, STUART G. ABEL, III, OWNER IS REQUESTING REZONING PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF GATEWAY BOULEVARD, 0.1 MILES SOUTH OF CANEBRAKE ROAD, FROM A P-B-C (PLANNED COMMUNITY-BUSINESS) AND R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A R-1 (ONE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL) ZONING CLASSIFICATION. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL. MPC FILE NO. Z-031030-60589-1 [DISTRICT 7.]**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

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

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**XII. SECOND READINGS**

**1. AMEND THE COUNTY CODE, SECTION 20-306 "RE-INSPECTION" FEES AND TO PROVIDE A REINSPECTION FEE FOR BUILDING PERMITS NOT POSTED ON THE SITE AS REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING SAFETY AND REGULATORY SERVICES.**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner McMasters moved to approve the proposed amendment to the County Code, Section 20-306, "Re-Inspection" Fees and to provide a reinspection fee for building permits not posted on the site as required by the Department of Building Safety and Regulatory Services. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 2. PETITIONER, JOHN RAUERS, AGENT (FOR JIM KLUTZ AND TED COY, OWNERS) IS REQUESTING THAT THE CHATHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 4-5.2, B AND I USE SCHEDULE, BE AMENDED TO ALLOW DEPARTMENT STORES (USE 65) AS A MATTER -OF-RIGHT USE WITHIN THE T-B (TOURIST-BUSINESS) ZONING DISTRICT. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.  
MPC FILE NO. Z-030918-58030-1  
[NO DISTRICT - TEXT AMENDMENT - UNINCORPORATED AREA.]**

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion. Commissioner Thomas said, move for approval. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. Everybody needs to vote please. The Clerk said, that's you. Nobody's —, who's not voting? Oh, I am. I didn't vote. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters asked, may I ask a question of staff and Ms. Moore? We appreciate you accommodating the Commission's request to show the actual voting on your motions at the MPC, but I notice that it's not yet manifesting. When can we expect that? Ms. Charlotte Moore said, this may have been an item that was sent over prior to that request. County Manager Abolt said, yes, that's correct. It was enforced in November. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Moore.

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Thomas moved to approve the petition of John Rauers, Agent (for Jim Klutz and Ted Coy, Owners), requesting that the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, Section 4-5.2, B and I, Use Schedule, be amended to allow department stores (Use 65) as a matter-of-right use within the T-B (Tourist-Business) zoning district subject to the following conditions: (1) such use shall be located on a major arterial roadway, and (2) such use shall be limited to a maximum building size of 15,000 square feet. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, Odell, Gellatly and Kicklighter were not present when this vote was taken.]

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**XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR**

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A written report was received as information.

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

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

A written report was received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2  
 DATE: December 19, 2003

List of Purchasing Items between \$2,500 and \$9,999  
 That Do Not Require Board Approval

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Track link assembly for Caterpillar bulldozer	Fleet Operations	Iron Peddlers Parts Division	\$3,716.20	General Fund/M & O - Inventory Account
100 side arm chairs	Detention Center	Norix Group, Inc. (sole source)	\$5,570	General Fund/M & O - Detention Center
Pressure washing of Gateway Treatment Center in Bloomingdale	Facilities Maintenance and Operations	All-In-One Services	\$5,500	CIP - Gateway
Layout, form, compact soil, place and finish concrete pad under scrap metal roll off at the northwest corner of shop	Fleet Operations	Coastline Concrete Services, Inc.	\$5,050	CIP - Fuel Leak
Three (3) computers and monitors	State Court Clerk	Dell Marketing (state contract)	\$4,974.54	General Fund/M & O - State Court Clerk
Two (2) Motorola hand held radios	Building Safety and Regulatory Services	Motorola, Inc. (sole source)	\$4,187	SSD - Building Safety and Regulatory Services
Two (2) walk thru scanners	Court Administrator	Bob Barker Company, Inc.	\$6,433	•General Fund/M & O - Court Administrator •General Fund/M & O - State Court Clerk •General Fund/M & O - Probate Court •SSD - Recorder's Court
Six (6) project signs including posts	SPLOST	Signs for Minds	\$2,550	SPLOST (1985-1993) - Administrative Expenditures
Environmental clearance of property located at 1301 Whitfield Avenue via categorical exclusion to follow GDOT early acquisition procedures	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	Not to exceed \$4,000	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Whitfield Avenue Widening Project
Asbestos testing on various County owned properties located on Middleground Road	SPLOST	M.S.R. Enterprises	\$3,475	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road Widening Project
Remove concrete rubble, abandoned construction materials and install a construction exit	SPLOST	T Clearing	Not to exceed \$9,400	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Raspberry Canal

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
Drafting services as requested by the County for preparing a drawing of lagoon enhancements at the Georgetown lagoons located north and south of Dovetail Crossing	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung, Inc.	Not to exceed \$3,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Fawcett Canal
Topographic survey of site as needed to prepare preliminary plan and construction documents for the Skidaway Narrows Boat Ramp	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering, Inc.	Not to exceed \$9,300	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Boat Ramps
Professional engineering services for Kings Ferry Boat Ramp facility on Highway 17	SPLOST	Kern-Coleman and Company	Not to exceed \$7,650	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Boat Ramps
Professional engineering services for the Frank W. Spencer Boat Ramp facility	SPLOST	Kern-Coleman and Company	Not to exceed \$5,500	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Boat Ramps
Deliver and install Knapheide tool body on County cab and chassis	SPLOST	Coastal Trailer Company, Inc.	\$7,233.20	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Vehicle Replacement

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**3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS.**

**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Written reports were received as information.

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by McMasters and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 11:15 a.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation, land acquisition, and personnel.

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 11:30 a.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 Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

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APPROVED: THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2004

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK