

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA, HELD ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2004, 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 9:37 a.m., Friday, February 27, 2004.

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II. INVOCATION

Commissioner David Gellatly gave the invocation.

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III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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IV. ROLL CALL

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: Brittney Kohler, a Senior at Calvary Baptist.

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V. PROCLAMATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. PROCLAMATION FOR THE RETIREMENT OF BARBARA ELKINS OF LIVE OAK PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Chairman Hair read the following proclamation into the record:

WHEREAS, Chatham County is privileged to have employees of high caliber that take great pride in their duties and responsibilities, and in that regard we commend Barbara Elkins; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Elkins began her career as a Library Assistant II on December 27, 1989 at the Islands Branch of Live Oak Public Libraries, was promoted to Library Assistant III in 1991 and has been the Administrative Assistant IV to the Library Director since 1998; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Elkins believes strongly in the importance of public libraries and has been dedicated to providing exceptional service to the library and its users both as a staff member at Islands Branch and in her capacity as Administrative Assistant; and

WHEREAS, this valued and highly regarded employee of the library will retire on February 29, 2004.

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

BARBARA ELKINS

for over fourteen years of dedicated service to the Live Oak Public Libraries and extend best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Chatham County, Georgia, to be affixed this the 27th day of February 2004.

Dr. Billy B. Hair, Chairman
Chatham County Commission

ATTEST:

Sybil E. Tillman, Clerk

Ms. Elkins said, thank you. It's been a wonderful 14 years. I'm looking forward to spending time with my grandchildren and my children, but I do love the library and my library family so y'all will be seeing me around. Thank you. Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Elkins.

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2. YOUTH FUTURES PRESENTATION BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JACQUELYN ELMORE.

Ms. Jacquelyn Elmore said, good morning. We're going to allow our presentation to be introduced by our new chair of the board, Mr. Julian Pafford.

Mr. Julian Pafford said, thank you, Jacquelyn [Elmore]. Mr. Chairman, Commission, it's an honor for me to be here, I'm Julian Pafford. I'm chair for 2004 of Youth Futures Authority and my part-time job is with Savannah Electric since I spend so much time with Youth Futures. It's an honor for us to be here. You are an appointing body of ours and it's also a responsibility that we report to you each year on our status, so we're happy to be here. I'm also happy to introduce Dr. Carlton Brown, who's here this morning. He's our vice chair for 2004. Also, I want to thank you for the recent appointments to our board. They include John Finney, Don Stubbs, and Wayne Murphy, who was already on our board, so we thank you for that. I'm interested in any feedback you have and I want to re-introduce Jacquelyn Elmore again.

Ms. Elmore said, thank you, Mr. Pafford. As Mr. Pafford indicated, we are required to come before you on an annual basis and let you know how we're doing. I opted to put together a very succinct folder that should be at each of your places that tells you not only an overview of the Authority, which I'm sure you're all familiar with, but it tells a little bit about the things that we're doing in our community. The two pieces that I want to first express appreciation for are the participation of the Chatham County Commission in our policy of our Pancake Breakfast this year. Commissioners

Thomas, Rayno and McMasters were in attendance with us. They represented the County very well in terms of showing their support for children and family issues. So we're very grateful for your doing that with the Authority this year. The second thing is to announce to you that we have decided to combine our Legislative Breakfast and our Community Summit and turn it into a once a year event. It will be held this year in the Fall, date to be determined, but we will have the elected officials as well as community members come together for that discussion for which we are charged to provide for the community on an annual basis. So we thought to make it very efficient, also to have the schedules of elected officials taken into consideration, we will convene an annual event and that will be the combined summit and breakfast. Two pieces that we're working on this year I think you'll find very interesting are the issues of mental health for children and adolescents and the issues of juvenile justice. The large and alarming disproportionate rate of incarceration for the certain segment of our community have come to our attention. As a result, the Authority has convened a Juvenile Justice Task Force, which is made up of human service providers, social service providers, health care providers, and I am very pleased to say constant and very active involvement of both Judges Beam and Stone. Once we've had discussions and we've done research, we will present to the community strategies that we would like to see providers as well as elected bodies help implement to reduce the recidivism among youth in Chatham County. The second issue that the Authority has tackled this year is the lack of comprehensive mental health services, behavioral health services for children and adolescents. We published a paper on last year, which I'm sure each of you received and which I've numerous duplicates and we'd be happy to give you second if you wish; however, as a result of the publication of that paper, we have begun to talk with the members of the Regional Board that's now quite fortunately relocated to Chatham County, as well as the service provider, and that's the Gateway Community Service Board here in Chatham County. We're looking at those areas where there are some gaps in services and some needs that we need to address as a community. So we join the Regional Board in their transitional efforts. We also continue to convene the Chatham County providers to talk about those areas that we need to have some improvements made here in our area for our children. Those are the major things that are happening with the Authority. Of course, we continue to oversee the Family Resource Center. We appreciate your support of our efforts to try to retain the health services there. Of course, it's been announced that those services will be taken away. We're looking at possible substitutes because that is a community where there was the most need, and to have health services taken away from not only children, but their families, is something that we're going to again try to address and get some support as to assistance in having that be replaced at the center. I will now entertain questions if you have any.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Elmore. Does any Commissioners have any questions? Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, I don't have a question, but I do have an observation. I would like to thank you for the work that you are doing on behalf of the children and youth in our community. Just two days ago, I'm very excited about the three things that you mentioned and one in particular was juvenile justice. I just spoke to Judge Beam and Judge Stone relative to that because that is a growing concern in our community and I'm happy to know that you're going to provide that leadership and hopefully that Summer Bonanza as well as the Youth Commission will probably join forces with you so that we can make good things happen in those areas. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'd just like to thank you for your concern on mental health issues in Chatham County. We have children who are not being serviced and not being taken care of with mental health issues. You have a situation where a client of mine might happen again here, where you might have a situation where they turn from juveniles into adults with the same problems and if you nip it in the bud early they can build a life of productivity and engagement within the community, and it's important to address that, and I know there's people in the audience who have members that have these problems that are dealing with it and it's very important. So thank you for your efforts.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Commissioner Rayno. Anybody else? Thank you for your presentation. We appreciate you being here.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Rivers to make a motion to amend the agenda.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move Item 2 under tabled items forward along with the best values presentation. Chairman Hair asked, you want that together? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second. Commissioner Rivers said, yeah, bring them —. Chairman Hair said, okay. Second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no.

Commissioner Rayno said, so just for clarification are we going to do the best values first and then the other one? Commissioner Rivers said, yeah, that's fine.

The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair said, okay.

[NOTE: At this point, Item VII-2 was heard, followed by Item VIII-2.]

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VI. CHAIRMAN'S ITEMS

1. TRUMAN RIBBON CUTTING CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, THE 19TH OF MARCH.

Chairman Hair said, we have a tentative date, we don't have the time yet. We will notify the Commission and the public. Right now Commissioner Linnenkohl is scheduled to be here on the 19th to look at a number of our projects and to work with us on a number of projects, but we will as part of that day he's going to spend with us —, it's tentative, but he's supposed to be here from like ten to three roughly, and it might change slightly, but we will be doing the ribbon cutting some time on the part of Truman from DeRenne to Eisenhower. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, if I may. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've worked with the Department of —, Georgia Department of Transportation people for a long time. I don't know how the Chairman feels, I could guess, but I know how Mr. Bungard and I feel. We have a true friend in Commissioner Linnenkohl and it would be probably, if you could possibly on your calendar that day make time to meet him, if you've not met him already, and talk to him one on one. It might be very beneficial to the County and to GDOT.

Chairman Hair said, you know, Commissioner Linnenkohl has been a friend of mine for 25 years, and this is probably the first time in my memory that we've actually had a Commissioner that came up through the ranks of DOT. He's been at DOT 38 years now, I think, 38, 39 years, and he started out actually as a surveyor many, many years ago, decades ago with DOT and he is, I think the Board of Transportation made a very wise choice in putting Commissioner Linnenkohl there and he has —, we've been in his office several times since he's been Commissioner. He's always had time for us. He's always listened to us and, like one of his predecessors, he has a very good memory about our projects. Commissioner Shackelford had a photographic memory and Harold [Linnenkohl] is not too far behind that. So he will be here on the 19th. As soon as we know the exact date —, exact time, we will let you know as far in advance as we can.

Commissioner Rayno said, Mr. Chairman, that date is the same date that the CAT board wanted to meet in a workshop all day long from 9:30 until 2:30 in the afternoon to work on Scott Lansing's evaluation. Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Murray just made a good —. I think if anything, we probably need to change the CAT meeting. I don't think we need to change Commissioner Linnenkohl's schedule because we've been on this schedule for quite some time. Commissioner Rayno said, I have no problem with that, I just wanted to —.

Chairman Hair said, so maybe if we —, Russ [Abolt], if you will contact —, just as a courtesy, contact Scott [Lansing] and let him know that that's going to conflict with Commissioner Linnenkohl's visit and we'd like to reschedule that, and he can, you know, get with the individual Commissioners to do that or suggest to us at our next meeting, if he wants to, on the 12th what might be an alternative date. Commissioner Murray said, tell him not to do it on the 17th. Chairman Hair said, probably the best thing to do is suggest to him that he comes to us on the 12th at our regular meeting and we'll set that date at the 12th meeting. Does anybody object to that? I mean, that would be the proper time, all of us will be here anyway and we can do that. But, quite frankly, I don't want to make that call to Atlanta suggesting to the Commissioner that we want to change the schedule. I don't think that would be smart.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Truman Ribbon cutting was tentatively set for Friday, March 19, 2004, and the Commissioners and the public will be notified when the time has been set.

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2. TIME TO SCHEDULE BUDGET GOAL SESSION FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

Chairman Hair said, we need to schedule a budget goal session for the next fiscal year. If anybody has any suggestions. I don't have any particular time, I think it probably needs to be some time —, Russ [Abolt], help me out here —, some time in April. County Manager Abolt said, even earlier if you could, sir. Some time this month. What you've usually done, and I would ask you and you've probably already considered facilitating it again, but I think you found like a Monday morning or something like that where you can have a few hours together is a good way to start off. Commissioner Rayno asked, Monday, the 22nd, would that be all right?

Chairman Hair said, hold on just a second. Probably. Monday, the 22nd, is fine with me. Does anybody object to Monday, the 22nd, for the goal session? And we'll do it at nine o'clock. Is that time —. March 22nd, Monday, will be our goal session. Commissioner Odell, we're setting a goal session for Monday the 22nd at nine o'clock here in the Chambers. Commissioner Odell asked, we will have with that what you've done in the past, Russ [Abolt], the ones from this year? County Manager Abolt said, if you wish that, yes —. Commissioner Odell said, I'd like to have that. County Manager Abolt said, — it's in your budget book. Whatever you want. Chairman Hair said, we'll have an

update. County Manager Abolt said, may I suggest, and again the Chairman, I think, does an extremely good job of doing this, if there's other things you might want, but through the Chairman we'll set it up, you know.

Chairman Hair said, and also if there are specific things that individual Commissioners have that you want to cover in that session, if you'll let me know in advance, I'll make sure that we get that on the agenda. But the goal session will be Monday, March 22nd, at nine o'clock here in the Chambers. And make sure that the public and the press is notified officially as they need to be done. County Manager Abolt said, yes sir.

Commissioner Rayno asked, could you send out those goals that we had for this year this week in our packets? County Manager Abolt said, I can, sir, and I will do that. They're also in your budget. The budget message is very extensive. They're all there. It's on the website too. Chairman Hair said, and I think that's basically —, combined with what Commissioner Odell suggested.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

The Commissioners set Monday, March 22nd, at 9:00 A.M., in Commission Chambers as the budget goal session for the next fiscal year.

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3. EMERGENCY AUTHORIZATION TO BEGIN REPAIR OF SHACKELFORD BOULEVARD ON HUTCHINSON ISLAND IN ADVANCE OF THE LEGENDS OF GOLF EVENT AND G-8 SUMMIT (SEE ENCLOSED STAFF REPORT).

Chairman Hair said, I certainly would like to see a motion on this to approve it. Commissioner Murray said, I move to approve it. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Mr. Spadoni's out there. We're delivering on our promise to you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to authorize the Chairman to approve a negotiated contract with GDOT-approved construction contractor for an interim retrofit to a section of Wayne Shackelford Boulevard, authorize a request for a County contract with the Georgia Department of Transportation [GDOT] to assist in the project, authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, County Engineer and County Clerk to sign all forms necessary to implement the project, and authorize the transfer of \$100,000 from the 1985-1993 SPLOST, Reserve for Specified Road Projects, to Interchange: Talmadge - Hutchinson Island (Project No. 50190). Commissioners Odell and Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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VII. COMMISSIONERS' ITEMS

1. YOUTH COMMISSION TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND NEW YORK, NY, ON FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 4, 2004 (COMMISSIONER THOMAS).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission. We're excited about our annual trip to Washington, DC, New York and et cetera. We will be leaving on tomorrow night about 12:00. We'll be boarding the bus around 12:00 and actually moving out at 12:30. We're excited because we will have an opportunity to be featured on Fox and Friends as well during this trip and you will be able to see the Youth Commission as well as —, I know the Youth Commission Chairperson and myself in a dialogue with the Fox newscast persons talking about the Youth Commission of Chatham County, which is —, we're very excited about that. We'd like to thank Mr. Pete Nichols for making that happen along with Alderman Van Johnson. Also we will be touring Andrews Air Force Base, which is another entity that we have not done before, and this is going to be an exciting moment for that. Chairman Hair said, you will enjoy that base. That's a [inaudible]. Commissioner Thomas said, right. And you know of course the youth also participate in the workshops from NACo. They are required to participate in the workshops at NACo, and so those are just some of the things that we will be doing on our trip, and of course there's very little time for any kind of leisure, but we will be giving them a little time to visit Ground Zero and do a little shopping and touring and so forth and so on, and we will also tour the United States Capitol. This is courtesy of Congressman Max Burns.

Chairman Hair asked, how many are you taking this time, Dr. Thomas, approximately? Commissioner Thomas said, we're taking a total of 26 —, yeah, 26 young ladies and 4 —. Is it 26? Chairman Hair asked, Brittney [Kohler], are you

going to go? Youth Commissioner Kohler said, yes sir. I'm going to go. My bags are packed. Commissioner Thomas said, I'm going to call on Alderman Johnson. He can give you the exact total we've got. Chairman Hair said, also, as always, one thing I've always enjoyed when the Youth Commission gets back, you folks give a pretty good presentation to us, and I'm sure that's on schedule. Is that right? Alderman Van Johnson said, yes sir. We're talking a total of 47. We're taking 30 Youth Commissioners, several staff members, members of Summer Bonanza and Greenbrier Children's Center. Chairman Hair said, very good. Well, enjoy yourself, Brittney [Kohler]. Youth Commissioner Kohler said, thank you. I would like to thank you all for your support of the Youth Commission and our trip. I'm looking forward to seeing NACo in action and everything they do there. We also got extreme coverage, the *Savannah Morning News*, I hope you saw the article about us. They also —, Mr. Van Johnson and our chair, Rebecca Childs, were on WSAV this morning and are able to be featured there as well. So it's really giving us some good coverage. Chairman Hair said, well, good. Thank you. Alderman Johnson said, y'all pray for us.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell has a request.

Commissioner Odell said, I'd like my fellow Commissioners to join me. One of the best things I think we've ever done is the Youth Commission and it was spearheaded by Dr. Thomas —. Chairman Hair said, absolutely. Commissioner Odell said, — and it's brought us excellent press throughout the country, and I think our program is being used as a model. The staff has to be commended for its efforts and seeing these —, these are bright, intelligent young people who come here and sometimes they ask questions that, God, what a great question, and I'd like my fellow Commissioners to join me in giving Dr. Thomas a round of applause for her efforts.

Chairman Hair said, thank you.

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2. BEST VALUE CONTRACTING PRESENTATION BY DR. PHILLIP LAPORTE, DIRECTOR OF LABOR STUDIES, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY (COMMISSIONER MCMASTERS). (NOTE: POSTPONED FROM FEBRUARY 13, 2004 MEETING.)

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner McMasters to introduce that.

Commissioner McMasters said, this is a presentation that we're going to receive from Dr. Phil Laporte, but I'd like to make some brief remarks on the subject. Each SPLOST generates hundreds of millions of dollars and over the four SPLOST collections we will have taken in over a billion dollars of sales tax revenue. This money is all collected locally. A small percentage of it is paid locally through visitors and tourists that visit our County and City. After a successful passage of SPLOST in March of 2003, I think the Commission did a very good thing. We decided to keep as much SPLOST money as possible within Chatham County. The Chairman rightly reminded us of the Trade Center history, which was a perfect example. This was something that was built with sales tax money from SPLOST. The low bid was awarded to an out-of-state contractor and the \$37 million project wound up costing Chatham County taxpayers \$84 million. In an effort to help our local economy, we unanimously approved a goal of 30% of SPLOST revenue out of SPLOST IV, try —, an attempt to award that to women and minority businesses, and we've had great discussions with Robert James at DiversiPLEX and County staff and interested parties. Nonetheless, this was a unanimous vote and a very smart and good government decision. In the following months from passage of that last Spring, I began to think about how can we keep even more SPLOST dollars locally within Chatham County. I was —, actually I was growing very concerned by a common phenomenon in SPLOST contracting and that's the change order or cost overrun, and while by ordinance we're required to take the lowest responsible bidder, yet after change order after change order and cost overruns, what we originally think to be the lowest bid rarely is the lowest bid. From our SPLOST detail I'd like to point out a couple of projects just to illustrate at this point. This is from sales tax '85 to '93. This is —, the Bay Street Viaduct was a \$300,000 original project estimate. It's current budget cost is \$886,000. The Staley Avenue Overpass was a \$1.5 million project that is going to finish at \$3.5 million. The interchange at US80/ Islands Expressway was a \$3 million project that finished at \$11,500,000. The Jimmy DeLoach Parkway was a \$12.2 million project that finished at \$17.8 million. Ogeechee Road on Abercorn was a \$1.4 million project that finished at \$2 million. The point of this is that the lowest responsible bidder is not always the best bidder. I began meeting —, after Dr. Hair's and Harris Odell's suggestion of minority and women participation, I worked with contractors and County staff and trades and labor representatives to figure out if we could make this SPLOST money to be more effective and stay within our local community. I had the opportunity in early Summer to attend a presentation of best value contracting, and this is much of what we're going to hear today from Mr. [sic] Laporte. We've had four meetings since then with the interested parties between Summer '03 and this last Winter. Best value contracting has merit. It requires us to basically redefine the word lowest responsible bidder and the operative word is responsible. A low bid that ends up with high cost isn't really our best bid. It's a bid that takes money out of Chatham County and doesn't in fact help Chatham County that much. Having said, all this, I would like Dr. Laporte to give us a technical and expert appraisal of best value contracting.

Chairman Hair said, Dr. Laporte, prior to your presentation, Commissioner Murray wants to make a comment.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, I just wanted to make one clarification. In your comments you referenced the Trade Center and how it was originally, I think, \$54 million and we ended up with \$80 million, or something like that. Keep in mind all of that did not come from Chatham County. \$16 million of that came from the State and it got —, I agree, we do a lot of overruns in costs that we should not be doing, and that's why I support this presentation and support

best value, but at the same time I think we need to look at the records and see where your money actually comes from so the people aren't misled with it by any means. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Dr. Laporte.

Dr. Laporte said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, thank you members of the Commission, and thank you, Chatham County, for inviting me here today. It's delightful to be in Georgia's first city. Members of the Commission, my name is Phillip Laporte. I'm Director of the Labor Studies Program, Georgia State University. I did prepare a presentation and requested an overhead, but we don't see to have one, so I have materials here that's been made available, so I'm just going to press on with that. I understand in this Board of Commissioners that brevity is the better part of discretion, so let me get right to the point. Best value contracting is used extensively in the Federal government. It is endorsed mightily by Fourth District —, Fifth District Congressman John Lewis. Best value contracting, a common sense, quality-oriented alternative to the low bid system. Both price and non-price factors are considered by the contracting agency. Some of those non-price factors would include experience, past performance, technical qualifications. The low bid does not automatically win the job, but indeed under State law the lowest responsible bid. And you, as elected officials, you are the advocates for the public, you are the advocates for customers, and as the advocate for the customers, for the consumers, you have the ability to determine what the criteria should be that represents the lowest responsible —, that is, responsible bidder. So state and local initiatives primarily are still sealed bids. Some jurisdictions are using best value or some variation, such as the performance based procurement system that has been developed by Dr. Dean Kashiwagi [phonetic] at Arizona State University. The States of Alaska, Colorado, Kentucky have all utilized best value contracting. Among the criteria includes past performance, specialized experience, scheduling plans, subcontracting plans, staffing plans, staffing capabilities, training and safety initiatives, quality control and financial capabilities. The source selection procedures should be designed to foster an impartial comprehensive evaluation of proposals that leads to the selection of the proposal representing the best value to the government and to document the agency's rationale for its contract award decision. The win/win approach using best value should result in better qualified contractors performing the work, contractors capable of delivering quality work on time and within budget. The value of this different procedure in awarding contracts for the local community includes higher standards meaning oftentimes lower long term costs of the projects —, a roof that doesn't leak, a paint job that lasts for an extended period of time rather than having to repaint a project again in a year's time. A health care coverage provided by a high quality contractor retaining high-skilled employees reduces the potential liability for community hospitals and taxpayers, of local workers having those skills remaining in their local community supporting that local community through tax revenue. So, in essence, best value contracting is a common sense, quality oriented alternative to the low bid system that examines experience, past performance, technical qualifications and seeking the best value for the customer and the public when contracting decisions are made. I mentioned the performance information procurement system that Dean Kashiwagi at Arizona State has developed. That program over its 10 years has had 384 contract procurements, \$230 million worth of contracts ranging from \$5,000 to \$50 million. The results of that is very —, of using that system is 98% user satisfaction. 98% we're within budget. 97% we're on time. It resulted in a substantial increase in the quality of work and increased management's capability by 500,000%. Among those contractors were United Air Lines. They saw a dramatic increase in quality. There were no change orders in the projects that were bid under this PIP system. Management inspection was reduced by 75%. United Air Lines concluded they were the best contractors they've had in 20 years. Total number of projects, United Air Lines, was 40, the total cost was \$13 million. 97% were finished on time. The number of contractor caused change orders was zero. The overall customer satisfaction was 100%. I have those —, copies of those slides for you that I aren't in your packet. I'm sorry, but I do have them here. So the end result, and I do have the program that was used there and the specific system that was used in that PIP system that includes a step-by-step procedure in looking at best value contracting, including a pilot program including a legal analysis to ensure that proceeding with such a process does comply with applicable state law. So, as I said, brevity I understand was a very value to you so let me stop there if I might, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Does anyone have any questions? Commissioner Rivers said, I'd like to ask a question. Chairman Hair said, certainly.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. [sic] Laporte —. Dr. Laporte said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, now we're talking about best value contracting and what we're trying to do in best value contracting is to contain the cost of constructing projects, et cetera. I've got something coming up on the agenda that's a professional service contract. Now if you're looking at this professional contract that we're talking about here today, yes, maybe we should look down toward that person going out and making those minorities aware of best value, but I don't see where it's germane particularly to this particular contract in professional service. Can you shed some light on that for me? Dr. Laporte said, as I understand it, Mr. Rivers, the examination of experience —, has the bidder performed this job before, have they done so meeting a high standard, have they achieved customer satisfaction —, if all of those elements are there as part of that bidder, then the procurement officer who was examining that bid could make a determination that, yes, based on our needs, based on our criteria that this is the preferred bidder based on the criteria that has been established. And then examining it more over a long period of time to capture that value over the life of the service contract or the life of the building construction project. Commissioner Rivers said, now —, and I don't want it to get confused, see, because a lot of people get things confused some times. We do things in two specific —, we bid, put out requests for quotes —. Dr. Laporte said, yes sir. Commissioner Rivers said, — and we do professional service contracts. So there's a differential there and I'd like John Q. Public to know that there's a difference there in your bid situation and going to the lower bidder or, if you have to in those services contracts, sometimes when we heretofore when we used to do servicing contracts like engineering, we used to go around to the engineering companies. There was no bid put out there or no requests for proposal. We just selected those companies in that order that they were in. Of course, we don't do that, but we have done it that way. So in reference to the contract that we're about to deliberate on following

this, I want to be specifically clear that this is a professional service contract rather than a bid or contract of service and whether that should be included in his deliberation to the contractors and minorities and women that he will bring forth.

Dr. Laporte said, Mr. Chairman, the distinction between a bid for building a construction project and the bid for professional services contract —, is that the distinction there that there are different criteria that apply, there are different requirements under State law, as I understand it? Chairman Hair said, that is correct. Dr. Laporte said, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Odell and then Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Odell said, I think Joe [Rivers] covered most of what I had to say, but I think when you do a request for professional services, you are in fact, whether or not you have a written program or not, making a best value decision because often the things cannot be quantified, whereas a bid, if I'm going to buy 10,000 of these cups, then they are uniform as to the base, side, fluid content and I send that out. That's a bid. We are restricted to some extent by Georgia law, which as far as bid says that we go to a lower bid. To combine this concept with a request for professional services, I would say that it's redundant in that it's already being done. It has to be done. If you go to a doctor to select a heart surgeon, you don't necessarily look for the cheapest guy, whereas if you are going to look for an attorney you don't necessarily look for the cheapest attorney. People spend a lot of time in prison looking for the cheapest attorney, but just as it relates to your statement that you look at —, one of the main criteria is experience, my concern with that being an essential element necessarily is that we did that with Enron. Enron bid on a substantial number of contracts because they were the big dog and continued at the trough and had a record, and now they have a record. So we do best value when we —, we do, don't we, Russ [Abolt], when we look at professional services? We're going to hire an engineer, best value.

County Manager Abolt said, the challenge here is to build up front in the solicitation procedure justification to make an award to other than the traditional low bidder. It's very cutting edge and it has some opportunity to develop for your review and certainly before it was adopted you'd want to answer these questions. But this is different than we've done in the past.

Commissioner Odell said, Doctor, just one last question. Dr. Laporte said, yes sir. Commissioner Odell said, you cited an Arizona company or city. Do you know of where best value is being used in any major city in Georgia? Dr. Laporte said, a major city in Georgia —. Commissioner Odell asked, is it used where Georgia State is located in Fulton County? Dr. Laporte said, my understanding, Commissioner, is in Fulton County the City of Atlanta, the Department of Watershed Management is going to best value contracting. I have spoken with their procurement officers, I have spoken with some of their engineers and they are in the process of implementing a variation of best value contracting. Commissioner Odell asked, so as we speak today they are not there? They are going to at some date in the future, but as we speak none are doing that. Is that a true statement? Dr. Laporte said, that is a true statement, Commissioner. That's right. There are other cities in the United States or other states and the federal government that have adopted best value contracting —. Commissioner Odell said, I think that's good, but what I'm trying to do is to see a city comparable to Savannah in that you've asked for it —. Dr. Laporte said, yes. Commissioner Odell said, — that you can identify and has gone to best value because our laws are going to be different than Arizona. Dr. Laporte said, absolutely, and it is Arizona State University and that information I do have with me today. It is accessible on the website, it is accessible the 10 years of research and study that they have done on best value contracting. I understand your question. The laws under Georgia, we're responsible, and what Chatham County has done in looking at this, and I applaud the Commissioners for being receptive to new ideas and listening to the concerns of the community and your citizens in terms of getting the best product possible for the tax dollars that you're expending, and the examination is for the long term value of the projects that you let. You are the customers, you are the advocates for the public, so the product that you purchase to ensure that it does indeed result in the best value for the customers, so you're exercising your purchasing power in establishing the criteria as to what is going to be a responsible bid. Commissioner Odell said, just —, I just need to follow that conclusion as to my question. My question was whether or not in the State of Georgia as you stand here today can you state any municipality that is using best value, and your response is? Dr. Laporte said, well, my response is no. Commissioner Odell said, okay, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, Commissioner McMasters and then myself. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I think this could possibly be a good idea if —, provided the State changed its law. I don't think the way it's currently being worded here, I really don't believe that changing the local policy would benefit the taxpayers at all here in Chatham County because what's really not being said here is it would actually require in the bidding process. I believe the people to have insurance on all employees and certain benefits that would drive up the cost to finish the project and which is great for their employees and I'm all for that, but what my fear would be would be that, number one, it would drive up the cost to the taxpayers here. Number two, there's plenty of small projects out there that —, mom and pop businesses that they're paying their own private insurance and they choose to live that way, pay private to work for themselves. They couldn't bid in that, you know, in this case. They couldn't get out there and they couldn't do the work and, you know, they're feeding their families also. I just —, I think the way this is worded, it's not a free bidding process. It regulates —, it stipulates what you have. I believe it's going to drive up expenses in Chatham County. I believe that, you know, it's —, State law currently, I believe the reason it needs to change the RFQs, the requests for quotes, is they need to give us the same discretion, just like they give us to choose when we're able to put out an RFP and, you know, that's where this needs to start, and then I believe all problems would be solved because with that one simple change in State law, if we had the discretion to choose, then we can sit there like we do with the RFPs, analyze and look and say we've got great local people here, we know they're qualified, we know the

type of work. Sure, it's better to pay a little bit more because they're going to do a great job. I mean that's a definite thing that would benefit Chatham County and all the counties around, but that's going to take a State law change rather than us requiring that everyone put all these stipulations into their bid. It's going to drive up the expenses and it's going to take mom and pop out of there. This is going to hurt a lot of small working-class businesses and, you know, again I applaud the concept. I just think we're at the wrong venue. I think this change needs to take place on the State level to simply give us the discretion to choose, like we're able to choose with an RFP. That's just my comment.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters and then myself.

Commissioner McMasters said, thank you. County Attorney, Jon Hart? County Manager Abolt said, yes sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, in the multiple meetings that we have had with staff, with Robert James from Diversi-plex in assisting us with this, can we not define —, redefine responsible —? County Manager Abolt said, sure. Commissioner McMasters said, — so that we can operate under a best value model for our RFQ purchasing? County Manager Abolt said, you can define in your scope or your bid package the requirements that you need for the scope of work, the qualifications and requirements of the bidder. Okay? And to the extent you do that, you are qualifying bidders. Okay? And whether you want to call that best value, smart value, dumb value, or whatever, you can call it whatever it is, but all you're doing is qualifying the bidders. Now there's an inverse ratio there of the more qualifications that you place in the bids, the narrower the scope of bidders, and that's just the reality of the real world. That's not a good thing, that's not a bad thing. That's just —, whatever you define in there is what you're going to get. So if you've got good qualification requirements, you're going to get a narrower scope of bidders, but you're going to get good bidders. If you've got a lousy scope of work defined, you're going to get a bunch of bidders and probably some lousy bids in there. And that's just the reality of the real world. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. But there's —, there are page after page after page of SPLOST, and we're confining this conversation to SPLOST. We're not suggesting that this be a model for the private business community. We're not suggesting that this apply to our M&O or SSD outsourcing as it may apply. This is strictly related to Chatham County taxpayers' money, and when you take a look at any roll-up on SPLOST I, II or III, what we have, I submit to you, is a history of change order after change order after change order and cost overrun and cost overrun and cost overrun. Now, to be fair cost overruns do occur and some are legitimate. This will not solve every cost overrun, but when you take projects that are bid and awarded at \$300,000 and finish at \$886,000, I think our model needs to be revisited. The point of best value is exactly as you suggested to give us —, and it's taxpayer money, we can —, our job is to spend it as wisely as possible, and if this body deems that narrowing the ultimate field of bidders to the most responsible bidders, that's a good utilization of taxpayer money because in the end we'll be better off. We will have better value for what we paid. We can look at the Aquatic Center, we can look at numerous projects in this community that we are reluctant to go after the contractors. Many of those contractors are no longer in business, many of those contractors are out of County or out of State. So I think best value contracting as a pilot program and as a concept ought to be embraced and explored by this County. Our history dictates that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. I have a couple of comments. You know, this whole concept of best value or the best value model sounds good in theory. You know, in the halls of academia it's a wonderful thing. I think, however, when you put the acid test to it, I think it's got a law of flaws. The first flaw is that if we would attempt today, which I hope we don't do, to apply best values to this minority recruitment contract, I think we're going to be at cross purposes because the very concept of best practices, as both the attorney and Commissioner Kicklighter have said, is when you add additional requirements, you reduce the number of people to qualify and the people who's going to get hurt the most are going to be small minority businesses. I'm a small business owner. I will never forget bidding on the job in MARTA and went up to Atlanta at the bid opening and I've never been so disappointed in my life. There wasn't a company under \$30 million or \$50 million that would have ever been able to qualify for the contract. They were automatically ruling out certainly, you know, very small businesses like mine. I think when you begin to start looking at you want somebody to give you a five-year history or a three-year history of projects or cost overruns, there's no way the small business is going to be able to do that, and I just think that we would actually defeat our purpose if we attempted to apply this to the contract that we're going to vote on here in a few minutes. Secondly, I think that again let's don't fall in love with an idea and lose the substance of what we're trying to accomplish. There's not a country —, a company in this country that if you are building a \$50 million project or a \$100 million project, you're going to run into unforeseen things. We couldn't have hired a contractor, for example, the Trade Center since that's thrown out there as an example, there's not a contractor in this country that would have been able to build that project and anticipate every possible thing that's going to come up in that project that's going to take two or three years to build. An example Commissioner McMasters used several times were the SPLOST projects. Some of those SPLOST projects, you know, it's impossible. There's —, the technology is not even there to anticipate everything that might come out. So I think that it sounds good. It's good in theory, but as Commissioner Odell pointed out, there's not anybody in the State of Georgia using it in the municipal realm. That ought to tell you right there that if it's such a wonderful idea, you know, why in the world after a presentation on this wouldn't every government in Georgia jump on the bandwagon and say, "Let's all do it." But yet nobody in Georgia in government is doing it, and we've only had one example in Arizona given to us as an example. So I —, I think it sounds good, I think it's something that we certainly should look at in the future, but I think it's got a lot of work to be done before we're ready to implement even on a pilot project in my opinion. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I'm interested to know that my fellow Commissioner believes that best value should be implemented for SPLOST, but there's no recommendation to implement it for M&O and SSD. My thoughts on that is that if it is so good, it wouldn't hurt if we did it all over. But understand the difference between best value and minority and women contractors. Best value is an attempt to try on and kill because what you have when you have best value, you invoke the call. You put in more qualifications and less people qualify. The purpose of the minority and women program is to have more people who qualify, who pay taxes just like other folk, that don't participate in the benefits of

our having SPLOST. Best value is not the same as prevailing wage, and I don't want the unions to be laboring under the misapprehension that best value means prevailing wage. It does not. We have prevailing wage. Understand that that we have prevailing wage. I made the motion regarding prevailing wage and my colleague then Ben Price, a Republican, seconded the motion and we got a unanimous on prevailing wage. We have prevailing wage. This does not solve a problem as far as minority and women being equal partners at the table of opportunity from SPLOST, which we participate in. It creates a problem. This is not an effort to revive the baby, this is an effort to drown the baby. This is an item that is listed as information. I have heard what you have to say. I accept it as information just as the other counties accept it for information, but to hold up the other part of this I think is a miscarriage of justice. It doesn't —, and having the unions here like best value is prevailing wage, it's not. It's not.

Dr. Laporte said, Commissioner, you're absolutely right. Of course, prevailing wage stems from the Davis-Bacon Act, which was passed in 1932 as a federal law and then passed in many states, and my compliments to Chatham County for adopting prevailing wage. There's actually 384 procurements that I mentioned that were part of the PIP study that include both state government and municipalities that have adopted best value. You are correct that they are not in the State of Georgia, but as pointed out earlier, the criteria becomes the key and you, as the customer, can determine what that criteria is as you bid your projects. I have been in Atlanta and there is a 34% set aside, 17% for women-owned businesses and 17% for minority-owned businesses. So it does —, the City of Atlanta has determined that that is the requirement for a contract. If as part of your contract you wish to include requirements for qualified minority and women-owned businesses as part of that overall contract, you as the customer again have that authority. Just as Commissioner Kicklighter —, as the customer, best value contracting would not require a bidder to provide health care. That would be up to the customer to determine and you are the customer.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to call on Commissioner McMasters for a final comment and then Commissioner Rivers to move on to the next item.

Commissioner McMasters said, okay. I want to make some distinctions here. This Commission too often does a blurring of the lines and a mischaracterization of the facts. It's almost slight of hand, and let's back up here. We wanted to achieve out of 100% of SPLOST money a 30% goal for women and minority businesses. We passed unanimously and that was a good thing. This simply is a 30% goal to effect best value contracting out of the 100%. They are not linked together, we're not drowning both babies. They are separate and distinct, and if one is good, why isn't the other? The history proves that we need to do something on better value for taxpayer money in the projects that we do. We also need to create opportunities for women and minorities. We can do both. These are not one and the same. One does not cancel out the other and if you think that it does, with all due respect I submit that you're mistaken. Commissioner Odell asked, are you looking at me for any reason? Commissioner McMasters said, yes, I'm actually indirectly —.

Chairman Hair said, all right, let's —, I'm going to call on Dr. Thomas is next actually anyway and then I'm going to call on Commissioner Rivers. Dr. Thomas and then I'm going to call on Commissioner Rivers to move to the next item. Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, we've pretty much debated this. This was supposed to be 15 minutes and it's been an hour.

Commissioner Thomas said, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I think we can really go ahead and wrap this up because I think everything has been well spoken of. As far as women and minorities, I am the chairperson for Chatham County Commissioners who have spearheaded the diversity on the Council in terms of looking at promises and jobs and et cetera for minorities, and at this juncture I do not see where we need to fuse that with what we are about to do with Diversi-plex and I think down the road we can perhaps look into the possibility of the best value if we want to, and at this point I think we need to move on.

Chairman Hair said, I agree. Commissioner Rivers, for the next item. Thank you, Dr. Laporte. Dr. Laporte said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hair said, we appreciate you being here. Dr. Laporte said, thank you very much. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Dr. Laporte said, yes sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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3. CVB PRESENTATION (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno will introduce it.

Commissioner Rayno said, sure. It's been my distinct honor and privilege to be an ex officio member of the Convention and Visitors Bureau. My first years on the County Commission I didn't have a lot of contact with the business community, largely because of all the issues and challenges we face, but over the past half year I've had great opportunity to meet a number of the leaders and listen to some of the challenges that they face, and even though they have a smaller than we do, they face a lot of the same challenges in terms of revenue and expenditures. We have representatives here from the Westin, the airport, Planters Inn, and I'm going to let Tony Schoop introduce them, all fine gentlemen, and Tony [Schoop] is doing a great job down there as well. I've enjoyed meeting him and getting to know him. So, Tony [Schoop], I turn the floor over to you. Thank you for being here today.

Mr. Anthony Schoop said, thank you, Commissioner, and good morning to all of you. We are delighted to be here to review with you our long standing and valued relationship that we have with the County to promote tourism into the County. I would also like to talk —, I'm going to be doing most of the speaking to you, but I'm very pleased to introduce a few people who Commissioner Rayno mentioned, who are here. In addition to that I also want to introduce Nichole Duncan. Nichole is part of our sales team and she's going to assist us with the power point presentation. With me today is the chairman of our Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mark Spadoni, who is the General Manager of the Westin Savannah Harbor Resort and Spa. Also here is Patrick Graham. Patrick is our chairman-elect and he is also the Executive Director of the Savannah Airport Authority, and finally we have Mark Friday. Mark is the General Manager of the Planters Inn, but he's an individual who has served as General Manager of several of the properties that are located in the County, and so Mark [Friday] is also here to be with me today.

Mr. Schoop said, we are a local trade association of businesses that are in tourism and our job, which is tourism promotion, destination marketing, is to do whatever we can do to make sure that our businesses are successful. That's how we measure ourselves. I brought with me today some collateral material that will be distributed to you all after. It includes our annual plan, which is our marketing plan that we're going to highlight a little bit this morning. We also have a couple of examples of some of the promotional materials that we use. What I would like to do, if I can, is just kind of begin, Nichole [Duncan], if we would with our mission and our vision, if you could do that, and also, if I might, I'm going to walk over and turn off a switch. I think we discovered yesterday that that's the key light right there. Every mission and every vision is —, every word in it is important. I'd like you to focus on the phrase visitor expenditures because what we're all about, if we're about anything, it's jobs creation and jobs creation comes from traveler expenditures. Three years ago the Bureau of Labor Statistics did a study and it determined on average for every \$71,500 in traveler expenditures one full time equivalent tourism job is created. So it's a simple proposition. More visitor expenditures, more employment. Drop in traveler expenditures, drop in employment. We can go to the next slide. The relationship that we have with the Commission, we have a member —, we have an agreement with you. It's based on the Georgia Tax Code that provides an excise tax on the sale of lodging rooms. The revenue that we collect, which is a 6% tax on the sale of all lodging rooms, is shared. 50% of the tax that our hoteliers collect and remit to the County is retained by the County, 33% you have coming to us via this agreement, and you also have 17% going to the Trade Center Authority, all of which any money that is beyond the 3% that goes into your general funds needs to be given to an outside 501(c)(6) private organization to promote tourism into the County. If we can go to the next slide. The CVB is a unit of the Chamber of Commerce. Among the responsibilities that the Chamber has given our board of directors is to ensure —, clearly ensure that all of the monies that are received are separated and accounted for and used exclusively for the CVB goals, and we have an independent audited financial statement annually. Our next slide that Nichole [Duncan] is going to put up talks about our structure. We have 29 directors and officers, including 21 who are elected and 8 ex officio, including Commissioner Rayno. The board is like any other board. It's responsible for establishing the policies, monitoring the procedures, responding to member's needs, approving the annual marketing plan and overseeing our funds and our records. Let's get into the operation a little bit. We have three operating units. Our staff deployment, we have 13 of our staff involved in marketing, 12 in destination services and 5 in administration. Now, if we can —, thank you, Nichole [Duncan]. For some of us, especially after some of the discussion you've had here today, numbers merge together. I think if you take a look at this chart, we've had —, what it says is we've had sustained growth in traveler expenditures for the past five years, and this includes the 9-11 impact, it includes the recession we've had here in the State, and it just includes an overall travel reduction for the last several years in travel, but this chart really doesn't really tell the tale about Savannah tourism and County tourism. You know, this is the 10th year anniversary of *The Book*, and everybody talks about what's really been the impact of *The Book*. I frustrate John Berendt, who's the author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. He says, can you quantify the result and the benefit that my book has had on Savannah and we say, no, we can't. That just frustrates him because several things were going on at the same time. We were having tremendous growth in individual travel overall throughout the United States, Atlanta doubled the size of its hotel rooms in the past 10 years, something called the Olympics was there, the various movies that have all been produced. All of these come together, but nevertheless big change in Savannah tourism 10 years ago until today is not in the number of travelers who come to town. Frankly, it's just about the same. Just about the same number. The difference is traveler expenditures, what people do while they're here, travel activities. Ten years ago the majority of the people came stayed with their friends and relatives if they stayed all. Most of them just kind of came in, took a look around, rode through the square, and then took off and continued on with their vacation. So *The Book* gave businesses the confidence to start making investments, to invest in a restaurant other than a fast-food chain, to invest in an upscale hotel, to invest in a series of limited service properties along 204 next to the County. This book gave the catalyst, it gave the confidence to businesses to start making investments, and the growth and travel expenditures in the last 10 years in Savannah is 80%. The next slide though is a little bit more specific. This talks about the growth in bed tax revenue for the County, and keep in mind this is 6% of the total revenue of room sales that are made in County properties, and we had good growth in the last five years in Savannah, good sustained growth. But the County properties growth exceeds our Savannah growth. It's 28% versus 15%, and these two charts here show you the CVB's 33% portion of the total collected tax in the County. The annual plan, it does more than prioritize our efforts that our board established. It really majors production. The slide —, two slides before were kind of indicators of the results of tourism. Well, let's keep something in mind. You know, there are many —, there are many drivers, and I'm not talking about automobile drivers. There are many drivers that bring travelers to Savannah: friends and relatives, our lodging members. You know we have over a hundred lodging members. They all advertise and promote. We have 500 tourism companies, they promote. We have businesses that are here, people come in to visit the businesses. We have the convention center that you were talking about earlier, we have sporting events. We have the greatest driver of all, that's called word of mouth: I was here, I liked it, you guys ought to go visit. So what this —, what we're talking about in this evaluation is a measurement of our staff effort, not of the indicators of how tourism business is going. Annually we separate and track and measure the results of our staff and we compare this to the dollars that are invested by the County and by the City in our operation. The national average for this return is about 8½%, and we're fortunate here and we're going to continue to exceed that all the time. Our primary

focus, our primary focus —, because if you read this, you say what the devil is he talking about? Our primary focus in the bureau is the future and we're talking about something that's going to happen in the future as opposed to where our members are. They're satisfied with demand today. People are here today. Our effort is what's going to happen two years from now, three years from now, four years from now, and you can see as we go to the group sales, Nichole [Duncan]. We're talking about projected value of group contracts. These projections are based on room nights that are reserved in contracts signed by various groups this year for future meetings. Contracts for tours coming up that were signed this year. Contracts for events in the future that were signed this year. The goals that we have, and you can see we have sub-goals there, they reflect the various types of members that we have. We not only have lodging members, we have restaurants, we have tour companies, we have attractions and each of these members benefit from a particular type of traveler that comes in. Of course we have members who serve and host the moderately priced traveler, the economy traveler and the upscale traveler, and so our efforts have got to address the needs of all of our members. This is the same in advertising. We can go to the next slide, and I appreciated the comments from the professor from Georgia State. Georgia's first city is our current advertising campaign. We're very pleased with the results. Savannah's authenticity, Savannah's authenticity is what separates this community from the other 386 that we compete with on a daily basis. Savannah Historic District remains the number one tourist attraction in the State. A study was done by a company called Longwood [phonetic] International for Georgia's Department of Economic Development a few years ago. Savannah Historic District is now the number one tourist attraction. Stone Mountain is number two, and I believe it's Six Flags is number three, and that's been that way for the last several years, and we're pleased about that. And what you're looking at here is simply examples of some of the media that we —, insertions that we use. If I can get to the next slide, these are just four of the nine tactics that we have in our annual plan. I pulled these out because effective advertising is integrated. A direct mail campaign has got to tie into other programs, but the outcomes are the key. Not where you put something, the outcomes. We know that weekend business in Savannah is strong. We focus on weekday business. Okay. The interstate provides a significant amount of business for our hotels, including all the County hotels, and so we certainly have tripled, tripled in the last five years the number of billboards that we have on I-95. Heritage tourism, nature based tourism, it provides traveler expenditures into more than just hotels. It's very important that we recognize this in our advertising. Patrick Graham, who was our treasurer for four years, is going to review the budget in a few minutes, but I think it's important for you to know that annually for the last three or four —, for the last three years annually the amount of investment that our members have made of their own money into our marketing and advertising campaign each year has been \$500,000 more and so the money that we talk about in our budget is supplemented by our member's funds when we talk about the various advertising programs that we have. And if you can put up some of —, examples of the group ads, the top of this is a print insertion and the bottom is electronic postcard that we sent out last Fall to about 25,000 meeting planners. Public relations is the next slide. Marketing is a three-legged stool, and I'm happy to report that our public relations leg has come into balance with the group sales and advertising. We regularly receive a report for a service that we subscribe to in terms of the type of insertions and type of articles we've had, and this is just for the past four months. Over 45,000,000 viewers have seen articles on Savannah. And in the next three slides you'll see —, if you can go through these, Melissa [sic] —, like advertising and sales, our public relations effort needs to reach publications and different market segments. Okay, and you'll see that in this slide and you'll see that in the next slide. And this is electronic advertising, but again our job and our staff's job is to make sure we just aren't getting public relations articles, but we're getting the type of public relations articles that are read by the kinds of travelers that we want to come to Savannah that are going to benefit the three or the four various types of members that we're most interested in. Our primary focus, as I mentioned, again is the future, and there are two interesting things about a CVB. First of all, we're talking about the future rather than the current and, secondly, most of what we do local residents don't see because our job is to get the Savannah message and the Chatham County message to individuals who live a couple hundred miles or a couple thousand miles away from here, not here in this area. Our job is to drive traffic into this area. Research and development is the next slide, and I put this up for a purpose. We can go to the next one —, oh, all right. Thank you, I didn't see this. This is —, this makes me very pleased and very happy. This is a little bit more about what I was talking about in terms of not seeing the efforts. There are businesses in Chatham County that certainly have more viewers than we have on an annual basis, but I doubt that there is any website that has more individuals who do not live in Chatham County coming to learn about Chatham County, and so we're very pleased with the unique viewers that come onto our site on an annual basis. Now, we should see research and development, and I mention this because I'm so pleased that our volunteer leaders, represented by these gentlemen here, they insist that if we're going to spend over a million dollars a year in advertising, we're not going to do it subjectively. We're going to do it with object research, we're going to do it in a professional way. It just is —, you just can't run a business saying, "Well, I think you ought to advertise over here because Mary said it's a nice magazine." They insist upon our spending the money to really have the objective research. Likewise, the terms of development —, we're a destination marketing organization. We market what is here, but if we believe that there is a —, something that is strategic in terms of market development and something that is unique in terms of Savannah that helps maintain its authenticity, you'll hear from us and you certainly will hear some very pleased comments from us with the announcement about the funding —, the initial funding for the Battlefield Heritage Park. This regional museum is going to do so much to address so many issues and enhance what we have here in our community. All right, next slide, Nicole [Duncan]. I'm talking a lot. Somebody once used a shopping center to describe what it is that we do and what our marketing efforts are all about, and it's probably a pretty good analogy. Our job is to drive travelers to Chatham County. Our members then have to determine how to get them from the County limits into their store, into their restaurant, into their shop, onto their tour bus. It's kind of like you do with a shopping center. You promote people to come to the shopping center and then the stores try to get people there. And so these destination services that we've talked about here, our staff at our information centers are so key to tell people find our members once they're in town. Only 20%, only 20% of the travelers who come to Savannah visit our information center, but you know 1.2 million is a lot of people, and so it's very important for us to try to move these individuals to where our members are. If we get people interested in Savannah and we cannot convert them, we cannot give them the information they need to come and visit, we haven't done our job, and that's what this destination services is all about. And you can see the result of some of the fulfillment on this

next slide. We're so pleased that we started a collaboration with Armstrong Atlantic State University three years ago to actually contact individuals to whom we sent information to find out, "Did you ever come to Savannah and, if so, what did you do while you were here?" And this is reflected in this \$14,000,000 in projected revenue from the individuals, that's 80,000 to whom we send something, 16,000 show up here and you can see the kind of money that we have. And the last slide that I want to talk about to bring it all home, \$1.2 billion annually in traveler expenditures. Big number. \$22,000,000 in sales tax in this area in the SPLOST and in LOST. Okay, \$64,000,000 collected sales tax overall. \$10,000,000 in bed tax revenue into the County and the municipalities in the County. And all of that, and that I talked about and all that we do doesn't mean very much unless we can create jobs, and that's the most important number that you're looking at: 15,000 residents jobs. And so I hope this has been helpful, I hope this has been a little bit of an overview. We have available for you, and I'm not sure how we will get them to you, but we have as I mentioned our annual planner, and we have a travel planner and we have a meeting planner for you to take a look at. I've also invited and I appreciate Patrick Graham coming back from Washington, DC, to be with us this morning to talk a little bit about our budget that is also in the annual planner.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Schoop, before we get to Mr. Graham, Commissioner Murray has a couple of quick questions.

Commissioner Murray said, in your beginning comments you made a part of it was more business, more employment. Mr. Schoop said, yes sir. Commissioner Murray said, and on this screen you say you've created 15,000 jobs. Mr. Schoop said, uh huh. Commissioner Murray said, and I think that's terrific, but aren't most of these jobs either minimum wage or a little above minimum wage jobs? Mr. Schoop said, they are and that's really a concern that I think this Commission and this community has to address. Nationally, according to the Bureau —, the U. S. Department of Labor, the average tourism job in the United States pays minimum —, just a little more than the minimum wage, \$21,300. Chatham County is 62% of that, 62% below the national average. There's a correlation and there's a relationship between travel demand and expenditures, profitability and resident income, and what we need to do is get our traveler expenditures up to a point where we can get our resident's income at least on a par with the national average. If the national average is \$21,300, that means that there are other states that are paying more than \$21,300 and I can name those states to you because these states are the states where they have much higher traveler expenditures than we do here, but we need to address this issue. Thank you, Commissioner, for making that comment. It relates to profitability, it relates to increased wages. Commissioner Murray said, the reason I asked that, we have a presentation coming up later that would be high tech jobs and things and the way to do it, but the other you also said in 2002 the room tax was \$10.37 million. Mr. Schoop said, uh huh. Commissioner Murray said, a significant amount of money comes into this community alone in tourism, and I think we'll all agree with that. Mr. Schoop said, uh huh. Commissioner Murray said, my question to you right now would be, and I've talked to you about it in the past, why will y'all not support a 1% room tax increase statewide to take care of the beaches and the posted areas of the State of Georgia? Mr. Schoop said, the code, the law, the Georgia Code requires that the bed tax that's levied on room sales be used for tourism promotion, not infrastructure, and so I think it's a philosophical —, I agree that that effort needs to be made on the beaches. I personally agree with that and I believe our board would as well. I think it's more philosophically the source of that revenue and the —, as I mentioned, we received \$22 million in sales tax, that's LOST and SPLOST, and if a way of addressing that is to find more tax money from residents and travelers who use that, it would seem to me that, you know, there's a source other than bed tax, which would really violate the law in terms of the way the tax code is structured in Georgia. Commissioner Murray said, I understand that. We've discussed this in the past, but it still doesn't stop us from trying to get them to change that or find a way we can do it because the beaches are part tourism. Mr. Schoop said, very definitely a part of tourism. Commissioner Murray said, you're drawing a thin line that I think can be overcome. Mr. Schoop said, I think again it's a question of infrastructure —, I mean, it's a matter of interpretation of whether it's infrastructure versus marketing and promotion. Commissioner Murray said, okay, well, I guess my last question would be then if we could draw something up legally to submit to our legislators, will y'all support it? Mr. Schoop said, we'll certainly take a look at it and we'd want to support it.

Chairman Hair said, one quick comment before Mr. Graham comes up. You know, I hear this discussion a lot of times about minimum wage jobs and we always sort of, you know, look down on it and says it's terrible, and you know —, but I remember when I was in college I was glad to get one of those minimum wage jobs. I was at a hamburger place and if I didn't have that minimum wage job, you know, I wouldn't have been able to go to college and, you know, I don't want to pay \$9 for a hamburger. So, I mean, I think sometimes we have to realize that these minimum wage jobs, you know, it's true we want to always try to raise the wage rate, but at the same time you've got to realize to drive that up you're also driving the cost of services up, and there's a price to be paid for that and you weren't saying that, but I just wanted to go on the record of saying that sometimes minimum wage jobs play a tremendous role in our community and they're not all bad. Commissioner Murray said, I know it. Chairman Hair said, I mean I was really glad to get one of those when I was in college and I had several of those minimum wage jobs, and I was glad to get both of them. So, I just wanted to put that on the record.

Chairman Hair recognized Mr. Patrick Graham.

Mr. Graham said, Mr. Chairman, it's \$15.50 now for a hamburger in some —. Chairman Hair said, I don't eat where you eat. I don't make as much money as you do. I'm a much lower paid person than you so I don't get to eat where you eat. Mr. Graham said, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, it's not \$15.50 at the airport though. We do lower pricing at the airport and we pay more than minimum wage. As Tony [Schoop] said, I have served as treasurer of the CVB now for four years and we've done a lot in the last four years to try to get the CVB books very tight, and I think they are. A lot of y'all might know I'm a CPA by background. I don't do that kind of stuff any more, I really don't like to do it any more, but they talked me into this job about four years ago and wouldn't let me go for a long period of time so I finally have snuck out and given it to somebody else. On an overall basis, the CVB's budget is about \$3.2 million a year. \$400,000 of that is bed tax from Chatham County, the remainder of that a small part from operation of the

visitor's center and the remainder from the City bed tax. Our total expenditure is also \$3.2 million, which is called a balanced budget, and if we have to budget —, balance our budget every year even into the sense that we balance it by either taking funds out of reserve or putting money back into reserve. Right now we have a reserve which we call a rainy day fund of about \$235,000. Most organizations try to get three months worth of reserve, which you can see by that we're not anywhere near it, but we're better off than the CVB has been in the 18 years that I have been involved with the organization because many years ago we struggled very hard to even meet the budget every year and to get the funding in the right categories. We basically break our expense down into three areas, and I know we've taken a long time so I'm going to go over this fairly quickly. In the program expense area, is one of our largest areas, about \$1.5 million, and I believe Nichole [Duncan] —, she'll catch up with me. I'll go ahead as she catches up because I think the major point is Convention and Visitors Bureau is heavy personnel related, just like —, you know, because they're answering telephones and giving out materials all the time, so a lot of our expense in our program areas is on personnel, but the major area of expense other than personnel is convention sales, and that's where our groups try to get —, tape trade shows and other opportunities to go out and seek business for the community. The second largest area is what we call our communications expense, and that's really what the CVB is all about, and you'll note there in the advertising for the 2004 budget is \$782,000 and this is where we spend in promotions and advertising the majority of the money that comes into the CVB. That is really what the organization is about and what we have to get out the message for Savannah. And administrative expense we're right about \$682,000. Again, the total budget about \$3.2, we have a balance budget this year and next year we have a balanced budget. We're having to take some funds out of reserve in conjunction with G-8 and a couple of the other items. And I'm going to shorten it right there because we've taken a lot of your time and we'll answer any questions.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Mr. Graham. Anybody have any questions for the treasurer?

Commissioner Thomas said, I don't have any questions, but I'd just like to say that I'm very happy to see the movements that are now being done through CVB, having been a part of the program for about six years prior to Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner Hair. I can recall back in the days when W. W. Law was alive and he and I were asked to go to Chicago to help promote tourism in Savannah. That was an exciting moment being with W. W. Law to talk about Savannah, and I want to also say that the Trade Center has played a major role in the promotion of tourism and et cetera in Savannah because at that time we were looking at extensive rooms in order to accommodate trade shows and et cetera, so I think you've come a long way and I just want to commend you for the things that you are doing and continuing to do to help promote Savannah because it is a wonderful city. I get a lot of calls all the time asking what can we see and what can we do in Savannah, so I provide a lot of information to people who are calling me and refer them to the proper sources as well.

Chairman Hair said, thank you, Dr. Thomas. Thank you, Mr. Schoop and Mr. Spadoni and Mr. Friday and Mr. Graham. We appreciate you being here and appreciate Commissioner Rayno putting this on the agenda. Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, two things. One, and Commissioner Murray is not here, I would ask Mr. Schoop, his position on the beach renourishment, realizing we have to do some work, if he would have a position paper from the board on that, that would be very, very helpful because before it was always one sided. As long as we know we can work with you, we being staff, it would be very helpful to know where the board stands. Secondly, I would like to publicly thank Mr. Schoop, his staff and the board. The County has been this week a major user of the services of CVB. Dr. Thomas mentioned the Trade Center. Earlier this week Chairman Hair addressed a gathering of over a thousand mosquito control entomologists or what have you from all over the country and, what, eight countries I believe. Chairman Hair said, yeah, 16 countries. County Manager Abolt said, and we've talked about an hour ago about the great publicity in the paper on the Youth Commission, but I would also submit this week has been some outstanding publicity on those men and women working in the schools, and that's all here because of CVB and I know if Dr. Lewandowski were here, he'd be effusive in his praise for what —, the work that they do.

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

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4. WAIVER FOR GULFSTREAM RETIREE CLUB TO USE LAKE MAYER FACILITIES (COMMISSIONER RAYNO).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, I was approached by some of the members of the Gulfstream Retiree Club who had historically used Lake Mayer facilities for a yearly picnic in the past and we never charged for the services, and considering the many wonderful things that Gulfstream has done for the community and various organizations, for instance when anybody needs a jet it seems that Gulfstream is always willing to provide one for a major impact on the area, and I would ask that the Commissioners would waive the fees for this group.

Chairman Hair asked, is that a motion? Commissioner Rayno said, I make a motion. 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 and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. I think that's a great idea, Commissioner Rayno. I've been a proponent all the time that I think we should waive all government and non-profits, but that's an issue for another day.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Rayno moved to approve the request by Gulfstream Retiree Club for a waiver to use Lake Mayer facilities. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Chairman Hair said, it's been requested by Commissioner Odell, who's not here right now, that we move up Commissioner Kicklighter's item. Without objection we'll move it, we'll do number three first.

[NOTE: By consent of the Commission, Item VIII-3 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 (*).

1. **TO PRESENT YEAR END FUND BALANCE RECONCILIATIONS BASED ON AUDIT, BUDGET AMENDMENT AND BUDGET ADOPTIONS FOR ENCUMBRANCES, INCOMPLETE PROJECTS/EQUIPMENT PURCHASES AND FUND BALANCE RESERVES AT YEAR END 2003 FOR THE GENERAL FUND M&O, SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDS. *Note: Facts and Findings Items 9 and 11 were tabled at the meeting of February 13, 2004, which are as follows:***
NOTE: It would be very helpful if members of the Board would submit any questions they might have on these issues in advance of your Friday meeting.

Excerpt from February 13, 2004, staff report IX-1:

FACTS AND FINDING:

- (9) **The Chatham County Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) budget amendment decreases the budget by \$966,551. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.**
- (11) **The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment decreases revenue by \$22,440 in audited fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.**

Commissioner Rayno said, move to take it off the table. Commissioner Murray said, second. Chairman Hair said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

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, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rayno moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]
2. Commissioner Rayno moved to approve Item 9 and Item 11 under Facts and Findings of the staff report as follows: (9) The Chatham County Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) budget amendment decreases the budget by \$966,551, and (11) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond

Fund budget amendment decreases revenue by \$22,440 in audited fund balance. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]

AGENDA ITEM: IX-1
AGENDA DATE: February 13, 2004

DATE: February 5, 2004
TO: Board of Commissioners
THRU: R.E. Abolt, County Manager
FROM: Linda Cramer, Finance Director

ISSUE:

To present year end fund balance reconciliations based on Audit, Budget Amendment and Budget Adoptions for Encumbrances, Incomplete Projects/Equipment purchases and Fund Balance Reserves at year end 2003 for the General Fund M&O, Special Revenue Funds, and Capital Improvement funds.

BACKGROUND:

The FY2004 Chatham County budgets were adopted on August 8, 2003 prior to completion of the FY2003 Audit which provides information as to balances outstanding on 2003 contracts and purchase orders. The amendments are for General Fund M&O, Special Service District, Capital Improvement Program Fund, Emergency Telephone System Fund, Confiscated Special Revenue Fund, Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance Fund, Land Bank Authority Fund, One Percent Sales Tax Road Program Fund(1985-1993), One Percent Sales Tax Extension Fund(1993-1998), and Capital Improvement-Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond Fund. All amendments as well as appropriations of reserved fund balances require Board approval.

NOTE:

Fund balance "Reserved for Encumbrances" is a reserve legally earmarked for a specific purpose. Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed (executory) contracts for goods or services. These commitments may be in the form of a formal contractual agreement, a purchase order, or other commitment by the government for goods or services.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

- (1) The Chatham County General Fund M&O budget amendment increases the budget by \$191,935 Fund Balance Reserve for year end encumbrances and \$461,994 for restricted fees. A list of year end carry overs and restricted fees totaling \$653,929 is attached to the resolution.
- (2) The Chatham County Special Service District Fund budget amendment increases the Special Service District budget by \$73,945 Fund Balance Reserve for year end encumbrances. An appropriation of \$172,650 for transfer to the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 27, 2003 had not been transferred as of June 30, 2003. The resolution includes an appropriation to reflect the actual transfer of the funds in FY2004.
- (3) The Chatham County Capital Improvement Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$86,770 for audited fund balance and \$48,730 for the FEMA Project Impact and increases revenues by \$172,650 for transfer from SSD as stated the resolution. The appropriations are adjusted for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (4) The Chatham County Emergency Telephone System budget amendment increases the budget by \$969,306. The appropriations are increased to provide funds for purchase of equipment and services in accordance with Georgia State Law. The revenues are in the E-911 Fund and are restricted for specific purposes.
- (5) The Chatham County Confiscated Special Revenue Fund budget amendment decreases the budget by \$12,558 to a total of \$358,022 to be distributed \$3,402 Sheriff, \$202,288 Police, and \$152,332 CNT.
- (6) The Chatham County Land Disturbing Activities Ordinance Special Revenue Fund budget amendment increases the budget by \$292,400 audited fund balance. The appropriations are increased for expenditures in accordance with the resolution.
- (7) The Land Bank Authority Special Revenue Fund budget resolution establishes a budget of \$171,170. Revenues are generated by surplus property sales of \$40,000 and by an increase of \$131,170 in audited fund balance, with expenditures of an equal amount as stated in the resolution.
- (9) The Chatham County Sales Tax Road Program Fund (1985-1993) budget amendment decreases the budget by \$966,551. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (10) The Chatham County Sales Tax Extension Fund (1993-1998) budget amendment decreases the budget by \$941,181 in audited fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.
- (11) The Chatham County Capital Improvement - Series 1999 DSA Revenue Bond Fund budget amendment decreases revenue by \$22,440 in audited fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

FUNDING:

Funds are available in Fund Balance Reserves and/or Undesignated Fund Balance for all funds.

ALTERNATIVES:

- (1) That the Board approve the following:

GENERAL FUND M&O

- (a) A budget amendment in the amount of \$653,929 Fund Balance Reserve for year end encumbrances and restricted fees.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT FUND

- (a) A budget amendment in the amount of \$246,595 Fund Balance Reserve for year end encumbrances and transfer to CIP.
- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FUND

- (a) A budget amendment in the amount of \$172,650 transfer from SSD, \$86,770 decrease in audited fund balance, and a decrease of \$48,730 for the FEMA Project Impact.

- (b) Appropriations in accordance with the attached resolution.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM FUND

A budget amendment in the amount of \$969,306 to be appropriated for E-911 expenditures consistent with state law.

CONFISCATED SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment to decrease the fund \$12,558 and account for funds available for Sheriff, CNT, and Police.

LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ORDINANCE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment in the amount of \$292,400 audited fund balance.

LAND BANK AUTHORITY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

A budget amendment in the amount of \$40,000 in revenue and an increase of \$131,170 audited fund balance.

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX (1985-1993)

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$966,551 in fund balance. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

ONE PERCENT LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX EXTENSION (1993-1998)

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$941,181 in audited fund balance. The latest revised budget detail is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - SERIES 1999 DSA REVENUE BOND FUND

A budget amendment decreasing the fund by \$22,440 in fund balance. The latest revised list of projects is available in the Finance Department as stated in the resolution.

- (2) Amend the transfers and budget amendments.

POLICY ANALYSIS:

The State Code grants the Board of Commissioners the authority to amend the budget as it deems necessary during the fiscal year.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve Alternative 1.

PREPARED BY: _____
Read DeHaven

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2. THE FOLLOWING ITEM WAS TABLED AT THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2004:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
H. Confirmation of a contract for the M/WBE consultant services	Human Resources and Services	Diversiplex, Inc.	\$325,000	SPLOST (2003-2008) - Pending Board approval of Budget Amendment

NOTE: Staff has included a copy of the contract with Diversiplex, Inc.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Commissioners to move up in the agenda item —. Chairman Hair said, we've already done that. Commissioner Rivers said, and we untable that item. Commissioner Thomas said, second. Commissioner Kicklighter said, we already did. The Clerk said, we didn't untable it. Chairman Hair said, we haven't untabled it.

Chairman Hair said, all right, motion and a second to untable item. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rivers.

Commissioner Rivers said, Mr. Chairman, I will just move that we approve this contract to Diversified —, Diversiplex. Chairman Hair asked, does that motion have a second? Commissioner Odell said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? Commissioner McMasters said, yes. Chairman Hair said, okay, Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. James —. Mr. Robert James said, good morning. Commissioner McMasters said, good morning. How are you? Mr. James said, great. Commissioner McMasters said, good. Considering the lack of action by this Board on any initiative as far best value contracting, I would suggest that before we approve your contract that this Board amend it to strike in the scope of your work that which you had already included with regard to best value contracting. So I'd like to make an amendment —.

Chairman Hair said, if the person will make the —. Who made the motion? Commissioner Odell said, Joe [Rivers] made the motion. Chairman Hair asked, will you accept that as an amendment? Commissioner Odell said, I don't accept it as the second. Chairman Hair said, okay, so it's —, it fails. Okay. Continue.

Commissioner Murray said, I don't think it needs to be taken out right now because the best value contracting is not dead. We heard a presentation and from what I understand our legal staff is going to look at it and find out what we can do and what we can't do legally from a legal standpoint —. Commissioner McMasters said, okay. Commissioner Murray said, so I don't see where removing that is going to affect it one way or the other. Chairman Hair said, well, it's already failed anyway. It's failed. Continue.

Mr. Robert James said, just very quickly, Commissioner, thank you very much for asking me to come here this morning and I wanted to say good morning to the entire County Commission, to Chairman Hair and Vice Chairwoman Thomas and President Pro Tem Murray, and just thank you for this opportunity to address you formally. I've never had an opportunity actually to speak to you all. I've had a lot of things said about me, but I haven't had an opportunity to speak up for myself. First, I'd like to quickly commend the entire Commission for addressing this issue and your courage and your foresight. Your unanimous endorsement of the opportunity for all business people in Chatham County to participate in Chatham County purchasing regardless of race or gender is a great testament to the power of cooperation in local government, particularly the bipartisan support for that concept. It's especially heartening to see that bipartisan support in the leadership of Commissioner Odell and Chairman Hair and Commissioner Rivers, and very quickly I'd also like to express my admiration for your professional staff. All of my interactions with the staff have indicated that Chatham County truly enjoys the services of dedicated and talented professionals. My firm, DiversiPLEX, Incorporated, is comprised of highly skilled and qualified professionals. Our firm has been in business for just five years, but our principals combined for over 20 years of experience in the areas of government and corporate law, economic development, research and analysis and supply chain management. My partners are all graduates of Howard University in Washington, DC, and another one of my partners holds an MBA from Duke and I and the founder of our company are graduates of Harvard Law School. As many of you know, I'm a native Savannahian and I grew up on Sylvan Drive in midtown Savannah and attended Savannah Country Day School. After Savannah Country Day I went on to graduate with honors from Howard University and graduated from Harvard Law School, and after I graduated from law school, I joined Troutman, Sanders law firm in Atlanta where I practiced corporate and government law for five years, specifically working on minority business joint ventures and minority partnerships with government. Since joining DiversiPLEX I've developed supplier diversity programs for major corporations, worked on community economic development projects and designed the first online DBE certification project to be implemented by any government agency in the United States. As a native Savannahian I'm very excited about the opportunity to lend some of these experiences to the implementation of a truly first-class M/WBE program here in Chatham County and I'm proud to work on this project. Now as far as the best value contracting included in our consulting services, I just wanted to speak to that quickly. Frankly, as a consultant to you providing you with professional advice, I would be happy to continue to help you explore the whole concept of best value contracting as we move forward to implement an M/WBE program. I don't think that they're necessarily at cross purposes. I think that what Dr. Laporte mentioned is the fact that the Commission can implement its requirements in order to accomplish its policy goals. You have a very laudable policy goal here of maintaining funds here in the local community. I mean, as we're seeing, you know, all over the news, a lot of corporations are sending jobs across the waters and making sort of short term decisions that may not be in the best interest of our citizens in the long term, and I think it's important that a government body, particularly stewards of public funds, help to make sure that those funds, you know, help to maintain the vitalization of the economic community here in our local community. And so I think it's perfectly fine for us to continue to explore having a balance between the minority and women business enterprise goals and best value contracting and let's see if we can make them all work together. And so we're very happy to continue to look at that issue and to continue to work with the staff to further define it and to help you come up with something that would meet everyone's policy goals and really do the best thing for Chatham County.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. James, when we met and discussed both tracks, did you ever consider them to be exclusionary to —? Mr. James said, no, I don't think they're necessarily at cross purposes. I think it's really, just in my professional opinion, I think that the best value contracting needs to be further explored and further defined for Chatham County. I think that there's some legal questions and, you know, in my capacity as an attorney I want to work with the County Attorney to help further explore whether it actually will meet the criteria of State law. I mean, that's the first question and then the second question is simply do those things necessarily work at cross purposes, and I think that they do not. Commissioner McMasters said, that was my question. Did you at any time think that any effort or implementation on best value would negatively impact women or minority goal of 30% participation in SPLOST? Mr. James said, not necessarily. It depends on how it's implemented, but not necessarily. Commissioner McMasters said, thank you.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno and then I think we're ready to vote.

Commissioner Rayno said, thank you. I was in support of this whole thing the last time based on the information that was given to me in saying how best value practices would be an integral part of the bid and all of the bidders knew about that, it was included within the presentations, and now this is the second time in my four years as a Commissioner in Chatham County that significant changes have happened within the context of what we're talking about. The first time was with a performance contract and the bids came back and things changed and everything got a little cloudy and our historical reaction then was to just reject all bids. And now today we're making significant changes in what was a quote and we're being asked to approve something. We're also being asked to approve a contract which we admitted is flawed and we're going to change it later on. We're going to amend the contract later on. I would never go into a car dealership with a car dealer and say, well, we'll amend this contract later on down the road or, oh, buy this house and sign this contract, we'll amend it later not knowing what later is going to be. There's

too many questions out there so when I vote against this today, just realize it's because of all the questions that surround this issue and the fact that we want to change it and we don't know what that change is going to be. So I've changed my decision.

Commissioner Rivers said, call the question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hair said, the question has been called. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed vote no. Everybody needs to vote. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one. Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you, Mr. James. We appreciate you being here. Mr. James said, thank you very much.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Rivers moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.
2. Commissioner Rivers moved to approve the award of a contract in the amount of \$325,000 (SPLOST 2003-2008) with Diversiplex, Inc., for M/WBE consultant services. Chairman Hair seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Rivers, McMasters, Murray, Odell, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of eight to one.

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3. BLOOMINGDALE ANNEXATION. *Tabled at February 13, 2004 meeting.*

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Kicklighter, I'll call on you for a motion.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's two issues here. Staff has uncovered that the Wild Cat Dam Road bridge, what they found is that the government never owned that bridge at all. That's their findings. Bloomingdale has the —.

The Clerk said, excuse me. We haven't had a motion to untable this item. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Chairman Hair said, okay. So move? Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'll make a motion to untable. 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 and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, thank you, Ms. Tillman. The Clerk said, thank you.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Anyhow, Bloomingdale's under the impression that they own the bridge, that it was once a County bridge and this Board graciously a while back pledged \$10,000 to help replace or help repair the bridge and, anyhow, basically in discussions earlier this morning, I don't know, I guess a part of the motion —, my motion on this one issue would be to send a letter to Bloomingdale stating that we will uphold that \$10,000 pledge providing that they provide the proof —. Chairman Hair said, that it's publicly owed. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — that it's publicly owned. Chairman Hair said, okay, that would be appropriate.

County Attorney Hart said, in 2000, August 11, 2000, the County quitclaimed deed its interest to Wild Cat Dam Road to Bloomingdale at their request. So, I mean, I don't know the status of the bridge —. Chairman Hair said, well, that's still —, that's still appropriate. County Attorney Hart said, and I don't know why, you know, that would —. Chairman Hair said, it's just reaffirming the \$10,000 commitment assuming that it's publicly owned. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Chairman Hair said, that's certainly appropriate.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, and —, yeah, but I've got a —, more to the motion here. Staff also discovered through exploring Bloomingdale's annexation request that half of the bridge located in Bloomingdale on Osteen Road is actually in the City of Bloomingdale, so half of that bridge, the cost for construction would be the responsibility of Bloomingdale and the other half would be us with the unincorporated area, so I would include in this motion that we send a letter to Bloomingdale stating that we would be more than happy to share the cost as an equal partner on the expense of that bridge to repair it providing that they are willing to annex the entire road and all into —. Chairman Hair said, and incur all future maintenance. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and that we —, I guess, if I can rephrase that part of the motion that was —, it's our responsibility anyway, but we will gladly pay our \$20,000 —, half of the expenses and we do not oppose their annexation providing that they share the cost equally and annex the road. Chairman Hair said, and future maintenance. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right, and the future maintenance of it. Chairman Hair said, that's very important. I mean, I think we need that in the motion. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right.

Chairman Hair said, all right. Does that motion have a second? Commissioner Murray said, I'll second. Chairman Hair said, all right. Any discussion? I think we —. Okay.

Commissioner Murray said, Dean [Kicklighter] —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes. Commissioner Murray asked, which half of that bridge is in bad shape? Commissioner Kicklighter said, beats me. Chairman Hair said, all those —. Commissioner Murray said, well, the \$10,000 we're just reaffirming that because we've already approved to give it to them.

Chairman Hair said, right, reaffirming it based on public ownership. All those in favor of the motion vote yes, opposed no. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Commissioner Murray asked, this is the whole road? Chairman Hair said, yes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

- 1. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to untable this item and place it before the Commissioners for consideration. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]
- 2. Commissioner Kicklighter moved that staff send a letter to Bloomingdale affirming that we will pay \$10,000 for one-half the cost of repairs to the bridge on Osteen Road and that we will not oppose their annexation (1) if they can furnish proof that the bridge is publicly owned, (2) if they provide one-half the cost of repairs, and (3) if they agree to incur all future maintenance of the annexed bridge and Osteen Road. Commissioner Murray seconded the motion. Chairman Hair and Commissioners Murray, Gellatly, Kicklighter and Thomas voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Rayno voted in opposition. The motion carried by a vote of five to one. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers, McMasters and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]

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4. QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE MID-YEAR BUDGET REPORT. AGAIN, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF STAFF WOULD RECEIVE THESE QUERIES IN ADVANCE OF THIS MEETING.

Chairman Hair said, we are going to leave Item #4 on the table. We're not going to take that off based on our conversation in the pre-meeting. So we'll leave that.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

This item was not removed from the table for consideration by the Board.

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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 APPROVAL FOR A GENERAL FUND M&O CONTINGENCY TRANSFER OF \$5,000 FOR AN AERIAL THERMAL IMAGING STUDY.

Chairman Hair said, I'll entertain a motion to approve. Commissioner Murray said, so moved. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner McMasters said, second. Chairman Hair asked, any discussion? The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes. Thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to approve the request for a General Fund/M&O Contingency transfer of \$5,000 for an aerial thermal imaging study. Commissioner McMasters seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]

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2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, STAFF IS TRANSMITTING A SUGGESTED FINANCIAL POLICY STATEMENT AS MENTIONED IN PREVIOUS DISCUSSION INVOLVING THE FINANCE DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL ADVISOR AND EXTERNAL AUDITOR. YOU MAY WISH TO BRING THIS UP DURING YOUR FORTHCOMING BUDGET GOAL SESSION.

Chairman Hair asked, does anybody want to have any questions or comments about that? It's pretty much —.

County Manager Abolt said, I just want to introduce it as, I think, very far reaching in its thought and implication. A lot of time has been taken, not just by Finance staff, but those individuals the Chairman referred to. Time would not allow us to get signatures on the page from all those folks. We'll get those shortly. You'll notice this is in draft form. You may want to keep it in draft form until after your budget goal session.

Chairman Hair said, I think that would be appropriate. We can do whatever needs to be done. Does anybody object to that? Okay.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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3. RECEIVE PROPOSED CASH FLOW PLAN FOR CURRENT SPLOST AS INFORMATION AND BE PREPARED TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE 12TH OF MARCH.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Murray to table.

Commissioner Murray asked, do you want me to make a motion before I table it? Chairman Hair said, well, I thought we agreed to table it. That's what —. Commissioner Murray said, yeah, we're going to table it, but we need a motion on this too about up front —. Commissioner McMasters said, no more advance. Commissioner Murray said, no more advance funds. Chairman Hair said, certainly. That would be appropriate. Commissioner Murray said, I would move that all SPLOST projects, that we no longer do any front-load money and that staff mail out notices to all potential parties involved. Commissioner Rayno said, second. County Attorney Hart said, with the exceptions of the ones that you've approved. Commissioner Murray said, with the exception of what we've already approved.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]

Commissioner Murray said, I move to table Item 3. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Rayno said, second. All those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Murray moved that staff address a letter to all potential recipients of SPLOST (2003-2008), with the exception of those we have already approved, that we will no longer advance funds up front. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]
2. Commissioner Murray moved to table this item. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers and Odell were not present when this vote was taken.]

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4. TO PRESENT INFORMATION ON G-8 FUNDING NEEDS IDENTIFIED TO DATE. CEMA DIRECTOR, PHILLIP WEBBER, WILL GIVE AN UPDATE AS TO FEDERAL FUNDING TIMING AS OF YOUR MEETING DATE.

Chairman Hair said, CEMA Director Mr. Webber is here. Give an update, Mr. Webber.

County Manager Abolt said, also, Mr. Chairman, you may want to contribute to this too. You have really first-hand information. Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Webber, do you want me to go first or —. Mr. Phillip Webber said, yes sir.

Chairman Hair said, okay. I have been heavily, heavily involved in the discussions about G-8 concerning funding issues. I have reported at recent Commission meetings that I've been in numerous meetings with CEMA staff, the Mayor of Savannah on numerous occasions, the City Manager, County Manager. I had probably one of my more productive conversations this week with Congressman Kingston and his Chief of Staff, primarily Bill Johnson, and I am feeling much better about the process. Mr. Johnson —, I'll just briefly explain. The way this works is there's been

a lot of misunderstandings out there about how money was going to flow or wasn't going to flow or whatever. The \$25,000,000 that has been approved by Congress for G-8 is, first of all, inside the State Department or [inaudible] services —, security services, and that's where that money will stay. There's been some conjecture that that money will be transferred to the State and the State would have all this money and they could do what they wanted to, but that's simply not true. The money will never leave the State Department unless it comes to the provider of the services. In this case, the State obviously would get their share and the County will get our share and the City will get their share. Secondly, that \$25,000,000 can only be used for state and local security services related to G-8. That is, the Secret Service funds would not come out of that \$25,000,000. That money is earmarked by Congress and can only be used for local and state security related to G-8. The feeling is among everybody that we've talked to, and Mr. Webber can probably add his prospective to it, but that \$25,000,000, based on what I just said that it's limited to state and local, should be more than adequate to cover our needs. The plan, and Mr. Webber went to a meeting a couple of days ago with the State, and we just wanted to make sure number one is what Mr. Johnson told me, we've got to make sure that our request gets in that \$25,000,000 plan. If it's not in the plan, it won't get funded. If it's in the plan, it gets funded. That's the way it works. It's just sort of an up or down thing. We do have our —, I think the number right now is about 1.4 million —, Mr. Webber, is that about right? Mr. Phillip Webber said, yes sir, for Chatham County. Chairman Hair said, that money is in the requested plan that's gone to the State and now will be forwarded to the Secret Service. I do need to point out, however, and everyone I've talked to in Washington, and I have a meeting also on Monday on this issue, that the ultimate arbiter of the plan or ultimate approver of the plan is going to be the Secret Service. So the Secret Service will review this plan and the Secret Service will make sure that everything that's in the plan is related to security for G-8 and once the Secret Service signs off on approval, then everything in that plan would be funded. So our \$1.4 million that's in the plan, if it's finally approved by the Secret Service, we should get that with no problem. The obvious question is, well, when is it going to be approved, and that's one of the things we're going to deal with on Monday. Mr. Johnson was going to get with the State Department as well as the Secret Service to try to get so me deadline as to when they're going to approve the final plan. With that background, Mr. Webber, I'll be glad to —, Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I want to just ask one question. Are y'all inviting the Mayors of each municipality to all these major meetings? Mr. Webber said, they are invited —, yes. They're invited to not every meeting, you know, and, Commissioner Kicklighter, I'm not trying to —, they have been invited to some things, but not all things because not all things would be appropriate. But their staff, their emergency response staff, people that would be involved in the G-8 operations are invited to all the meetings —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, right. Mr. Webber said, — to see where they stand to see where they —, how they want to be involved, what kind of support they need. Commissioner Kicklighter said, the problem that I've kind of heard out there is right now some of them, they kind of feel like —, not necessarily the Mayors, but the municipalities —, some of them feel as if they're kind of lost, they feel as if no one has actually taken charge. They don't know who the leader is around here and like who's going to reimburse them. You know, just certain issues, and I believe some of them has actually put up money already to increase security around that time. And, you know, I just think somehow if y'all can bring them in, you know, a little bit more —. Mr. Webber said, yes sir. Commissioner Kicklighter said, — it would be beneficial to the whole County. Mr. Webber said, yes sir, we'll do that. I mean, the fact that you stated that means that there's something that we need to address so I'll work —, I'll work towards that and I'm sure we can accomplish it.

Commissioner McMasters said, I have a question for Phillip [Webber] —. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner McMasters said, — to address it. In this 1.4 million that you referenced that has to be approved by Secret Service, are we currently making purchases prior to —? County Manager Abolt said, no sir, and that's a very timely question because before this is over I can tell you, come the 12th of March, which is your next meeting, I've asked Ms. Cramer to come up with the way in which we're going to handle expenditures because I know for sure the Sheriff and no doubt the Police Department can wait no longer, and the act of faith which you would have to embrace come the 12th is that this is going to be reimbursed just as the Chairman said. Mr. Webber told me yesterday on his way back from Forsyth that means that everything we'll receive we'll probably not receive until the Summer, so that would mean that probably beginning as early as the 12th of March we're going to start buying things and we'll be carrying a receivable for them. The down side of that is if we're not reimbursed, then that will have to be dealt later with.

Chairman Hair said, let me also add to that, I think, Commissioner McMasters. There will be no advance funding, okay, from the State Department. Okay? It's all going to be reimbursed. That's the way the law is written. Now, the law says you have to spend the money and then you have to be reimbursed for it. That's the way the \$25,000,000 will flow. However, I think hopefully, and I will know more Monday or Tuesday after we get through with our meetings, hopefully we will know by the 12th of March —, hopefully by that time the Secret Service will have approved the plan, so if they've approved the plan by March 12th and anything we spend money on after they approve the plan, we'll automatically be reimbursed —, you know, we'll still have to go through the paper process of submitting it and, you know, getting reimbursed, but we would —, they would not be able to say no because it would be part of the approved plan and that expenditure would track the approved plan. Now, there is a supplemental process. There's a supplemental process to —, the assumption currently being made is that the \$25,000,000, as I stated earlier, would be more than adequate to cover state and local needs, so there may be —, say, we spent \$20,000,000 and there's still \$5,000,000 up here, that money would not be able to be used by the State Department for any other purpose. It's either used in the State of Georgia for state and local reimbursements or the money goes away. Okay? That's the way the law's written. So there will be a supplemental process that has not been determined yet that you if you went beyond the \$1.4 million —, let's say we incurred an extra \$100,000 or something —, assuming that the entire \$25,000,000 is not used, there will be a process where we can submit for reimbursement that undisclosed or, let's say, unanticipated cost and, of course, that's not going to be guaranteed like the money that's in the plan.

Commissioner McMasters said, I appreciate that. Let me ask a pointed question. Are either you or staff going to recommend that we authorize purchases prior to the preliminary approval? Chairman Hair said, not prior to March 12th. You will have it on the agenda and you'll get a chance to vote it up or down. Is that —?

County Manager Abolt said, the key to this —, I'm going to be very frank with all of you on this because of your concern for a lot of things, not the least of which is fund balance, the way this thing must flow given the fact that this is going to be a reimbursement. We're going to be spending money, that's funding —, this money will be a receivable. If for whatever reason we're not reimbursed, then as we all know in the audit process when it comes to reconciling the books, and assuming there's no hope for the reimbursement, then that would become part of a draw down of undesignated fund balance to cover the debt.

Commissioner McMasters said, my only point here is that spending money when it's been reviewed and approved and having to wait for it, no problem with that, but on the 12th I would urge my colleagues to consider deeply and seriously approving any purchases that do not make that list at that point.

Chairman Hair said, there again, Commissioner McMasters, we may be taking about something that's, you know, we don't need to talk about anyway because if it's approved by March 12th, we'll know that it's in the plan and I would just anticipate —. Commissioner McMasters said, I'm talking about stuff outside of the plan, Billy [Hair]. Chairman Hair said, well, there's going to be no guarantees of anything outside of the plan. Okay? And that's just the way the world works. Now all the other cities and counties along the coast are in the same position. The State of Georgia is in the same position, but we're in no different position than anyone else. Commissioner Murray and then —.

Commissioner Murray said, I understand what you're saying, but we have never experienced the possibilities of what we will experience through G-8 in this community, and if the police departments or the other people involved in any of this need the funding to do it, I'm going to support it. Now, I know we're taking a risk that we may not get reimbursed on some of it, but I would rather spend that money for the safety and welfare of the citizens in this community than not spend it and have something happen to somebody.

Chairman Hair said, I'm going to call on Commissioner Gellatly and Commissioner Rayno and then I'm going to allow Phillip [Webber] to make a presentation and the Sheriff make his presentation and then we'll deal with questions after that. Okay, Commissioner Gellatly and then Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Gellatly said, I just had a couple of questions. On the list of what the federal government's going to reimburse us for, are the lists —, is it really clear in your mind what they will reimburse us for or what they won't? You know, I dealt with the federal government for 40 years and when it comes time to submit your bills, why, they're going to take this one but not this one and half of this one, and the bottom line ends up that the County's stuck with a huge bill that we didn't expect. Can you give us any assurances that that won't happen? Mr. Webber said, no sir, that's part of the down side right now is there's not a clear list of what will be allowable expenses and won't be allowed. The rules are still not clear. There's nothing I can hold in my hand saying this is an approved expenditure and this is not, but that will be forthcoming and I think that —. Commissioner Gellatly said, this is one of the things that I'd like to caution my fellow Commissioners on that based on my experience we could very well be stuck with a huge, huge bill and we need to get —, after saying that, we need to get as much clarification up front what they're going to pay for and what they're not going to pay for, and then if there's some kind of a reserve fund, you know, what would happen if we had a multimillion dollar damage to one of our historical monuments or something like that, is someone going to pay for that? I'd like to know that.

Chairman Hair said, I can just give —, I can tell this Board, after numerous, numerous meetings on this, if we're looking for absolutes on March 12th, you may or may not have some of the absolutes. I will tell you that there's going to be some good faith expenditures that we're going to have a chance to either make or not make. I will tell you two conversations that I've had, and this is the good faith part. Mr. Webber and myself and the Mayor met with the Governor here in Savannah —, and correct me if I'm wrong, if I mischaracterize the comments, Mr. Webber —, but the Governor assured us that we would be reimbursed for any expenses related to G-8. Is that not —? Mr. Webber said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, that's what the Governor said. Now I realize that's not in writing and I understand that, but to me the Governor's word is good enough for me to that extent. The other good faith conversation I've had is Congressman Kingston and he sits on the Appropriations Committee, so he has a little bit more clout in terms of funding than some of the other Congressmen, not to take away from the other Congressmen. But Congressman Kingston assured me on several occasions, as late as last Monday or Tuesday morning —, I can't remember what morning it was —, that, likewise, that if this County incurs expenses that's directly related to G-8, that he would make sure that we would get reimbursed. Now does that mean we're going to get it in three months? Maybe not. It might even require a new appropriation or something. It might take us a while, but at this point that's the good faith that we have from the Governor and from Congressman Kingston personally that, you know, if something does fall through the cracks and we incur something and we could not anticipate it, I think we have to rely on our elected officials then that would go to us and live up to the promise they made, and I'm convinced that the Governor will do that and I'm convinced Congressman Kingston will do that. So that's as good as a guarantee as I can give you at this point. Commissioner Rayno and then we'll get Mr. Webber's comments and the Sheriff's comments.

Commissioner Rayno asked, for budgeting purposes will we be setting up a special fund similar to a capital project fund? County Manager Abolt said, yes, exactly, yes sir. We're going to do this in sequence, and on the 12th I've asked Ms. Cramer, before you spend any money assuming you're going to spend it on that date, you're going to approve the way in which we're going to handle the money. It'll be a separate account and then we'll regurgitate —, bad choice of words —, we'll again say what the worst case situation is. Commissioner Rayno said, if we're looking at March 12th

as the date that we'll possibly know something, and again there's no absolutes like you said —. Chairman Hair said, I'm not sure of that. Commissioner Rayno asked, — why couldn't we with some of the companies allow these security companies that we're going to be purchasing from, why couldn't we do 90 days same as cash, which will push us into April, May, June, very close to the date —. County Manager Abolt said, you'll want to hear from Mr. Webber. I think June may be very optimistic. Chairman Hair said, yeah. Commissioner Rayno said, well, I'm just saying, we could purchase the stuff and have them bill us, knowing full well that we will pay them.

Chairman Hair said, the reimbursement issue I can address because I've addressed that with the folks that I've been meeting with. The —, it is —, we will not receive any reimbursements prior to June 8th and to the 12th, okay, so no reimbursements will be made, I've been assured of that by the Congressman and also by Mr. Johnson.

Commissioner Rayno said, I guess my point is that —. Chairman Hair said, you're trying to get it into the next year, I understand. Commissioner Rayno said, we can maintain our money in our accounts and gain interest on it and then pay it off in 90 days. Why can't we do a 90 days same as cash rather than try to pay up front? Mr. Webber said, I think that certainly —. County Manager Abolt said, we'll ask Ms. Cramer to —.

Chairman Hair said, Mr. Webber and then the Sheriff.

Mr. Webber said, probably the only thing that I can say to add value to the comments that have already been made, Mr. Chairman, is —, and I'd like to, you know, reinforce the comments, the accuracy of what the Chairman stated, is that lack of funds has not stopped any efforts so far. We have made great progress without any additional funds. Some funds have been expended, I'm not saying —, you know, for overtime, for training and for other things, but we have a document that we've produced and thousands and thousands of staff hours have gone into this from multiple departments and agencies across county and municipal boundaries, and I placed this document, the draft Operations Plan, into the hands of the Director of Homeland Security for the State of Georgia yesterday. It will be included as an annex to the State plan and then from there the State plan will be annexed to the federal plan and it becomes one seamless plan and it keeps us in direct line for funding. So that —. Chairman Hair said, but the annex —, this is semantics here —, the annexation actually is not really —, it's going to be part of the State plan. Mr. Webber said, yes sir. Chairman Hair said, and which will be submitted to the Secret Service which will have ultimate approval. Mr. Webber said, right, and I spoke yesterday with the Director of GEMA personally and with the Director of Homeland Security for the State, Dr. Hitchens, and also with the primary federal officer or the lead federal agent for the Secret Service —, that's the person that's going to be reporting back to Secretary Ridge on this event —, and just made clear that that was the process and he reinforced that. So we have done everything —, I'm saying that to say we have done everything up to this point that we can do to make sure that we will be eligible for whatever funds are available to us, and I feel like we're in very good shape right now.

Commissioner Rayno said, I'm not worried about them paying us. I'm just concerned from a standpoint if we could keep our cash in our bank and get the interest on it, it would be the best value for us. Chairman Hair said, I think staff will look at that and see if that's, you know, maybe —, I think it's a good idea, Commissioner Rayno. Mr. Sheriff, if you want to add your —.

Sheriff St. Lawrence said, yeah, just a comment or two. One that Commissioner Kicklighter brought up about these meetings, I talked to one of your Mayors who called me about a concern he had, and so now we're looking for another place to de-contaminate and book people and move them to the jail, but be that as it may, what I want you to know is they've got a lot of committees meeting and there's —, Chief Lyons, for instance, or Chief Chan is going to some meetings, but they're not going to all the meetings because they're not invited to them. We were invited to the meeting that Phil Webber attended yesterday in Forsyth. We sent a man and then we found out yesterday morning they were having a meeting at the Eighth Air Force for the firemen at Noon and for the police at 2:00 and the word didn't get out to everybody. So that's the kind of things we're dealing with, but as the Chairman has said, you know, the plan that we have that Phil [Webber] has put together from the agency and submitted, if that plan goes to the Secret Service approve [sic], I think we're in good shape. There's some things we can't wait to buy much longer, and that's the equipment for the individual officers —, City, County, whatever. I'm only going to equip 125 officers; 25 of them are not even paid by the County and reserve officers on my staff. I've got to protect the judicial courthouse and the jail. We're making arrangements, we've got to make it early for temporary fencing if we need it. Some things in the plan's not going to be needed, but the equipment for the officers, they need it. There's a lot of training to get ready for this event. You know, I —, having my druthers, they've us the money up front and let us buy it and not take the taxpayer's money here in Chatham County, but it doesn't work that way. And there's absolutely no guarantees, but they say if the plan goes up there and the Secret Service approves it, then we're going to get reimbursed. There are things in that —, in that plan because we've tried to anticipate as much as we can. We did —, we're not anticipating things, as the Chair mentioned, aren't anticipating things like if they burn four or five police cars. They're going to have to be replaced, and these people have been known to do those sort of things. I've seen the film on Seattle and Miami, and we've seen the destruction they caused in those places, but the bottom line is, well, what kind of —, what I'm concerned about is coming back here on the 12th, going out to bids, maybe the City and County together so we get the best price we can, and get the equipment for the individual officers so they can use it to train with and be prepared for this event and not buy anything that we feel we won't need, but we've put a lot of things in there and a lot of those things we won't have to have, I feel confident in my mind. But we've tried to anticipate as much as we can, and that's my comment.

Chairman Hair said, one thing and then I'll call on Commissioner Kicklighter and Dr. Thomas, but along that same line, Sheriff, you've got to realize we're dealing with people who do this for a living as far as the State Department folks. This is an event for us that might not occur for another 20 years, but they do this seven or eight times a year, okay, and to give you an example of the fact that raised my comfort level, one of the guys we met with gave the example of,

you know, some things is police overtime. That's an obvious one, okay. They're not going to question something like that, but in Philadelphia —, he gave an example of Philadelphia where they had a tremendous bill for —, to their transit system and the transit system was not for what you thought it was. It wasn't for transporting people, it was to use as barriers. They brought buses in because they're big and they're hard to get over, and they used them for barriers. Well, they had a big bill to the Sanitation Authority in Philadelphia for a, you know, you wouldn't anticipate that being an expense, but the reason I give that example was the reason he gave it to me, is that we're used to looking at these plans and we're used to, you know, we deal with this all the time, this is our job, and that made me feel a little bit better that they might not challenge something like we would anticipate they would challenge because these are professionals. This is their job. So I felt a little bit better about that because particularly the security area you're going to need —, there's going to be some things that are not going to be, you know, standard, you know, police operations. There are going to be some other things in there. Commissioner Kicklighter and then Dr. Thomas.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. I say that I know it's our duty first and foremost to protect the people, the citizens of this area and the property in this County, so I will support this even if nobody's going to reimburse us. I mean, we have to do it no matter right. Chairman Hair said, that's exactly right. Commissioner Kicklighter said, but with that being said, would it be possible to —, I mean, this —, can we contact Bob McAlister, our State Lobbyist, and ask him if there would be a special provision made for us, because we didn't ask for this G-8 Summit to come here, to be able to utilize some of the interest made off of the past SPLOST funds, not the money we collected, but the interest only to be able to possibly pay for this and then that account could be reimbursed and it wouldn't mess the budget up or —.

Chairman Hair said, I don't think that —, I don't think, first of all, it stands a snowball's chance in this session. I think it's —, it goes back to my point earlier, Commissioner Kicklighter. If we're looking for absolutes, we're dreaming. Okay? There aren't going to be any absolutes. Commissioner Kicklighter said, no, I'm for it. I mean —. Chairman Hair said, I think that we're acting the same as all the other municipalities, as I said earlier, and we're acting on the good faith of the Governor and Congressman Kingston, both of which I think are honorable men and I think they'll do everything they —, I think they'll do what they said they were going to do, and I think that's the best we can do at this point, and I'm comfortable about it. I just think that we may have numerous sources of funds that would be available to us. Like I said, anything short of the \$25,000,000 would also be available even though we didn't put it in our plan. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay. Chairman Hair said, so I think that might be a little bit premature. Chairman Hair said, Dr. Thomas and then Commissioner McMasters and then I think we're ready to move on.

Commissioner Thomas said, I just have a question for Mr. Webber. As I move about the neighborhood association meeting, I've been getting a lot of questions about the G-8 Summit and, of course, naturally I'm trying to answer them as best I can, but would you be available at some point in time to move about —. Mr. Webber said, absolutely, at any time. Commissioner Thomas said, — the neighborhood association meetings to actually answer their questions and kind of give them a background —. Mr. Webber said, at any time I will. I welcome the opportunity to do that. Commissioner Thomas said, okay, I think that would be very helpful to them. Mr. Webber said, always glad to, to any neighborhood. Commissioner Thomas said, they're very curious about all that's being said and done and they really don't understand a lot of it. Thank you.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters.

Commissioner McMasters said, Billy [Hair], I have a question for you. Chairman Hair said, certainly. Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Chairman, while your conversation is —, recounting of your conversations with the Governor and Jack Kingston were reassuring, they didn't speak of —, when they spoke of total reimbursement and Chatham County not left holding any bags, they didn't use words like approved list or unapproved, did they? Chairman Hair said, no sir. As I mentioned earlier, Commissioner McMasters, the anticipation at the federal level, the [inaudible] security service believe that \$25,000,000 will be more than enough. Now is that a guarantee? No. They just believe that that's going to be more than the State and the locals are going to need. Any monies left over, as I said, it will be fairly easy to —, through a supplementary process, which is yet to be determined —, that there —, that the feeling is that if there's money left over of the \$25,000,000, it will be fairly easy to get legitimate expenses reimbursed because the money, as I said, is of no benefit to the State Department because it can't be used in another state. That money is earmarked for the State of Georgia and it can't be transferred to Iowa or Seattle or wherever. So, as I said, it goes away —, if it's not spent in the State of Georgia, the money goes away. So there's no advantage for the State Department not to legitimately reimburse us for costs that we have.

Chairman Hair said, I want to again publicly commend Mr. Webber. He has done his normal outstanding job in doing this and staying on top of this, and I'm trying to play the role with policymakers as my job, and he's playing his role as, you know, as a professional emergency planner, but, you know, I sort of every day I get a little bit more comfortable with the process and we get more and more —, and I think Congressman Kingston and Mr. Johnson, in his office as Chief of Staff, really basically have committed whatever it takes to do it. And, as I said, I'm going to meet with him again on Monday and we will at least have some deadlines hopefully as to when the Secret Service is going to approve the plan and also that supplementary process. But again, Mr. Webber, you've done a great job and I appreciate the job you're doing. Mr. Webber said, thank you, sir. Chairman Hair said, thank you.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I'd like to ask permission to move up #7 under Individual Action and actually B under the Action Calendar before Commissioner Odell has to leave.

Chairman Hair said, without objection —, B under 10-B? Commissioner Kicklighter said, yes sir. No, sir, not 10-B, but 15-B. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I believe —, can we handle these together. County Manager Abolt said, they're the same thing. In anticipation, you pulled off the purchasing report. We just put it on the Action Calendar.

Chairman Hair said, we can —, Mr. Hart, we can vote on those as one motion, can we not if we get to that point?

[NOTE: At this point, Item IX-7 and Item X-15-B were taken out of order and were heard at this point on the agenda.]

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IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ACTION (continued)

5. BOARD CONSIDERATION OF A PETITION NOT TO PAVE WELCH STREET. Request to table by Commissioner Murray in that citizen proponent is not available for today's meeting.

Chairman Hair said, I'll call on Commissioner Murray to table. Commissioner Murray, table Item 5.

Commissioner Murray said, yeah, Item 5, I move to table to the next meeting. Commissioner Rayno said, second. Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Murray moved to table to the next meeting Board consideration of a petition to pave Welch Street. Commissioner Rayno seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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6. TO PRESENT FOR CONSIDERATION A PROJECT, KNOWN AS *THE CREATIVE COAST*, WHOSE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ATTRACT TECHNOLOGY-BASED BUSINESSES AS EMPLOYERS TO THE COMMUNITY. REPRESENTATIVES FROM SEDA HAVE BEEN INVITED TO EXPLAIN THE REQUEST.

Chairman Hair said, we've already had some —, I guess we'll have —, are we going to have an additional presentation or is that what we —, what are we going to have?

Mr. Chris Miller said, yeah, I'd like to just make a comment, if I may? Chairman Hair said, certainly. Come forward please. This is Item #6 under Individual Actions. Mr. Miller said, I'm Chris Miller. I'm representing actually the Coastal Business Education Technology Alliance, which over a number of years has formulated an initiative that attracts high wage —, higher wage knowledge-based creative technical jobs to the Savannah area. I wanted to —, I'm going to make this very brief and short and hopefully interesting. It's —, what I really want to get to is it's about jobs, it's about the community. It's actually about keeping our graduates in the local area in Savannah and, more importantly, I think it's about vision. It's about your vision of Chatham County and Savannah in the future. We've obviously developed a wide coalition of 15 different organizations. The idea was to create a small, fast, flexible and politically neutral team to focus on attracting knowledge-based businesses to Savannah. A couple of things that are fairly important, it leverages the assets that we've already in the them. We've got six schools, something like 13,000 students, 2,000 graduates every year, and what do they do when they get out? They go someplace else. Somebody else is receiving the benefit of what we're doing to help educate these kids, and the question is what have we done to keep our graduates here? What have we done to provide a higher wage path growth into higher wage jobs for people? The discussion earlier was, I think, relevant to the point. The fact is tourism has been a great thing for Savannah and manufacturing has as well. They've both allowed us to be in a position where we have the opportunity to choose what we want our economy to look like. What we choose for our economy will largely determine what our vision of Savannah is going to be. It's not a matter —, it's not an option between a \$15 hamburger and a \$5 hamburger. Quite frankly, when you look at the economic mix of wages across the spectrum, you want low wage jobs, you want medium wage

jobs, but you also want high wage jobs. Right now, if you look at this graph, we really don't have that. If we've got graduates that want to stay in the area, they can be a bell captain, they can work in a medium wage job, but at some point if they want to fulfill the terms of their education and what they did, they're going to have to leave the area in order to find that. What we're proposing is a very small, fast, flexible project that targets just this. It's not a new program that attempts to create a new loan system or anything else. It's a project, an initiative that links to existing programs. The goal would be to feed the existing programs that we've got, not to create a new one, and —.

Chairman Hair asked, Mr. Miller, can I ask you a couple of questions? Mr. Miller said, sure. Chairman Hair asked, what's the total cost of this project's first year? Mr. Miller said, the total cost is —, I believe what we're asking the County for is \$40,000 the first year. Chairman Hair said, that's not what I asked you. The total cost of the project? Mr. Miller said, it's —, I believe the contributions we're asking for from the City and the County equally was \$127,500 from each of —, each, and incidentally —. Chairman Hair asked, are you asking —, you're asking the County and the City for \$127,500? Mr. Miller said, correct. Chairman Hair asked, why —, where does the \$40,000 come from? Oh, so you want —, you're asking the County for \$127,500 this year from the County and \$127,500 from the City? Mr. Miller said, well, my understanding is that this is the middle of your fiscal year, so rather than assume that it's going to be funded annually, the idea was to —, and I could be wrong and I don't understand the nuances of your budgetary process, but —. Chairman Hair asked, but you're basically talking about a \$270,000 a year project, are you not? Mr. Miller said, that's correct. Chairman Hair asked, what percent of that will be spent on personnel? Mr. Miller said, I think it's somewhere between 35 and 40. Chairman Hair said, 35 and 40. Mr. Miller said, the goal here was not to —, to load this with a lot of baggage. The idea was to try to make this fairly small and fast. Chairman Hair asked, are you going to be an employee? Are you going to run this? Mr. Miller said, I have been the champion of the project thus far. Chairman Hair asked, do you get paid out of this \$270,000? Mr. Miller said, yes. Chairman Hair asked, what is going to be your pay out of this? Mr. Miller asked, I'm sorry? Chairman Hair asked, what is going to be —, how much are you getting out of the \$270,000? Mr. Miller asked, my salary out of it? Chairman Hair said, yes. Mr. Miller said, \$75,000. Chairman Hair said, so you're going to get \$75,000 out of the \$270,000. Mr. Miller said, correct. Chairman Hair asked, and there will be other personnel involved? Mr. Miller said, that is correct. Chairman Hair asked, how many people are you going to hire? Mr. Miller said, well, two to three depending on what we actually need at the time. The point is that it's —. Chairman Hair said, so four people out of \$270,000. Mr. Miller said, it's primarily a marketing promotional campaign to focus people on what Savannah has to offer now. Chairman Hair said, the questions I'm asking I've asked you before —. Mr. Miller said, sure. Chairman Hair said, — I'm not talking out of school. I asked you these same questions on the phone. Mr. Miller said, sure. Chairman Hair said, one of the problems I've got with this is, as I stated to you and I stated in pre-meeting, is I don't think the City and County should fund this thing a hundred percent. I think there's a lot of people that should be at the table and I don't think they're here. They're there, but they're not there with their checkbook. Mr. Miller said, well, that's actually not correct. Actually, in the time we've been in talking I've quantified the contribution that SEDA is making and contrary to earlier assertions —. Chairman Hair said, okay, what's the total then? Added to the \$270,000, what's the total? Mr. Miller said, \$65,000 and that's in cash and in-kind contributions. So, and clearly, in addition obviously the Chamber of Commerce, CBETA, SCAD, SSU, we've got 15 different organizations that are contributing and sponsoring this project. It's not like the County or the City are asked of being able to put up a lion's share. Chairman Hair said, correct me if I'm wrong. Mr. Miller said, uh huh. Chairman Hair said, the major goal is to attract industry in high tech areas. Is that correct? Mr. Miller said, that's correct. Chairman Hair said, my other concern as I expressed to you on the phone is that I see this as a duplication of what we're already doing. I mean, to me SEDA's job already is to recruit industry. That's their —, that's what they get paid to do. Mr. Miller said, agreed, but —. Chairman Hair said, and in the small business area, I pointed out to you on the phone, that the Chamber has the small business part of the problem and the SEDA has the large industry manufacturing part. I've got some problems with this. I just think it's not well —. Mr. Miller said, but there's a huge distinction though between what SEDA does. SEDA traditionally has targeted large manufacturers, big bucks distribution to the extent of hundreds of jobs, and that's great and they've done a very good —. Chairman Hair asked, did somebody solicit you to put this together or did you come with a proposal and gave it to somebody? Mr. Miller said, no, no. This is something that has been in progress through —, with CBETA and also with SEDA for almost two years. I've been working on my own time and my own cost to help formula the project at the behest of these other people. The Coastal Business Education Technology Alliance represents about 30 or 40 of the businesses and educational institutions in Savannah. Chairman Hair asked, so if we voted to approve this \$40,000 today, we're also going to be voting to add \$127,500 to the budget July 1st, right? Mr. Miller said, I'm not asking you to vote on that today. What I wanted to do today was to present to you what this is and what the potential impact on Chatham County and Savannah is. Chairman Hair asked, so you're not asking for money today? Mr. Miller said, no, I'm not. Chairman Hair said, okay.

Mr. Miller said, the other thing that's I think important to bear in mind, in several short months we're going to have the magnifying glass of the rest of the world looking at Savannah and Chatham County. Wouldn't it be great if we had an opportunity to show people that Savannah was not only beautiful, but that we were smart as well? Up to this point we've done absolutely nothing to leverage the assets and resources that we've got, and the idea of being able to show something in front of the G-8 and show that we really do get it —, let me give you an example. If you want to think about this in terms of what other people are doing, if you go to the search engine Google and you type in knowledge based plus city plan, how many hits do you think you get for that long string? 100? 1,000? How many other people are doing this? You get 91,800 hits on knowledge based plus city plan. We're not the only ones thinking about this. Right now Charleston has had this project for effectively two years. They've attracted 12 businesses and they have convinced people that Charleston is the place that you should put your higher wage jobs. The question is if we don't do this, how long are we not going to do it?

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner McMasters has a question.

Commissioner McMasters asked, how much —, going back —, how much did Tony Schoop say that we subsidized CVB? Chairman Hair said, well, we get the bed —, they get a third of the bed tax, 100% of the bed tax and a third of the sales tax. Is that right? Commissioner McMasters said, yeah, but that's revenue that we dedicate to them? Chairman Hair said, correct. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and how much is that? Commissioner Rayno said, \$10 million. Commissioner McMasters said, that was \$10 million, and we all thought that was a great thing, and we kind of determined that —, how many jobs did he create? Commissioner Rayno said, 15,000. Commissioner McMasters said, okay, and we pretty much determined that they were service jobs and low paying jobs, and very important jobs I might add, not to be diminished or reduced. Now how many jobs did SEDA create last year? Chairman Hair asked, do you know? Commissioner McMasters said, no, I don't. Chairman Hair said, that's their job, I would assume they created a lot. I hope that —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, quite a few high paying jobs out, you know, near the airport and all. Chairman Hair said, you need to ask SEDA. Commissioner McMasters asked, has this —, since we let SEDA abate taxes, fees in lieu of taxes, do you have any idea how much revenue we allow them to operate with and how many jobs they've created? Has this Commission ever asked that question? Commissioner Odell said, that's a great question. Commissioner Thomas said, that's a great question. Chairman Hair said, I think that's a great question. I think that's also —, we don't give them direct cash contribution either and we're being asked to give \$127,500 cash here. Commissioner McMasters said, with all due respect, with probably a half a million dollars of property off digest, that's an awful lot of give away and tax incentives, and I'd like to know from this Commission, have any of my fellow Commissioners had a presentation from SEDA relative to this subject? Because I've only been here two years. Chairman Hair said, not as far as a Commission meeting. I've had a meeting —, I've been at their meetings where they presented —. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, have they discussed with you the job creation —, numbers? Chairman Hair said, no. Commissioner McMasters said, no. Okay.

Mr. Miller said, I'll be quite honest. I didn't come here —, I'm not as a representative of SEDA here today, and there's a lot of things I can't fix. I've been in the process of building this delicate and complex coalition, I've been asked to build bike paths, I've been asked to fix schools, I've been asked that the project has to include just about everything you can imagine. I can't fix the schools, I can't build bike paths, but I can do in a very narrow, small, focused and fast method, I can bring some higher wage jobs to Savannah, and that's something that we haven't done before. It's a complex coalition, I'm telling you. You can torpedo it very easily because there's a lot of people and they all want to pull it off base. What I'm suggesting to you is to give it a little more consideration, give me an opportunity to explain how this works and why it would be a benefit, and at some point in the future if you decide you'd like to participate, that would be great. I can tell you this has the potential to have a huge, huge financial impact on Chatham County and Savannah. We're talking about planting a small tiny seedling that given a little bit of water and a little bit of sunlight has the potential to create a huge, huge revenue for the Savannah area. If we don't, it's —, here's —, look at what's happening right now. Manufacturers, does anybody know what percent that represents right now? It's 41% of total economic activity for Chatham County, 41% from manufacturing. Tourism, that everybody thinks is a big impact, is 13%. There's a reason for that. The average accommodation, food service, arts and entertainment job pays an average weekly wage of less than \$400. Your manufacturing jobs pay almost double that of over \$800. The problem is this. Manufacturing is in decline. It's not our fault, it's not the State's fault, it's not the nation's fault, but it's a fact that none of us are going to be able to fix. The question to you is what are you going to replace those loss of manufacturing jobs with? Are we going to replace them with \$400 jobs that are [inaudible] accommodation or tourism? That's the default. That's what you get if you don't do anything.

Commissioner McMasters said, Mr. Miller, my point in this questioning of the CVB budget, there's something that we —, and to borrow your metaphor —, we pour a ton of water on and those big seeds produce a bunch of little seeds in the forms of low paying, but all important jobs. Mr. Miller said, important jobs. Commissioner McMasters said, absolutely. We —, if tonnage is the metaphor for the CVB, I don't know what the correct metaphor is for SEDA. Okay? And we don't know what's growing out there, to continue the metaphor. The fact that what you've brought forward is a small pilot program that could produce significant types of jobs that we're missing in this community, I think this Commission and some of my colleagues ought to pay close attention to. Commissioner Odell said, we're listening intently. Commissioner McMasters said, I can tell. So, consequently, this has been a rather jolted meeting, but nonetheless I think we owe it to you to listen carefully to what, in fact, your plans are. Now I've personally taken the time to read both your white paper and your position paper on it, and I think that it has —, it makes a lot of sense, it's a low cost thing, and I think that —, my hope is that we can learn more about it and fund this as a consideration in our '05 budget.

Chairman Hair said, Commissioner Rayno, then Brittney [Kohler] and myself and then Commissioner Kicklighter. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Rayno.

Commissioner Rayno said, we have funded SEDA when we hit a receivable for a quarter of a million dollars if you wrote off for them. So we've already given SEDA \$250,000, if you remember, in recent memory and also all that property that's off the tax digest, which these industries get as favors to come into town and set up. They get that tax free a lot of time for a number of years. So we've subsidized SEDA greatly. I embrace your concept because I read a book back in the 80's, it was written by Alvin Toffler and his wife called *The Third Wave*, and it talks about paradigm change from the early part of the —, from the late part of the 18th century, when we moved from an agricultural society to the 1900's to an industrial society, and it predicted even back then the change in the 90's to an information society. It talks largely about how manufacturing jobs will be exported to foreign countries and we would lose that base. So the warning signal's been out there since the early 80's from people like him and his wife, and it struck me as a very, very pivotal book on my thinking as to how important information technology was for the future for America. Another writer that talks about this, about possibility thinking is John Maxwell in his book *Falling Forward*, but also thinking for a change and he specifically mentions George Lucas in that book. Now George Lucas had very great success with *American Graffiti*, but he had this wacky idea about a firm called *Star Wars* where if you would take the technology that was used in *Space Odyssey: 2001* and forward it into a Buck Rogers type swashbuckler in space, so he coupled that

with a guy named Dykstra [phonetic] and a couple of other people and formed Industrial Light and Magic, and everybody thought he was crazy. He went to studios all over town and they said, "Oh, no, this is not going to work. We're not going to support your film." But they believed in his project and this thing not only gave him back his money that was invested into it, but he started a whole new industry out in California because he didn't really want to make money with *Star Wars*, he thought it was just going to be a fun film to make. He had made his money in *American Graffiti*. This was just a creative person thinking this is going to be something that I want to do, and these are the type of people that you'd be attracting to Savannah, people that have dreams and ideas and —.

Mr. Miller said, actually, if I could add, let me just clarify for the record, the division heads of Industrial Light and Magic, Lucas films, Lucas arts and Lucas animation were here four weeks ago at my request, with an eye of looking at Savannah as a place to potentially have a remote office. These are the four leaders in the world in their businesses. I can assure you they represent more than just higher wage jobs. They represented [inaudible] publicity and PR for this town that we could never expect to buy. So specifically to your comments, the Lucas people have been here. They were here because of the project that I'm working on. If we want to see more of that, we're going to have to do something.

Commissioner Rayno said, and it seems to me like all the pieces are falling in place. The City has made [inaudible] the tourism and film head and already the City's moving in this direction to bring knowledge based industry into town. It's clean industry and anybody that's concerned about the environment should be concerned that if we're losing manufacturing, you replace it with a high paying tech job that's going to make a huge difference. It's going to have a spin-off into the schools where kids are going to want to know about Cisco Networking Systems, they're going to want to know about the Internet and how to do HTML program and how to go even further into Internet II for wider band with capability and how to incorporate that into the educational community, and it's going to make the need for a science museum to come back into town. It's going to make all these things happen, and to sit there and turn our backs on it when we could be at the forefront for a small investment, less than we've paid SEDA so far in receivables, I think would have huge returns in the long run.

Mr. Miller said, well, as I pointed out, I can't fix —, if you've got problems with one of the coalition partners, I can't fix that. What I can do is I can tell you —, and I can't fix your schools —, but I tell you this, and this is interesting, that people that are earning less than \$400 a week don't have time to be engaged in your schools, they don't have time to be engaged in your community. Quite frankly, they're just keeping their head above water and they're doing the best they can. People that do earn more than \$400 a week can be engage in your schools and they can be —, and obviously, as we know, better parents mean better schools. They are going to be engaged community citizens. I think there's a range of ancillary and indirect benefits that come from this that you can't necessarily quantify, but are clearly, clearly there.

Chairman Hair recognized Youth Commissioner Kohler.

Youth Commissioner Kohler said, I believe that this Commission should consider a program such as this because, honesty as a student, when I head off to college, I will —, I will leave here. There —, I don't see the opportunity that I want to see here to stay. There's no confidence in making my future here. I want to see that happen in Savannah, yes, and I might come back to do that, but I wouldn't stay here to be a part that I'm not going to be active in it. Do I make —. Chairman Hair said, certainly. That's a very good point. Youth Commissioner Kohler said, I think that by bringing higher tech jobs in, you are reducing the amount of people that just want to stay, they just want to, okay, I'll slide by life, and they are going to bring in people who are important, people who want things for Savannah, and we need passion and we need something here that isn't in New York, isn't in Chicago, it isn't in San Francisco. It's going to be in Savannah, and Savannah could do that, and I think by funding something like this, you would do that.

Chairman Hair said, thank you. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what type —. Chairman Hair said, I'm next and then —. Commissioner Kicklighter asked, can I ask her a question? Chairman Hair said, certainly, certainly.

Commissioner Kicklighter asked, what type of career are you going for after you get out of school? Youth Commissioner Kohler said, communications. Commissioner Kicklighter said, communications. Okay.

Chairman Hair said, I want to make my position very clear on this thing. I've got no problem with the concept. I've got a real problem the way this thing's being put together. The first time I knew about this was when you called me on the phone, what, a week ago. Mr. Miller said, about two and a half weeks. Chairman Hair said, okay, two and weeks ago. You called me on the phone and you told me you were going to submit the paper. I got that about a week later, and that's the first time that I knew that you were going to ask the County, the taxpayers of this County to give you \$127,500. I don't think that's the way to put together a project in Chatham County that's going to get broad based support when two and a half weeks before you're asking for —, you're not asking for money today, but you are asking for money in the budget, but you're asking for \$127,500 and we just knew about it two and a half weeks ago. That's not the way you build things in Chatham County, number one. Mr. Miller said, putting together —. Chairman Hair said, number two is I agree with Commissioner Rayno and Commissioner McMasters. They made the point that I was trying to make, even though they didn't mean to make it. SEDA —, we are funding SEDA to the tune of, if I remember, it's \$280,000-\$300,000 a year. That's exactly —, you're right, Commissioner Rayno, we're funding SEDA already, who's primary job is to recruit high tech industry and manufacturing and here we are wanting to overlay another \$127,500 cash on top of the \$280,000 we're already giving SEDA. I would support this project wholeheartedly if a couple of changes were made, and this thing about, you know, well, we —, our partners giving in kind. That's the oldest trick in the book. In eight years I can't tell you how many hundreds of people have come to me and say, well, this is a wonderful project, we want the County to put up \$50,000 and we're going to put up in kind, which means that what their in kind is, is an office that I haven't used in four years, I'm going to let them use my office, so all of a sudden that's my

in kind contribution. You know, if you go back and you get 20% of the funding from the School Board, 20% from the Chamber and 20% from SEDA and 20% from the City of Savannah, you've got my vote 100%. Okay? But to ask us for 50% of the funding of this —, you know, and we made it in pre-meeting, but I want to bring it up again and, Dr. Thomas, both of us have a similar background. Leaving out the School Board as a cash contributor, these are the feeder systems into what you're talking about and if you go ahead and build a system up here at the college level but you don't have the proper feeder system into it, it's going to die quickly because, you know, you're going to take the existing people you've got —, if the school system is not funding additional people coming in qualified, then this thing's going to have a good couple of years and it's going to die on the vine. And I just think it's —, I think it's a great concept. I do not like the funding. I don't think the County ought to put up 50% of it, and I will vote against it if that's the final proposal.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you. Someone in the audience wanted me to ask you this question. Who determines the salary of the employees? Mr. Miller said, the proposal as I wrote it was arrived at in working with County staff, with City staff, with CBETA and with the schools. The proposal's something that evolved over a long period of time. I don't know that it was appropriate necessarily to have everybody in the whole County involved, and we certainly have 20 different organizations represented in the discussions. The point wasn't to come here and, quite frankly, 50% is a mischaracterization. The proposal that you read —. Commissioner Kicklighter said, you didn't answer my question. Who determines the salary? Mr. Miller said, it was a proposal that was put together by all of us. Commissioner Kicklighter said, okay, if this thing was started, who would determine the raises from that point on? Mr. Miller said, the executive committee, which is based on the people that put money into the project.

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Odell.

Commissioner Odell said, I think this is a good idea, but what I'd like to see is that —, Mr. McMasters asked about SEDA coming to this Commission and giving us a brief presentation on how many jobs they've created for the amount of monies that they've realized from taxes, tax avoidance and —. Commissioner Rayno said, sustained jobs, not jobs that were created and then disappeared from layoffs like two months later. Commissioner Odell said, right, and I'd like to see that. We're not asked today to act financially upon your request. I saw the request. I thought it was a good proposal. I do have some additional questions. I would like to see the Board of Education be a major player in this. The assumption is you keep kids who finish college here, but the assumption beyond that is that high school kids go to local colleges here and they stay here. Why shouldn't the Board of Education be a player dollar and cents wise? And that's a rhetorical question, I don't need your answer. But they should be, I think, and I don't want to beat this to death.

Chairman Hair said, I guess we've pretty much had the presentation today. I guess at some point you're going to come back and ask for funding. Mr. Miller said, I'd like an opportunity to be able to explain some —, either individually or collectively, in a little greater detail. Obviously, this is not necessarily a good forum for going into the nuances of the specific proposal. Chairman Hair said, I totally agree with you. Mr. Miller said, I think I can address your issues, but, you know —. Chairman Hair said, why don't you meet with us individually or in small groups and do that and then that might make it easier for you to come back. Okay? Mr. Miller said, I'd be glad to. Chairman Hair said, thank you. Mr. Miller said, thank you very much for your time. Chairman Hair said, thank you very much. Thanks.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Received as information. It was suggested that Mr. Chris Miller meet with the Commissioners either individually or in small groups to present the specifics of his proposal and then come back before the Board.

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7. PIPEMAKERS CANAL CHANGE ORDER AS DISCUSSED AT YOUR LAST MEETING (PLEASE SEE PURCHASING REPORT, ITEM X-15-B).

Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner Kicklighter.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, thank you, Mr. Chairman. All I want to say is I know that's a big change order, but we're going to have a state of the art canal there. It will actually wind up a lot better than the original proposal because they will have the fiber foam going out and it will make maintenance easier in the future and drain that entire area much better. Chairman Hair asked, make a motion? Commissioner Kicklighter said, so I make a motion to approve. Chairman Hair asked, second? Commissioner Odell said, second.

Commissioner McMasters said, question. Chairman Hair recognized Commissioner McMasters. Commissioner McMasters said, just quickly, Russ [Abolt], why are we —, why are we spending an additional almost million dollars on this project? County Manager Abolt said, you'll remember the last meeting we gave you the heads up with color photographs, we said we had to work with the contractor to determine responsibility on certain things —. Commissioner McMasters asked, and who's the contractor? County Manager Abolt said, wait a minute. I need Al [Bungard] here. Commissioner Rayno said, Phoenix Construction Services. Chairman Hair said, yeah, Phoenix Construction. County Manager Abolt said, thank you, and —. Commissioner McMasters said, I'm sorry, go ahead. County Manager Abolt said, no, please. Commissioner McMasters asked, is that a local company? County Engineer Al Bungard said,

no sir. Commissioner McMasters asked, are they in the State of Georgia? County Engineer Bungard said, no, a company out of Florida. Commissioner McMasters said, okay.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, the original plan had a 70-foot basin going out towards the river and what they did not anticipate, they couldn't have —, they took a little bit of a, in a way a gamble, but looking at it financially it would have actually cost probably this much to go out there and drill and bore the entire area because of the trees and how hard it was to get to. So they took the risk that they would be able to create the 70-foot basin with no problems there. Once they got in and dug the basin, I mean, barely, the entire —, the soil content, makeup in that particular area is just crashing right down into the —, in the canal. So now what they've done, and thank goodness we've got a creative hard working group of people here, they're going to fiber foam that area to keep it from crashing in, and I'd encourage everyone to go out and look at it. It's amazing out there right now what's going on.

Commissioner McMasters said, so it was an unexpected cost expenditure in SPLOST III? Chairman Hair said, no, '98-2003. Commissioner McMasters said, SPLOST —. Chairman Hair said, SPLOST II. Commissioner McMasters said, so this additional million dollar cost overrun will be paid from interest? County Manager Abolt said, no, if you recall —, well, if you recall, when you took bids on this, you had the low bid, it was a million dollar less than —, I believe a million and change —, less than the second lowest. I'll ask Al Bungard to come forward. Please, and deal with where the source of funds are. County Engineer Bungard said, well, there's been about 16, \$17 million set up in the Pipemakers Canal Project since its inception and the approval of the SPLOST. So there's enough money there, you know, for the project. Chairman Hair said, and we designated it for this canal. County Engineer Bungard said, and designated for the Pipemakers Canal Project, what was ever required. Commissioner McMasters said, well, if the rest of the project runs as planned, is there going to be enough money to finish it? County Engineer Bungard said, yes. Well, we think right now there's enough money for the Pipemakers Canal to take it up through around improvements up through Interstate 95. That's been the plan for —. Commissioner McMasters asked, so did we have the \$900,000 contingency in this plan? I'm missing how we're over by \$900,000 yet we're still going to be on budget in the contract. Commissioner Kicklighter said, they didn't anticipate Phase I costing that much, and that's —, this is just Phase I of the project and they had an anticipated cost and bid out, but when it crashed in, that threw the price of Phase I up.

County Manager Abolt said, let me —, maybe there's a way to reinforce what you've all discussed about an hour ago. You know, when you make estimates, you can be pretty good at them or not good at them at all. Now in 1985 when the County started out doing this and none of us I think were here then, we were very bad at it. Very homespun, very folksy. I think all the projects done back then were done in the afternoon in the County Engineer's office and it was done with a swag. Since that time we've gotten better, but you still have the issue, and the Chairman referenced it when you were talking about this before of how exact can one be in estimates. Now the fact of life is you cannot be exact until you get real bids in and you get the experience of the project. In this situation, particularly what Commissioner Kicklighter referred to, you've got a very dense forested area and the decision was made then, my goodness, to get in there in do soil samples it's not like an open plain. It would be, you know, cost prohibitive at the time. Run the risk. The risk was run and we learned this. Now how far will this go? Obviously Mother Nature is going to tell us, but you always want to have the flexibility in the project that, number one, is such a priority, but also is complex to be able to entertain change orders. There's nothing wrong about change orders.

Commissioner McMasters said, no, there's not and I'm really —, I'm going to support this and I understand this is one —, sounds like one of those change orders that is a legitimate one and something that could not have been anticipated. But our history in SPLOST is not that good with cost projection and staying on budget.

Chairman Hair recognized County Manager Abolt.

County Manager Abolt said, please, I'm not trying to be argumentative, the projects that I heard you mention before, you mentioned what's referred to now as the flyover on Johnny Mercer —, excuse me, on U.S. 80 and Islands Expressway. That was initially budgeted as an at-grade crossing. You mentioned Jimmy DeLoach Parkway —. Commissioner McMasters asked, well, how about the Staley Avenue Overpass? County Manager Abolt said, let me finish. I cannot speak to Staley Avenue, I don't have the recall. You mentioned Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, and some of you on the Commission will recall, the then-seated Commissioner, who happened to be Jimmy DeLoach, that project was designed for two lanes. Commissioner DeLoach then moved and the Board then accepted that they have four lanes on it. Even though it's not needed now, it makes a whole lot of sense. You also mentioned the Trade Center. Commissioner Murray got onto this. When that budget was initially put together, it was contingent upon the State of Georgia paying 50% of the cost. The County Commission found weeks later, months later, that they were only going to pay 25%. So y'all went back out to the voters and they approved the additional spending. So there are reasons. I'm not trying to justify carte blanche, you know, poor management of projects, but there are some big ticket items that have some history behind them.

Chairman Hair said, I think we need to move on, Commissioner McMasters. We've pretty much beat that horse to death, okay. Commissioner McMasters said, well, it's a legitimate horse though. Chairman Hair said, it's a legitimate horse, but you've beaten him about five times today. I think that horse has had enough beatings today. We can beat him again on March 12th, okay. He'll be —, that horse will be back.

Commissioner Kicklighter said, I just want to add that it will be great for the area to improve it, and when we run out of the money with the timing it takes working with EPD acquiring the property, I'm sure I'll be begging for more to finish the project, but we'll see good drainage all the way down because of —. Chairman Hair asked, are you calling the question? Commissioner Kicklighter said, call for the question.

Chairman Hair said, all those in favor vote yes, opposed vote no. The motion carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioners Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Change Order No. 1 to the contract with Phoenix Construction Services, Inc., for the Pipemakers Canal Widening project for additional work items in the amount of \$956,000 described in Item IX-7and in Item X-15-B. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was 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 asked, does anybody want to pull anything off the Action Calendar? If not, I'll entertain a motion to approve the Action Calendar. Commissioner Odell said, move for approval. 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: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.] Chairman Hair said, the motion passes.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Action Calendar be approved in its entirety with the exception of Item 10-Q, which was removed from the agenda, and Item 15-B, which was handled previously by a separate motion. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was 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 FEBRUARY 13, 2004, AS MAILED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the minutes for the pre-meeting and regular meeting of February 13, 2004, as mailed. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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2. CLAIMS VS. CHATHAM COUNTY FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 5 THROUGH FEBRUARY 18, 2004.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved that the Finance Director is authorized to pay claims for the period February 5, 2004, through February 18, 2004, in the amount of \$2,870,619. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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3. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE CREDIT CARD USAGE FOR TRAVEL BY THE SHERIFF'S INMATE TRANSPORT UNIT. THIS ITEM BROUGHT BACK FOR ACTION FROM YOUR PREVIOUS MEETING. NOTE: NEW STAFF REPORT WILL BE PROVIDED.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the issuance of two (2) credits card for the Sheriff's Inmate Transport Unit for travel related charges only. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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4. REQUEST BOARD AUTHORIZE THE CHAIRMAN, COUNTY ATTORNEY, CLERK OF THE COMMISSION, AND COUNTY ENGINEER TO SIGN ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE CHATHAM COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL ASSISTANCE RESURFACING PROGRAM (LARP) WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (GDOT) FOR THE RESURFACING OF COUNTY ROADS. [DISTRICTS 2,3,4,6,7 & 8.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to authorize the Chairman, County Attorney, Clerk of Commission and County Engineer to sign all required documents to enable Chatham County to participate in the Local Assistance Resurfacing Program (LARP) with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for the resurfacing of the following County roads: Red Fox Court, 0.090 miles; Stockbridge Court, 0.087 miles; Sylvania Road, 0.690 miles; Winding Way, 0.115 miles; Wahlstrom Road, 0.607 miles; Waycross Road, 0.230 miles; Silk Hope Road, 0.441 miles; Majestic Oaks Drive, 0.190 miles; Majestic Oaks Circle, 0.295 miles; Walthour Road 1.600 miles; and Lang Street, 0.155 miles. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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5. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, SOUTHBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR SOUTHBRIDGE, PHASE F-1, ACCEPT THE SUBDIVISION AGREEMENT AND FINANCIAL GUARANTEE AND CREATE A NEW STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Southbridge Development Company, to record the subdivision plat for Southbridge, Phase F-1, accept the subdivision agreement and financial guarantee and create a new streetlight assessment district. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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6. REQUEST FROM THE ENGINEER FOR THE DEVELOPER, GENESIS DESIGNER HOMES, TO INCREASE THE STONEBRIDGE SUBDIVISION STREETLIGHT ASSESSMENT RATE.

[DISTRICT 7.]**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from the engineer for the developer, Genesis Designer Homes, to increase the Stonebridge Subdivision streetlight assessment rate. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 7. REQUEST FROM THE SURVEYOR FOR THE DEVELOPER, LOUIS YOUNG, TO RECORD THE SUBDIVISION PLAT FOR SARANAC SUBDIVISION, LOT 13.
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the request from the surveyor for the developer, Louis Young, to record the subdivision plat for Saranac Subdivision, Lot 13. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 8. REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AND APPROVAL RESOLUTION OF LOCAL FRANCHISE AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER CATV FRANCHISE.**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the Consent and Approval Resolution of Local Franchise Authority to Transfer the CATV Franchise to Comcast. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 9. REQUEST BOARD APPROVE EXECUTION OF A QUITCLAIM DEED TO SAMUEL AND THELMA JONES SCOTT FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 208 WEST 35TH STREET.
[DISTRICT 2.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the execution of a quitclaim deed to Samuel and Thelma Jones Scott for property located at 208 West 35th Street (PIN 20066-35005). Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 10. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2004.**
- A. PETITIONER: STEPHEN C. SIMS, D/B/A SANDFLY BAR AND GRILL, LOCATED AT 7360 SKIDAWAY ROAD. [DISTRICT 3.]**
 - B. PETITIONER: JOHN R. TURNER, D/B/A SALTWATER GRILLE, LOCATED AT 7000 LAROCHE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**
 - C. PETITIONER: RICKY PERRY, D/B/A FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES, LOCATED AT 5406 LAROCHE AVENUE. [DISTRICT 3.]**
 - D. PETITIONER: STEPHEN A. GROVE, D/B/A APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL & BAR, LOCATED AT 4705 U.S. HIGHWAY 80 EAST. [DISTRICT 4.]**
 - E. PETITIONER: WILMA LEA WEAVER, D/B/A CHEERS TO YOU, LOCATED AT 135-B JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]**
 - F. PETITIONER: JOHN A. HENDERSON, D/B/A COUSIN VINNIE'S PIZZA, FUN & GAMES TAVERN, LOCATED AT 4700 HIGHWAY 80 EAST. [DISTRICT 4.]**

- G. KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A DEER CREEK CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 DEER CREEK ROAD, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]
- H. KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A MARSHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 PALMERS DRAW, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]
- I. KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A OAKRIDGE CLUB, LOCATED AT 11 WESTCROSS ROAD, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]
- J. KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A PLANTATION CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 COTTONWOOD DRIVE, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]
- K. PETITIONER: ELEANOR M. COURSEY, D/B/A GRANT'S CROW BAR LOUNGE, LOCATED AT 205 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]
- L. PETITIONER: JOHN R. TURNER, D/B/A ISLAND OYSTER BAR, LOCATED AT 444 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]
- M. PETITIONER: THEODORE P. SHAW, D/B/A SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB, INC., LOCATED AT END OF BRADLEY POINT ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]
- N. PETITIONER: WILLIAM MICHAEL FOSTER, D/B/A WILMINGTON ISLAND CLUB, LOCATED AT 612 WILMINGTON ISLAND ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]
- O. PETITIONER: RAYMUNDO L. JAIME, D/B/A EL POTRO MEXICAN RESTAURANT #14, LOCATED AT 1 FORT ARGYLE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]
- P. PETITIONER: DONNA M. LOVE, D/B/A LOVE'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 6817 BASIN ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]
- ~~Q. PETITIONER: LINDA G. MESSINGER, D/B/A PERKINS RESTAURANT & BAKERY, LOCATED WITHIN THE QUALITY INN AT 3-A GATEWAY BOULEVARD SOUTH. [DISTRICT 6.]~~
- R. PETITIONER: JAMES HASLAM, D/B/A SOUTHBRIDGE GOLF CLUB, LOCATED AT 415 SOUTHBRIDGE BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]
- S. PETITIONER: STEPHEN A. GROVE, D/B/A APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL & BAR, LOCATED AT 5460 AUGUSTA ROAD. [DISTRICT 7.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following petitions for renewal of Sunday sales of beer, wine and liquor pouring license for 2004: (A) Stephen C. Sims, d/b/a Sandfly Bar and Grill, located at 7360 Skidaway Road [District 3]; (B) John R. Turner, d/b/a Saltwater Grille, located at 7000 LaRoche Avenue [District 3]; (c) Ricky Perry, d/b/a Fraternal Order of Eagles, located at 5406 LaRoche Avenue [District 3]; (D) Stephen A. Grove, d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, located at 4705 U.S. Highway 80 East [District 4]; (E) Wilma Lea Weaver, d/b/a Cheers to You, located at 135-B Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (F) John A. Henderson d/b/a Cousin Vinnie's Pizza, Fun & Games, located at 4700 Highway 80 East [District 4]; (G) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Deer Creek Club, located at 1 Deer Creek Road, The Landings [District 4]; (H) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Marshwood Country Club, located at 1 Palmers Draw, The Landings [District 4]; (I) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Oakridge Club, located at 11 Westcross Road, The Landings [District 4]; (J) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Plantation Club, located at 1 Cottonwood Drive, The Landings [District 4]; (K) Eleanor M. Coursey, d/b/a Grant's Crow Bar Lounge, located at 205 Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (L) John R. Turner, d/b/a Island Oyster Bar, located at 444 Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (M) Theodore P. Shaw, d/b/a Savannah Yacht Club, located at End of Bradley Point Road [District 4]; (N) William Michael Foster, d/b/a Wilmington Island Club, located at 612 Wilmington Island Road [District 4]; (O) Raymundo L. Jaime, d/b/a El Potro Mexican Restaurant #14, located at 1 Fort Argyle Road [District 6]; (P) Donna M. Love, d/b/a Love's Seafood Restaurant, located at 6817 Basin Road [District 6]; (R) James Haslam, d/b/a Southbridge Golf Club, located at 415 Southbridge Boulevard [District 7]; and (S) Stephen A. Grove, d/b/a Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar, located at 5460 Augusta Road [District 7]. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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- 11. **REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF SUNDAY SALES OF BEER AND WINE POURING FOR 2004.**
 - A. PETITIONER: KATHRYN HIEBERT, D/B/A FRANKLIN CREEK ACTIVITY CENTER, LOCATED AT 900 FRANKLIN CREEK ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]
 - B. PETITIONER: MAEYU C. WU, D/B/A HUNAN'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 318 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]
 - C. PETITIONER: MA NAM, D/B/A KANPAI JAPANESE RESTAURANT, LOCATED AT 140 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD, SUITE A. [DISTRICT 4.]
 - D. WILLIAM J. YOUNG, D/B/A PIZZA INN, LOCATED AT 313 JOHNNY MERCER BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 4.]

- E. **PETITIONER: CHERI STOKES KELLER, D/B/A JANIE ARKWRIGHTS KITCHEN, LOCATED WITHIN KELLER'S FLEA MARKET AT 5901 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 6.]**
- F. **PETITIONER: SURENDRA PATEL, D/B/A DENNY'S RESTAURANT, LOCATED WITHIN THE BEST WESTERN AT 1 GATEWAY BOULEVARD. [DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following petitions for renewal of Sunday sales of beer and wine pouring for 2004: (A) Kathryn Hiebert, d/b/a Franklin Creek Activity Center, located at 900 Franklin Creek Road [District 4]; (B) Maeyu C. Wu, d/b/a Hunan's Restaurant, located at 318 Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (C) Ma Nam, d/b/a Kanpai Japanese Restaurant, located at 140 Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (D) William J. Young, d/b/a Pizza Inn, located at 313 Johnny Mercer Boulevard [District 4]; (E) Cheri Stokes Keller, d/b/a Janie Arkwrights Kitchen, located within Keller's Flea Market at 5901 Ogeechee Road [District 6]; and Surendra Patel, d/b/a Denny's Restaurant, located within the Best Western at 1 Gateway Boulevard [District 7]. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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12. REQUEST FOR NEW WINE RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2004.

- A. **PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A DEER CREEK CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 DEER CREEK ROAD, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]**
- B. **PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A MARSHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 PALMERS DRAW, THE LANDINGS. [DISTRICT 4.]**
- C. **PETITIONER: KATHRYN H. HIEBERT, D/B/A PLANTATION CLUB, LOCATED AT 1 COTTONWOOD DRIVE. [DISTRICT 4.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the following petitions for new wine retail license for 2004: (A) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Deer Creek Club, located at 1 Deer Creek Road, The Landings [District 4]; (B) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Marshwood Country Club, located at 1 Palmers Draw, The Landings [District 4]; and (C) Kathryn H. Hiebert, d/b/a Plantation Club, located at 1 Cottonwood Drive [District 4]. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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13. REQUEST FOR NEW LIQUOR POURING LICENSE FOR 2004. PETITIONER: JOHN B. REMION, JR. D/B/A RAQUEL'S BAR & GRILL, LOCATED AT 4001 OGEECHEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 5.]**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the petition of John B. Remion, Jr., d/b/a Raquel's Bar & Grill, located at 4001 Ogeechee Road, for a new liquor pouring license for 2004. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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14. REQUEST FOR RENEWAL OF BEER RETAIL LICENSE FOR 2004. PETITIONER: JOHN FREDRICK TANNER (NEW APPLICANT), D/B/A BULL RIVER MARINA, LOCATED AT 8005 TYBEE ROAD. [DISTRICT 4.]**ACTION OF THE BOARD:**

Commissioner Odell moved to approve the petition of John Frederick Tanner (new applicant), d/b/a Bull River Marina, located at 8005 Tybee Road, for renewal of a beer retail license for 2004. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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15. 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. Board confirmation of the disposal of additional vehicles and various equipment sold at public auction	Purchasing and Contracting	N/A	N/A	Revenue producing
B. Change Order No. 1 to the contract for the Pipemakers Canal Widening project for additional work items	SPLOST	Phoenix Construction Services, Inc.	\$956,000	SPLOST (1998-2003) - Drainage - Pipemakers Canal project
C. Change Order No. 9 to the design contract for the Middleground Road/ Montgomery Crossroad widening project for additional work items	SPLOST	Hussey, Gay, Bell and DeYoung	\$39,460	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road/ Montgomery Crossroad Widening project
D. Renew annual contract for Workers' Compensation Specific Excess Insurance	Finance	Midwest Employer's Casualty	\$42,349	General Fund/M&O - Worker's Compensation

As to Items 15-A through 15-D, except 15-B:

Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 15-A through 15-D, except Item 15-B. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

As to Item 15-B:

[NOTE: For discussion on this item, please see Items for Individual Action, IX-7.]

Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 15-B. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

1. Commissioner Odell moved to approve Items 15-A through 15-D, except Item 15-B. Commissioner Thomas seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]
2. Commissioner Kicklighter moved to approve Item 15-B. Commissioner Odell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.] (For discussion on this item, please see Items for Individual Action, IX-7.)

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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. **THE PETITIONER, RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC, OWNER, IS REQUESTING REZONING OF A 105.2 ACRE SITE LOCATED EAST OF OLD RIVER ROAD THAT ABUTS THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY LINE, FROM AN R-A (RESIDENTIAL-AGRICULTURE) TO A PD-R-SM (PLANNED DEVELOPMENT-RECLAMATION-SURFACE MINING) ZONING CLASSIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF A GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN. THE MPC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
MPC FILE NO. Z-031217-62937-1
[DISTRICT 7.]**

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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2. AMENDMENT TO LICENSING AND REGULATION ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 18, OF THE COUNTY CODE, TO ADD ARTICLE IV, "PARADE AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ORDINANCE."

Commissioner Rayno asked, are these, two through five, they're just all in reference to the G-8? Chairman Hair said, that's correct. Commissioner Rayno said, to tighten up our —. Chairman Hair said, yes, and also to be consistent with other governments. Commissioner Rayno said, yes sir.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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3. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE I, SECTIONS 16-132, 16-134 AND 16-142, OF THE BUSINESS REGULATIONS AND LICENSING ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY, TO AMEND "SPECIAL EVENT" PROVISIONS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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4. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 23, ARTICLE I, OF THE PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY, TO AMEND PARK HOURS PROVISION AND PROHIBIT CAMPING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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5. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 11, ARTICLE I, OF THE GENERAL OFFENSES ORDINANCE OF CHATHAM COUNTY, TO PROHIBIT LODGING IN VEHICLES IN PUBLIC AREAS.

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

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

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XII. SECOND READINGS

None.

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XIII. INFORMATION CALENDAR

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

A written report was received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-2

DATE: February 27, 2004

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

ITEM	DEPT.	SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDING
Six (6) sets of Deed Record books	Superior Court Clerk	Adverttools (sole source)	\$7,726.80	General Fund/M&O - Superior Court Clerk
Grading service for various County roads through the month of July	Public Works	Carolina Smooth Roads, LLC	\$6,864	SSD - Public Works
Demolition of County owned properties for the Middleground Road widening project	SPLOST	American Landscape and Debris Removal	\$4,875	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Middleground Road Widening project
Topographic survey and construction	SPLOST	EMC Engineering Services	\$7,354	SPLOST (1993-1998) - Abercorn Safety Project
Field survey of wetland areas, prepare wetlands plat for submission to Corps of Engineers	SPLOST	Thomas & Hutton Engineering	\$8,950	SPLOST (1998-2003) - SR 307 Extension
Annual inspection on the fixed wing on the air tractor aircraft	Mosquito Control	Statesboro Aircraft	\$6,384.72	General Fund/M&O - Mosquito Control
Ten (10) handsets without displays	Detention Center	Engineered Systems and Services (sole source)	\$3,700	General Fund/M&O - Detention Center

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>DEPT.</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>FUNDING</u>
E-911 co-location analysis project	Police	Barnard and Associates	\$3,305	E-911 Funds
Emergency medical dispatch training for 33 students	Police	Power Phone, Inc. (sole source)	\$6,600	SSD - Police

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3. ROADS AND DRAINAGE REPORTS. (Please note further delay in completing Stephenson project.)

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Written reports were received as information.

AGENDA ITEM: XIII-3 Roads
DATE: February 27, 2004

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County road projects.

BACKGROUND: The schedules for construction are dictated by the GDOT, the allocations of funds among the Congressional districts and balancing of the CUTS TIP. "Let" dates are estimates as to when projects should be ready for bidding. "CST" dates reflect when funds are programmed by the GDOT. Key milestone events are summarized in the table attached to this report.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Truman Parkway.
 - a. Phase 3. The intersection improvements at Eisenhower and Skidaway are projected to be complete by the end of February, 2004. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the main line from Derenne Avenue to Eisenhower is scheduled for March 19. GDOT is coordinating a new schedule with the contractor to complete Phase 3 from Eisenhower to Montgomery Cross Road.
 - b. Phase 4. Construction continues on the bridge at Montgomery Cross Road and on the roadway to Whitfield Avenue. GDOT is working on establishing a new contract completion date.
 - c. Phase 5. The Local Government Project Agreement (LGPA) was approved by the GDOT on September 11, 2001. Design is underway. Based on an analysis of alternatives for terminating Phase 5 at Abercorn, the Concept Report was revised to tie into Abercorn with an at-grade intersection instead of a bridge over Abercorn. The concept team meeting was held on September 24, 2003, in Atlanta. In the meantime, the FHWA required that GDOT conduct a Value Engineering Study (VE) because the project cost is over \$25M. Staff review comments are pending. Their goal is to have an approved Concept Report in March. In accordance with the Plan Development Process, an approved Concept Report is a prerequisite to finalizing the Preliminary Design and Right of Way plans.

2. Jimmy DeLoach Parkway, Phase 2 (I-16 to US 80). The Final EA with a Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) was forwarded to the GDOT on November 10, 2003, and is pending forwarding to the FHWA for approval. Staff anticipates GDOT requesting the Preliminary Field Plan Review in March 2004. The project is presently programmed in the CUTS TIP for construction in FY 2005.

3. Pooler Parkway Ph 2 and Interchanges at I-16 and US 80: The interchange at I-16 and the roadway from Quacco Road to Pine Barren Road are open to traffic. Construction continues on the road from Pine Barren Road to US 80 and on the interchange at US 80. Most of the asphalt is down covering the mainline, shoulders and the ramps on the interchange between Pine Barren Road and U.S. 80. Signal lights are being erected on U.S. 80 at the interchange. GDOT now estimates the completion may be in March 2004.

4. US 17.
 - a. SR 204 to Dean Forest Road: GDOT projects that it may be done by the end of March 2004.
 - b. Ogeechee River to SR 204: The scheduled completion date is September 30, 2004.

5. Middleground Road/Montgomery Cross Road (Ph 2 widening). ROW acquisition is complete. The roadway, drainage and water/sewers designs are complete. A change order to reestablish survey controls and to add fiber optics for traffic signals is pending. The GDOT has scheduled the bid opening for a construction contract in April 2004.

6. Stephenson Avenue. Under construction. Main effort currently is installing storm drainage and an 8 inch water line on Stephenson Avenue. Relocation of gas lines that were shown on the plans is complete. The gas company has completed the extension of their gas lines. Grading and temporary paving on the south side of Stephenson to improve drainage is complete. This work will allow the construction of the north side roadway. Storm drain work is 70% complete and water line work is 95% complete. Utility delays and other unexpected conflicts have delayed construction progress. Curb & gutter work is underway and is about 50% complete. Approximately 50% of the new driveways have been installed on the north side of the road and 30% of the graded aggregate base is in place.

The project has also been delayed due to problems encountered with the traffic control staging plan. Several plan revisions have been evaluated. The GDOT has reviewed the proposed plan changes and the prices the contractor submitted for modifications to the staging plan. The traffic staging plans in the original design would not work without a large amount of additional temporary paving that would have to be torn out later. This occurred due to a failure to consider a big grade differentiation between the originally proposed temporary widening to accommodate a traffic shift and the elevation of the new paving. The current proposal will be faster and less expensive than the temporary paving widening, and all paving will remain as part of the new roadway. Either method used would increase the cost of construction. In the meantime, pay item price negotiations for the changes are ongoing and will be addressed with a staff report soon. The utility delays, other unexpected conflicts and the significant staging problem delay will require a time extension. GDOT is managing the project for the County and will calculate the required additional time. It is now estimated that it will take until November, 2004, to complete the project.

7. Skidaway Widening: After many revisions, the FHWA approved the EA on March 5, 2003, for advancement to public hearing. The public hearing was held May 13. The GDOT mailed responses (undated) to citizens comments in December 2003. The Final EA with a FONSI was forwarded to the GDOT on November 26, 2003. The next step is to get FHWA approval.

8. Whitfield Avenue Widening. **The FHWA approved the EA/FONSI on February 13, 2004.** The County is now authorized to proceed with preliminary design. There is a new requirement that the County do a soils investigation as part of the preliminary design. When the preliminary design is approved, right of way plans can be prepared. Staff expects to complete preliminary design in May.

9. Diamond Causeway Widening. Consultant submitted a revised Draft EA to GDOT on October 24, 2002. The GDOT endorsed the EA to the FHWA for review on November 19, requesting comments by December 31, 2002. Received minor review comments from FHWA dated March 7, 2003, part of which required an amendment to CUTS TIP to comply with the justification for logical termini. The amendment to the TIP was approved at the CUTS Policy Committee meeting on July 23, 2003. Staff is awaiting comments or approval by the FHWA to advance to public hearing. Staff was advised on November 13 that the FHWA has sent the Draft EA to the U.S. Coast Guard for review.

10. US 80/SR26

a. Lynes Parkway to Victory Drive. The GDOT is doing the EA and working with the City of Savannah on the impacts of the project in the vicinity of the Springfield Canal. In the meantime, the County has completed all early acquisitions and removed improvements on the properties.

b. Bull River to Lazaretto Creek. GDOT is working on the EA. Programmed in Long Range.

11. White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Road. After many reviews and revisions ... the GDOT forwarded the Draft EA to the FHWA for review on September 30, 2002. Staff received lengthy comments from FHWA on January 22, 2003. The concept for the project was to improve White Bluff Road from near Windsor Road to Old Mill Subdivision to be a four lane divided roadway and to improve Coffee Bluff from Old Mill Subdivision southward to near the Little Ogeechee River to be a three lane section. The need and purpose for the project are based on capacity and safety improvements, and to provide an improved hurricane evacuation route. A teleconference was held with the FHWA, GDOT and County on April 15, 2003. It was agreed that the proposed improvements south of Old Mill Subdivision would be reevaluated for need. Based on the reevaluation and the coordination with FHWA staff, it was determined that widening to three lanes south of Felt Drive was not warranted. The project does propose improvements to the two lane section south of Felt Drive. After concurrence by the City of Savannah in August, the County's consultant revised the Need and Purpose Section of the EA and resubmitted to GDOT on October 16, 2003, and forwarded to the FHWA in December 2003.

12. Eisenhower Widening from Abercorn to Truman Parkway. The original concept report was prepared based on project termini in the CUTS TIP. On December 21, 2001, Board approved extending the scope of the project from Waters Avenue to Truman Parkway. The concept meeting with GDOT and City of Savannah was held September 16, 2002. A revised concept report was submitted for review to the GDOT on July 25, 2003. The field surveys and property research are complete. A revised Concept Report was sent to GDOT on January 15, 2004.

13. Abercorn Widening from Largo Drive to Rio Road. The concept meeting with GDOT and City of Savannah held September 16, 2002. When the concept report is approved, preliminary design can start. The Concept Report is pending revision to reflect a revised terminus from Deerfield Road to Largo Drive. This project is affected by two other projects currently under design. This project is being coordinated with the projects to improve the intersection at Largo Drive and at the terminus of Truman, Phase 5, at Abercorn.

14. Bay Street Widening from I-516 to Bay Street Viaduct. Consultant and County staff hosted initial coordination meetings on December 10 and 11 with City of Savannah staff and sub-consultants. Letters have been sent to potentially affected property owners and collection of survey and property data is now underway. Follow-up meetings were held on January 7, 2004, with City of Savannah staff to coordinate the public involvement process and begin the concept development process. On February 24 the County's consultant and City and County staffs are scheduled to meet with residents of Hudson Hill and West Savannah Community.

15. Local Roads

a. Georgia Tech Campus. By Intergovernmental Agreement, the construction costs are being paid by GDOT, SEDA and City of Savannah. The project is substantially complete. The contractor has completed the corrective work in preparation for the final inspection. Some additional permanent grassing remains to be done in the spring of this year.

b. Benton Boulevard.

(1) Phase 1 Extension (Spur 21). Constructed by County contract. The project is substantially complete. A punch list is pending for corrective work. Staff was advised after-the-fact that a large amount of unsuitable material was encountered and removed on the project. Staff was told that an inspector under contract with GDOT told the contractor to take the action. County staff was not notified of the need for the action or consulted regarding negotiating a price for same. Staff is conferring with GDOT about the apparent breakdown in the normal process for review and approval of an action that may have significant cost associated with it. The justification for the removal has yet to be provided to staff. There will not be any authorization for payment unless this is provided.

(2) Phase 2 Extension (Spur 21). Under construction. The scheduled completion in November 2003, was not be met. A time extension is pending. This project is being funded by a County Contract with GDOT and the local matching funds are being provided by the Branigar Organization. The County is providing administrative services only. The storm drain work is 90% complete. Grading on the roadway continues. Layout for the curbing is in progress.

c. Central Avenue (West), Leghorn, Billings, Ridgewood and Fallowfield Drive. Construction contract approved on October 11, 2002. NTP for Central, Ridgewood and Fallowfield was issued October 23, 2002. NTP on Leghorn and Billings was issued on September 23, 2003. Fallowfield Drive is substantially complete. The storm drain piping on Central Avenue is complete and 40% of the curbing is in place. Curbing and gravel base has been installed on Ridgewood Avenue. Estimated completion is March 2004.

d. Glade Street. Constructed by County contract. Project is complete. Awaiting final acceptance by the GDOT.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

SUMMARY OF ROAD PROJECT STATUS
February 2004

PROJECT	ELEMENT	MILESTONE FOR COMPLETION	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	NOTES
Truman Parkway, 3-A 3-B	Construction	Unknown Mar 2004	GDOT GDOT	Possibly October 2004
Truman Parkway, Ph 4	Construction	Unknown	GDOT	Possibly October 2005
Truman Parkway, Ph 5	Design Construction	Sep 2004	County GDOT	Let LR / CST LR
Pooler Parkway, Ph 2	Construction	Mar 2004	GDOT	
US 17 Widening - SR204 to SR307 - Ogeechee River to SR204	Construction Construction	Mar 2004 Sep 2004	GDOT GDOT	Slipping monthly.
Stephenson Avenue Widening	Construction	Nov 2004	County/GDOT	
Middleground/Montgomery Cross Road, Phase 2 (Widening)	ROW Design Construction	Feb 2004 Mar 2004	County County GDOT	Complete. Let 04-04/CST FY 2004
Jimmy DeLoach Pkwy, Ph 2	Environmental ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT	Final EA at GDOT/FHWA Let 07-04/CST FY 2005
Whitfield Avenue Widening	Environmental Design ROW Construction	Feb 2004	County County County GDOT	EA/FONSI signed Feb 13 Staff preparing schedule Let FY 06/CST FY 2006
Diamond Causeway Widening	Environmental Construction	Unknown	County GDOT	Let FY LR /CST LR

Skidaway Road Widening	Environmental ROW Construction	Unknown	County County GDOT	Final EA at GDOT/FHWA Let FY 09/CST FY 2009
US 80 Widening - Bull River to Lazaretto Creek - I-516 to Victory Drive	Environmental Environmental	Unknown Unknown	GDOT GDOT	Let 07-04/CST LR Let FY ? /CST FY 2009
White Bluff/Coffee Bluff	Environmental	Unknown	County	Let ? /CST FY 2007
Eisenhower (Abercorn to Truman Parkway)	Environmental		County	Concept Report pending approval.
Abercorn (Largo Drive to Rio Road)	Environmental		County	Concept Report pending approval.
Bay Street from I-516 to Viaduct	Environmental	Mar 2005	County	
NOTES: CST = FY in which GDOT has currently programmed the project for construction based on balancing funding among the Congressional districts. Dates are from the GDOT database and CUTS 2004-2006 TIP. Where the GDOT datatrieve report does not provide a Let Date (indicated by ?), it is assumed to be the same as the CST FY date.				

AGENDA ITEM XIII-3 Drainage
DATE: February 27, 2004

TO: Board of Commissioners

THRU: R. E. Abolt, County Manager

FROM: A. G. Bungard, P.E., County Engineer

ISSUE: To provide information on the status of Chatham County drainage projects.

BACKGROUND: For construction contracts that have been awarded, this report provides the latest scheduled completion dates. For projects pending environmental permits, start dates are best estimates. All project scopes include varying degrees of canal widening, bank stabilization, larger bridges and culverts.

FACTS AND FINDING:

1. Pipemakers Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From the outfall at Savannah River to SR 21). Double channel size, replace bridges, replace tide gate, and provide maintenance access.
 - i. The County awarded the contract for construction to Phoenix Construction on July 25, 2003. Estimated completion is October 2004.
 - ii. Staff obtained the GDOT permit for construction access west of SR 25. Staff is pursuing additional rights-of-way for permanent access to the area west of SR 25.
 - iii. Poor soils in the area of the proposed access road are preventing its construction in accordance with the Contract Documents. A Change Order to accommodate this situation is pending Board approval.
 - b. Phase 2 (From SR 21 to I-95).
 - i. Hydraulic analysis is complete. Revised construction drawings and right-of-way plats have been submitted by the consultant. Staff is reviewing these materials. Target date to begin early property acquisition in vicinity of SR 21 is March 2004. These acquisitions will be ahead of completing plans and permitting.
 - ii. Environmental permitting work is in progress, including the "Kahn Property" mitigation site.
 - iii. Staff is drafting an Intergovernmental Agreement for realignment of a portion of the canal on the Savannah Airport property. The agreement with the Airport Authority will outline responsibilities and expectations.
 - iv. Rights of way plats for improvements in the area of SR21 have been completed and forwarded to the County's Right of Way Consultant for acquisition. Staff will be asking the design consultant for a proposal to prepare contract documents for clearing, grubbing, and excavating in this area as part of an effort to expedite construction work.
 - c. Golf Course (section of Phase 2 on Airport property). Widening of this section of canal completed in 2000. Construction of a golf cart bridge over the canal obstructed access to a section of the canal. Staff intends to include resolution of this issue in the Intergovernmental Agreement described above for relocation part of the canal.
 - d. Kahn Mitigation Site. Design work is underway. The final mitigation package for Phase 2, which includes the Kahn Site, must be coordinated with the realignment request of the Airport Authority.
2. Hardin Canal
 - a. Phase 1 (From SR 307 to I-16). Widen channel and replace bridge crossings.
 - i. ROW and construction plans are complete. Acquisition of canal ROW on hold pending details of SR 307 widening (12 parcels impacted).

- ii. Formal permit application submitted to USACE in July 2001. In early December 2003 the USACE verbally notified the County that it had all necessary documentation to make a favorable determination for final permit approval. In a letter from the USACE dated December 19, 2003 the USACE informed the County that a permit would not be issued based on continuing formal objections by resources agencies. Staff is considering options, including construction of a smaller channel, in hopes of circumventing agency objections.
 - b. Phase 2 (Crossing at SR307). Enlargement of crossing under Dean Forest Road (SR307) is included with the concept plan for widening SR307. Concept plan review with GDOT held on December 2. Pending approval by the GDOT.
 - c. Phase 3 (From I-16 to Pine Barren Road). Widen channel and construct a detention pond. No target construction date.
3. Westlake/Springfield Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Crossing and channel improvements from Perimeter Road on Hunter Army Airfield downstream toward the Forest River.
 - i. Completed January 2002.
 - ii. Warranty corrective work was done in January 2004 and is awaiting final inspection.
 - b. Phase 2. This phase consists of acquiring flood-prone properties and the additional land needed to provide additional stormwater retention in the area.
 - i. Appraisal work has started on 35 parcels. Seven have been received and are being reviewed.
 - ii. The grant application to GEMA to defray a portion of the cost of property buyouts has been submitted. Staff has been advised that a determination may be made in March 2004.
 - iii. The contract for engineering services to design the CSX railroad undercrossing was approved by the Board on November 7, 2003. Staff has issued Notice to Proceed and the consultant has started work.
4. Placentia Canal
 - a. Phase 1. Tidegate at Bonaventure Road. Completed February 1999.
 - b. Phase 2. Crossing and channel widening from Bonaventure Road to Shell Road in Thunderbolt. Completed October, 2002. A small contract for improvements to correct drainage in a side yard near Victory Drive has been awarded and Notice to Proceed has been issued. Work started in February 2004.
5. Atlantic Creosote/Phillips Canal. Widen/realign the canal, replace culvert, and replace tidegate. Project completed September 2002.
6. Conaway Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal). Primarily widen channel with some road crossing improvements and a maintenance road. Project to be constructed in two phases.
 - a. Phase I includes channel improvements and crossing upgrades north of Main Street to Pipemakers Canal.
 - i. Analysis and recommendations are complete. Public information meeting held on May 21, 2001. Design of improvements complete based on public comments.
 - ii. Preliminary right of way plans are complete. Title searches are underway. The consultant is proceeding with wetlands permitting, coordination with GDOT for the crossing at Highway 80, and preparation of final right of way plans.
 - b. Phase 2 includes improvements to system south of Main Street to Hardin Canal. The plan to improve drainage south of Main Street will require an Intergovernmental Agreement with Bloomingdale.
7. Little Hurst Canal. Improve crossings under SR 21 and railroad, and widen channel downstream of SR21. Hydraulic analysis and recommendations were completed in 1998. Due to elapsed time, Staff is working with a consultant to review previous work and evaluate it in respect to current conditions and needs. From this work, staff will determine the need to conduct further evaluation or to pursue the improvements as described in the 1998 analysis.
8. Wilmington Park Canal.
 - a. Phase 1. (Construction of tide gate) Completed September 2002.
 - b. Phase 2. Widen channel and improve culvert crossings under Clarendon, Winchester and Wilmington Island Road.
 - i. Received permit from USACE on July 5, 2002. Design is essentially complete. Title searches of affected properties are complete. Conflicts with City of Savannah force main have been resolved. Staff is working with City of Savannah on the design and relocation of their facilities.
 - ii. Revised right of way plans for Phase 2 are underway to accommodate additional easements.
 - c. Phase 3. Project limits have been identified.
9. Louisville Branch Canal (tributary of Pipemakers Canal). Provide maintenance road downstream of US80. Some preliminary work for design and permitting has been done, but this project is not accessible until the right-of-way is acquired for the Pipemakers Canal.
10. Kings Way Canal. Widen channel and enlarge culverts east of Whitfield Avenue to Vernon River.
 - a. Improvements to crossing of the canal under Whitfield are being constructed as part of GDOT's Truman Parkway, Phase 4 project. Completion of the culverts is anticipated to be within one year.
 - b. A contract has been awarded to an engineering firm and work has started to design the remainder of needed improvements upstream and downstream of Whitfield.
11. Grange Road Canal. Coordination of the concept plan with GPA and Port Wentworth is on hold pending alignment and right-of-way issues on GPA property. Dedication of Savannah Electric power line easement along Grange Road has detrimental impact on the preferred route.

12. Talmadge Avenue Canal. Small project that will involve acquiring right-of-way to construct a maintenance road and to make minor improvements to the channel. Preliminary right of way plats were completed in 1997. Staff has reviewed the completed work. Staff will engage a consultant to evaluate the work in regard to current conditions and needs. From this work, Staff will determine if right of way acquisition can be started or if there is a need for further engineering work.
13. Romney Place Drainage.
 - a. Phase 1. Improve drainage along Central Avenue. Completed October 2001.
 - b. Phase 2. Improve storm drains and road crossings. No target date.
14. Village Green Canal.
 - a. Phase 1. Upgrade culvert under Cambridge Drive. Completed October 1999.
 - b. Phase 2. Staff has accepted the consultant's recommendations for improvements. Staff has enlisted the help of Mosquito Control to establish project need and purpose to facilitate wetland permitting. Mosquito Control is currently investigating the site. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE. Staff is conducting a citizen drainage survey to further help establish project need and purpose for permitting.
15. Port Industrial Park. Increase the capacity of the crossing under State Route 307 and improve the channel downstream to Pipemakers Canal.
 - a. The crossing under SR 307 will be constructed by the GDOT as part of the project to widen SR307 from R.B. Miller Road to SR21. Design of the project to improve the canal from SR307 to Pipemakers Canal is complete. The wetlands permit has been signed by the County Engineer and was approved by USACE District Engineer on September 24, 2002.
 - b. Right of way plans are complete.
 - c. Concept review of design changes requested by Staff, intended to improve the hydraulic function of the system over the previous design, is complete and has been submitted to GDOT for approval.
16. Louis Mills Canal. Widen channel from Veterans Parkway downstream to outfall at Westlake Canal and improve crossing under Marshall Avenue.
 - a. Staff has accepted recommendations to return a portion of the Redgate Canal drainage system back into the Rahn Dairy Canal. This recommendation allows for reduced drainage capacity needs in the Louis Mills Canal system.
 - b. Wetlands delineation, permitting and preliminary design are underway.
17. Redgate/Rahn Dairy (part of Louis Mills). This drainage improvement project will intercept approximately 400 acres of drainage area from the Louis Mills Canal system, and divert the flow directly into the Salt Creek. Preliminary survey work has been completed. Engineering analysis and preliminary recommendations are anticipated to be completed by February 2004.
18. Diggs Avenue Drainage (part of Louis Mills). This drainage improvement project involves improving drainage at the east end of Diggs Avenue. Staff has concluded a preliminary analysis and determined that right of way is not available to perform needed improvements. Staff has directed the County right of way consultant to initiate the Title Searches.
19. Ogeechee Farms.
 - a. Phase 1. Improve internal collector system south of Vidalia Road. ROW acquisition is complete. Construction Contract is currently out for bid.
 - b. Phase 2.
 - i. Wetlands delineation approved by USACE on July 21, 2002. Wetland permit application has been submitted to the USACE. Application is currently on public notice.
 - ii. The design is being revised to incorporate changes including an additional road undercrossing in the project and installation of box culvert sections instead of multiple pipes.
 - iii. No target date for construction.
20. Fawcett Canal Phase 1. Widen channel and improve crossings from Georgetown downstream to crossing under Grove Point Road, and replace tide gate.
 - a. Drainage improvements completed August 2002.
 - b. The Construction Contract for the Georgetown Lagoon Improvements Phase 1 Project was approved by the Board on December 19, 2003. Notice to proceed has been issued to the contractor and work is anticipated to begin in March.
 - c. Staff has completed design of the second phase of the Georgetown Lagoon Improvements Project that involves the lagoons north and south of Dovetail Crossing. The Construction Contract for Phase 2 is currently out for bids.
21. Quacco Canal. Improve Quacco Canal and associated road undercrossing capacity from Regency Mobile Home Park, near Interstate 95, beyond US 17 to marsh, including improvements to a private tidegate structure.
 - a. The County and Corps of Engineers are partnering on engineering and construction of improvements.
 - b. Staff has selected the preferred plan. The project is currently out for Public Notice. The USACE is preparing the final Detailed Project Report.
22. Quacco/Regency Park. Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. The consultant has been issued notice to proceed with the work that includes an engineering analysis of existing conditions and improvement recommendations. Preliminary survey work was completed in January 2004. Engineering analysis is anticipated to be completed in March 2004.

- 23. Halcyon Bluff Subdivision. Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community. The final design documents submitted by consultant have been reviewed by Staff. Staff is working with a consultant to ensure that the proposed drainage improvements and the Whitfield Road project are coordinated. The consultant's recommendations are expected to be completed by March 2004.
- 24. Golden Isles Subdivision. Storm collector improvements to relieve severity and frequency of flooding within community.
 - a. Phase 1: Outfall improvements completed 1997.
 - b. Phase 2: Improvements to collector system. Analysis submitted by consultant. Staff completed review of consultant recommendations. The consultant has been directed to expand the project scope to address previously unknown flooding condition that became evident after recent flooding events. Survey and design of additional area is complete.
- 25. Henderson. Channel and crossing improvements to alleviate flooding in the subdivision.
 - a. Canal 1: Crossing and channel improvements on the canal parallel to Brown Thrush Road, from Al Henderson Blvd. to Little Neck Road. Survey and analysis are complete.
 - b. Canal 2: Provide maintenance road for canal from Gateway Blvd. to Little Neck Road, through wetlands. Wetland delineation has been approved by the USACE.
- 26. North Rice Mill. Right of way acquisition services to provide for drainage improvements to a local drainage system tributary to the Georgetown Canal. Staff has directed the consultant to begin acquisition of right of way and easements based on a preliminary design developed by the County. Staff will obtain the services of a consultant to prepare the final design and plans needed for construction.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

Districts: All

Prepared by W.C. Uhl, P.E.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion being made by Commissioner Odell , seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved, the Board recessed at 12:20 p.m., to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing litigation. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

Following adjournment of the Executive Session, the meeting of the Board of Commissioners was reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

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ITEMS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ACTION OF THE BOARD:

Commissioner McMasters moved to authorize the Chairman to execute an affidavit that the Executive Session was held in compliance with the Open Meetings Law. Commissioner Kicklighter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. [NOTE: Commissioner Rivers was not present when this vote was taken.]

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hair declared the meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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APPROVED: THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2004

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

 SYBIL E. TILLMAN, COUNTY CLERK