

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2012**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman Wallace Mathis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners A. James Nance, William Culpepper, and Clark Henderson in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Clerk Linda Finch. Commissioner Culpepper gave the invocation, and Administrator Patton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Mathis welcomed all in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF STATE DISPLAY AIRCRAFT AT VETERANS STATE PARK**

Buddy Hardin, state representative, reported that the planes at the Veterans Park were placed there back in 1954 by the Air Force as a tribute to our veterans. They were loaned to the American Legion, and for all these years the American Legion has been taking care of the paperwork that has to go in each year. They have reached a point where the paperwork had become burdensome to them, and with some of the requirements, they didn't feel like they were capable of doing anymore. A couple of years ago they called him and ask if the state would take over the planes; he asked the state and the DNR Commissioner said they would, but the Air Force says they can't take over planes. He then called the Air Force and was told by them that either the city of county could be the loanee. Mr. Hardin then called Chairman Mathis, and they have worked with the county to try and get all the information together. Mr. Patton has put that together, the state has the planes insured, and the Historic Preservation, which is a department of the state, has agreed that they will do maintenance on the planes, so there will be no expense to the county. The state can do that for the county, although they cannot be the loanee for the planes. He would like to request that the county sign the contracts and handle the paperwork to maintain these planes on loan at the Georgia Veterans Park. He also has a statement from the Historic Preservation Division saying that they do have the planes insured. Mr. Patton stated that there will be no liability on the county, we just have to be certified by the U. S. Air Force Museum, and we do have the certification letter that needs to be signed by the chairman, if accepted. He thinks this is a good thing as it is a part of our Veterans Park, they have been there a long time, and it is a tourist attraction. Also the B29 is a very rare aircraft, and he would hate to see that go away. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to accept the proposal of the Assurance of Compliance Certificate and authorize the chairman to sign, second by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE PROCLAMATION FOR MS. GUSSIE LOUISE PERSON**

Mr. Nance reported that Ms. Gussie Louise Person turns 100 years old on today; and they had a church celebration with special guests, and presented her with several proclamations Sunday. He had the privilege of

Writing this proclamation, and he asked the board to adopt this in her honor. Mr. Nance read the Proclamation honoring Ms. Person for her accomplishments and contributions to the community. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation In Recognition of Ms. Gussie Louise Person, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE TAX REFUND FOR MS. SONDRA WEBB**

Administrator Patton reported that Sondra Webb has requested a refund of overpaid taxes dating from 2008. She made the initial request in 2010, and as he understands, the 2011 taxes were corrected. The Tax Assessors' Office concur there was a discrepancy in the square footage of her house. He recommends that Ms. Webb's taxes be adjusted for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010, the total amount of that will be approximately \$982, subject to the calculation of the Tax Commissioner of the exact amount. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the refund for tax years 2008, 2009, and 2010 to Ms. Sondra Webb, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE RESOLUTION APPOINTING COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR**

Chairman Mathis reported that Mr. Crapse was appointed the County Legislative Coordinator when he was here, and he thinks we need to get Mr. Patton back into the loop on that flow of information. Administrator Patton stated that Association County Commissioners of Georgia request that we appoint a coordinator, and it allows us to coordinate with our representatives and state senators primarily during General Assembly sessions. This insures that our citizens are being well taken care of, it is a good program, and he will be willing to take on this responsibility for the county. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Appointing Administrator Patton as our County Legislative Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE FIRE DEPARTMENT AUTOMATIC/MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

Fire Chief Ray Lunsford reported that the fire chief of Sumter County and he have had discussions with the idea that they both needed some support on the river line with water supply in the case of a fire until the rest of their crews could get there to help them with firefighting. They have narrowed down an area which would help each other until their county help could get there, and he sees it as a benefit to our citizens to use their support in helping fight fires and especially gaining water supplies. He asked for an automatic aid agreement where if a call comes in this particular area, they are automatically dispatched to help us and we would be vice versa. There is a map that associates with the agreement which covers a portion of the river boundaries; they tried to cover the places that would benefit both counties in a first response. He stated that this is a little different than the mutual agreements we have as this one is automatic. He has talked to the people that handle our Insurance Service Office, ISO, rating about this and has given them a map to show what we are trying to do. Mr. Henderson stated that anything that we can do to lower the insurance costs for the people at the lake will benefit our citizens as well as Sumter County citizens. Mr. Nance asked how that would be paid, and Mr. Lunsford stated that we would be responsible for our people and equipment, and they would be responsible for their people and equipment. Administrator Patton stated that the real benefit of this is that Sumter County has a draw line where they can draw right out of the river on the fire, and also we don't have hydrants in some of these areas so he expects that those citizens will be able to get some reduction in their insurance premiums because of that. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to give Fire Chief**

Lunsford the authority to enter into the Automatic/Mutual Aid Agreement with Sumter County, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.

#### **DISCUSS REQUEST FROM MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE FOR A REDUCTION IN RENT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that in 2009 the Board of Commissioners set a county-wide rental rate for all the properties owned by the county and leased by other agencies at \$6.00 per square foot. All the agencies that rent space from the county were notified at that time. The Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare came back at that time stated that because of the budget calendar and budget restraints that they couldn't absorb that increase. At that time you gave Administrator Crapse the authority to work with them to try to phase that in, which he did. He worked out a schedule of how the increase was supposed to be implemented. The first 10% was implemented and agreed to and that is what they are paying today, which is \$4.70 per square foot. They came to see her in June stating that because the building was built with grant funds that the county was not allowed to charge them rent. We searched our files and couldn't find any documentation on that, and we asked for them to provide documentation, and they have not done that. They sent a letter on June 22<sup>nd</sup> saying that the grant paperwork required that we charge them no more than \$2,478 per month for rent, which is \$4.25 per square foot. Again, we asked for supporting documentation and we searched the grant file, and there is nothing in the grant files that supports this. They have requested again that we reduce their rent, and all the other agencies that lease property from the county have complied with the \$6.00 per square foot rate that Commissioners set. Mr. Henderson asked if we were providing electricity for them, and Mrs. Leverett stated that we provide them a monthly stiffen and they pay their own bills. Mr. Culpepper advised that when we raised the rent about three years ago, we were well below what people charged for commercial space, and he asked if they signed the agreement that Mr. Crapse had worked out. Mrs. Leverett stated that she didn't know if they signed anything, but Mr. Crapse handled it, brought it to her, and said he had worked out a schedule with them to phase in that increase rather than do it all at one time. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to implement the \$6.00 rent for them as it doesn't look like they are trying to work with the county, but died of a lack of a second.** Mr. Nance stated that he thinks we need to try to get a meeting with them and see what we can work out, and also it is not fair to the people that have come in compliance with our policy. Mr. Culpepper stated that why don't we stick with the schedule we have implemented and then try to have a meeting with them. Administrator Patton thinks they need to hold to what they agreed to, which is \$6.00 a square foot, and if they can bring in some documentation that we haven't found to show otherwise, his recommendation is to hold with that, since that is your policy and \$6.00 per square foot is low for any agency. Commissioner Nance wants to set up a meeting with them, and ask them to bring in the documentation from the CDBG grant they are talking about.

#### **ADOPT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NECESSITY OF A WIRELESS ENHANCED 911 CHARGE**

Mrs. Leverett reported that in accordance with OCGA, she has the annual resolution reaffirming the necessity of a 911 charge of the wireless enhanced telecommunication connections within Crisp County. The monthly charge will be \$1 per month of all subscribers within Crisp County to begin September 1, 2012. **Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to adopt the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of a Wireless Enhanced 911 Charge of Wireless Telecommunication Connections within Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

## **ADOPT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NECESSITY OF THE E-911 CHARGE ON TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS**

Mrs. Leverett reported that she also has the resolution reaffirming the necessity of the E-911 charges on landline telephone subscribers, and that monthly charge will be \$1.50 of all subscribers within Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of the E-911 Change on Telephone Subscribers, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this report is for the first month of the new Fiscal Year; we have about a 30 day lag time in most revenues so a large percentage of the revenue received are not included in the financial report section of your packet today. The General Fund recorded revenue for July so far in the amount of \$156,220 and expenditures of \$1,298,967. This leaves the General Fund with expenditures exceeding revenues by 8%. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$124,091 in accrued monthly revenue and \$102,292 in expenses for the month of July leaving the landfill with a net gain after the first month of \$21,799. The total tonnage received for the month of June was 3,619.56 tons. Approximately 39% of that was received from Veolia under their commercial contract and 13% under the residential contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$5,066,134. The Water Fund recorded revenues of \$51,740 and expenditures of \$40,176, leaving the Water Fund with a net gain after one month of \$11,564. Water consumption billed for the month was just under 8.9 million gallons. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1,590,584. In the Cash Report, the General Fund ended the month at \$5.3 million; the Landfill Fund at \$901,000; the RLF, \$241,000; the SPLOST Funds, \$7.5 million; and the Water Fund, \$1.3 million, leaving us with a County Wide total at 7/31/12 of \$15.3 million. In the budget to actual report for the 2000 ISSUE, we have spent \$17,046,793 of the \$17.6 million dollars collected, leaving us with \$586,530 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. Next is the same report of the 2005 SPLOST issue. Total collections remain at \$24.7 million. We have expended \$19.4 million leaving us with about \$5.3 million for the remaining projects budgeted under this issue. Distribution no.6 in the amount of \$367,405 for the 2011 SPLOST issue is up about 10% over last month and almost 3% over July of 2011, we are continuing to see a small but steady climb in these numbers. The monthly average needed to meet full project budgets under this issue is short by \$9,625. That monthly average needs to climb up over \$355,000 or better from this point forward to meet original revenue projections. To date we have collected \$2,048,503 in revenue under this issue and expended \$1.6 million. We spent \$450,192 in SPLOST dollars in July. Projects benefiting were the Crisp County Airport, County Buildings, Darton College, Crisp County Jail, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. This month's distribution on the Local Option Sales Tax of \$172,680 is up, just like the SPLOST, 2.97% over last year and 10.02% over last month. Next is the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report; total number of loans remains at eleven with a total balance due of \$2,249,353. Last is the summary report which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of this report, overall, the General Fund Expenditures were at 9%, the Water Fund at 6% and the Landfill Fund were both at 8%.

### **PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG-EIP CYCLE 2012 FUNDING**

Mrs. Leverett advised that this is a pre application public hearing. The public hearing is required in advance of applying for any Community Development Block Grant Employment Incentive Program project cycle funding; we are about to apply for the Cycle 2012 funding. The purpose of the public hearing is to allow the public the opportunity to provide ideas concerning any potential projects. She

advised that projects coming under this funding mechanism have to create jobs. Chairman Mathis opened the public hearing at 10:04 a.m. and stated that the projects eligible for funding under this program must include activities that will create job opportunities for low and moderate income citizens. Mrs. Leverett advised that this project will create 50 jobs and is a manufacturing company that will hopefully come and manufacture railroad materials and power poles. It will be a \$5 to \$6 million investment into our community from the company. The grant, if awarded, will be used to extend the current rail spur which will provide them with two rail spurs, and they will be using the Inland Port. It is her understanding that they do a lot of international sales. It will be located next to the Owens Corning site on Pateville Road. The maximum amount of funding available is \$500,000, no match is required from the industry but they must invest dollar for dollar, which they will well exceeded that. Chairman Mathis asked for any comments from the public. Buddy Hardin stated that the people in this community have worked very well together and our recovery from this economic depression will be far ahead of the rest of the state. The Intermodal Facility is beginning to ramp up, and this plant is coming basically because of that Intermodal. He would complement Commissioners on considering this to help bring these people in to create the job opportunities. Susan Leger-Boike asked what is the minimum number of jobs that is required with this EIP, and Mrs. Leverett stated she believes 50 is the minimum to receive the full funding of \$500,000. Mrs. Leverett stated that this money will be repaid back into the county's revolving loan fund, and there is some money available now to be re-loaned to smaller businesses. There were no other comments, and Chairman Mathis closed the public hearing.

#### **APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR JOINT FUNDING EIP GRANT APPLICATION**

Mrs. Leverett reported that there is a resolution that will accompany this application. This project is located by Owens Corning in the Industrial Park and within the city limits, and because the project is located within the city limits and the EIP is coming through the county, the resolution formalizes our intent with the city to file this application jointly. The city has already adopted and signed the resolution. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Resolution For Joint Funding EIP Grant Application and authorize the chairman to sign the Resolution, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE CITY-COUNTY COOPERATING AGREEMENT FOR EIP GRANT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is another piece of documentation that will accompany this EIP application. This is a standard cooperating agreement for the CDBG EIP 2012 application, and it basically says that the city and county are filing for this funding jointly, and that they are authorizing the county as the lead agency. She advised that the city has already signed the agreement. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to approve the City County Cooperating Agreement for EIP Grant and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **UPDATE ON ROAD/OUTSIDE PROJECTS**

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that 1) they have begun the demolition of the Darton downtown project; 2) the flashing beacons at Crisp Academy/Hwy. 300, and the one on Dorrough Road at Hwy. 280 have been completed; 3) they are still waiting on completion of utilities at the Old Hatley Road project; 4) they are still waiting on the canopy at the fishing pier at the state park; 5) the contractor has

started working on the Hwy.. 257 resurfacing project, but they have not started on Tremont Road yet; 6) the replacing of the waterline on Fanns Bridge is under construction and are probably 75% complete; and 7) they are working on some of the fire hydrants in Sumter County that weren't working because of the age of the system.

### **COMMENTS FROM KENNETH WELDON & OTHER TAXPAYERS**

Kenneth Weldon advised that he approached the Tax Assessors office and ask them why the assessment on his house went up so much. He was told that it was done by an independent agency; if we have a Tax Assessor why do we need an independent agency to do the assessment. Also he would like to address the fact that so many county workers have a vehicle to drive back and forth to work, shop, or whatever they want to do. He has had to cut back on his spending, ya'll say you can't cut back, but yet we are letting these people take vehicles home at night when they are not on call. He also has heard them talk about the trash dumps, why can't we put cameras out there to take pictures of the people throwing trash on the ground and then prosecute them. Other counties are doing trash differently than we are, and he would like to see us as a county cut back. He doesn't understand the tax assessor business, and he was told that around this area, sales were up and he doesn't know where they get their information. Chairman Mathis ask Tim Quick, Chief Tax Assessor, what was the last day for appeals, and Mr. Quick advised that it was September 10<sup>th</sup>. Chairman Mathis stated that they want people to fully understand the process for appeals, and to tell the people what they need to do if they think their values are too high, as the Board of Commissioners does not value the property. The Tax Commissioner collects the taxes, and the Tax Assessors Office sets the values. Hal Carter, Chairman of the Tax Assessors Board, reported that taxpayer has until September 10<sup>th</sup> to appeal any value discrepancies that they may have. He stated that they were asked to assess the value of the property, if you dispute the value, that is when you come to us, if you are not satisfied with the appeals process, then you go to the Board of Equalization, which is an outside group independent of the tax assessors that will look at the documentation that they present against the documentation that they have. If you are still not satisfied, you can take it to the Superior Court. Mr. Quick said that the dates are set by the state, once the Board of Equalization gets the appeals, they have 15 days to set a hearing date, which cannot be any sooner than 20 days from the day they receive it or no later than 30 days, so they are working within a ten day window. The taxpayer is notified by certified mail from the Superior Court Clerk of the hearing date, and they have a one-time option of rescheduling that appeal. Once they meet with the Board of Equalization to hear that appeal, both sides' present their cases, and that appeal has to be resolved at the end of the hearing. The taxpayer is sent another certified letter telling them what the final value was. At that point, either the taxpayer or the Board of Assessors have 30 days to file an appeal with Superior Court if either party is not in agreement with those values. Chairman Mathis stated that you can go to the Crisp County website and go to Search Property Records and make sure everything on your property is correct. Mr. Carter stated that sometimes an increase in value is not justified, and we could have made a mistake, if that is the case that is why you come to us with your data so we can make those changes; the bottom line is we want this to be right and fair for everybody. But at the same time, just because you disagree with it doesn't mean it is not right. He stated that the state recommends that an office our size have ten employees, now we have four employees, which is well under the guideline that the state recommends. He advised that there is no way that they could do the normal duties in the tax assessor's office and still appraise 12,000 pieces of property. We have made requests in the past to hire more staff, if we hired more staff we could do the appraisals in house, but then you are talking about a good

bit of money in salaries, so they have to look at it from the standpoint of hiring more people or pay someone \$180,000 one time. Chairman Mathis stated that the tax estimate that was sent out was based on last year's millage; our budget has not gone up so if you add the new value in, the millage will come down. Mr. Carter stated that they want to make this right, please come appeal, and they will talk to you about your property. Mr. Quick stated that tax assessors' website has a wealth of information on it, but it is not an exact mirror image of the data that they have in their office. Mr. Culpepper stated that he appreciates the Board of Assessors and Mr. Quick being here to explain this, let's go through the process, we will have to roll back taxes, don't not worry until there is a reason to worry; let's make sure everything is correct as the Board of Assessors want the values to be correct just like the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Quick stated that they has 280 appeals filed at present, but they have talked with probably over 2,000 people, but that is not unusual in a reevaluation. Mrs. Leverett stated that if you are appealing your taxes and they are not settled when taxes are due, you only have to pay 85% of your taxes. Jim Murray stated that the Commissioners have not answered any questions about what they are going to do about people driving county vehicles home; this is stuff that needs to be brought up and handled. He has mentioned this to a commissioner before. Also, our county workers have hours to work, why should they be allowed extra time or take longer lunch hours and drive a county car back and forth home; that is not right and he should not have to pay for this. They have a salary and should buy their own vehicle. Also, he asked about the fifteen acres of waterfront property of pine trees that is only valued at \$22,000 and his water frontage is valued at \$1,000 a foot. Mr. Carter stated that they would have to look at that. Mr. Murray stated that if his taxes go up, that is fine other people should be paying the same kind of taxes he pays. Mr. Carter stated that one of the obligations of their office is to make sure that everybody's value is uniformly. Mr. Henderson stated that regarding the county vehicles, last year they made a policy that county vehicles were not to be used for personal manner. He advised that the department heads are the ones that are responsible of abuse of county vehicles, and if a citizen sees somebody at Wal-Mart afterhours call Mr. Patton. Administrator Patton agreed and stated that we also have a liability issue because if they are not on duty and somebody gets hurt, the county could be sued. He asked the citizens if they see those things, call him as he works for the citizens. Mr. Weldon stated that if the vehicle is part of their salary, then put in down as income so they will have to pay income tax like he is having to pay property tax. Mr. Murray stated that he has no problem with first response department heads having vehicles, but other people that are drawing a salary, that is not right. Ronnie Parker stated that he was looking at a lot of the properties on the lake on the website, and it looks like the lot values was just doubled, how can they justify that. Administrator Patton stated that maybe someone from the company that did the appraisals could explain the process of like properties, etc. Mr. Carter stated that they did not come to your house and do an individual appraisal as if you hired an independent appraiser to do that. It is done on a mass appraisal level; they are appraising all properties in the county basically at one time. When they compile all that information and they are putting all 12,500 parcels together, there is bound to be errors and inconsistencies in those values. We are not perfect; we are relying on you to bring that to our attention so that we might correct it. If your value is not correct, please appeal it, we want to make it correct. Mr. Carter stated that there was a site visit made on everybody's, he is making the distinction between mass appraisal and an independent appraiser. Mr. Murray stated that he just wants all lake front property to be the same, and if you will do something about the county vehicles which will lower our millage rate. Mr. Henderson stated that the county sets the millage based on what we need. Chairman Mathis asked the owners of G-Mass, the company that did the re-evaluation, if they wanted to say anything. Terry McCormick, one of the owners, stated that he thought Mr. Carter did a good job in explaining the process. The difference in the

mass appraisal in the field appraisal industry is they have a date specific, which is usually January 1<sup>st</sup>, and they have to consider the entire sales of the county. Their job is to get as many appraisals as they can in that center point, which means that everybody is on the same level, and if we made a mistake, we will correct the error. He advised that an appeals process is a healthy process because they do find out information that they did not know before. They have statistics that they have to abide by with the state. Personally he thinks it is better to have an outside agency do the appraisals because you don't know anybody in the county and you want play favorites. He has been in the property tax administration for twenty-three years, and been involved with over forty counties in the state, so they have done this for a long time. Also, they will be back helping Mr. Quick through the appeals process. His company wants to do the right thing too. Chairman Mathis stated that if they feel like an error has been made on their value, please go through the process.

### **DISCUSS LAND BANK AUTHORITY**

Robert Cooke and Susan Boike met with Commissioners representing the Cordele-Crisp Community Housing Initiative. Mr. Cooke stated that they are requesting the Commissioners to express its intention of creating a Land Bank Authority, provide the authorization, and direct the County Administrator to draft materials in consultation with the county attorney, the city, and other members of the Cordele-Crisp Community Housing Intuition to create such an authority, and present those materials to this Commission for action. He advised that they are a public authority that can acquire, hold, manage, and develop tax foreclosed properties and other properties that have negative value in the community; they are talking about dilapidated, abandoned, and vacant properties and lots in developed areas. These are properties that are not currently generating tax revenues but could be re-developed to generate tax revenues. The Georgia Assembly has granted powers and abilities to this authority that would allow it to acquire these properties and put them back into community and taxable use. These properties depress tax revenues, strain public services, are targets for arson, breeding ground for crime, dangerous for neighborhood children, and they drive down property values. They would like to start on a small scale, just a few properties, and let the authority work with the city and county to come up with a budget for the first three years, and essentially run it over a three year test period to see how it works. He stated that they have talked with several other counties and cities that have established these authorities around the state; they say typically they are very effective once they are up and going but it does take some time to get them up and running, the cost is relatively low and can be planned for over time and derived for the sale of the properties themselves or from getting those properties back in taxable use. Mr. Henderson stated that his concern is about the amount of taxes we will be giving up, and Mrs. Boike stated that we are not getting anything now. Mr. Cooke stated that what happens to any profit from re-development can be determined in how that arrangement is set up with the city, as you establish this authority; you don't have to lose that profit. The authority operates the committee and it does remove the county and city commissioners from having to directly deal with every one of these properties. The city has already passed a resolution saying they intend to do this. Administrator Patton stated that this is not a quick fix, there are different elements that benefit us and it is hard to see up front what the benefit is but the first one is it gets rid of some dilapidated eyesores, it gets properties back on the tax rolls and producing income again, and the other is the commercial and industrial growth. Mrs. Boike stated that the legislature has authorized multi-county land banks, so since Cordele is the hub of this area, once we can get ours up and running, then we could help support ours by working with other counties by providing services to them. Mr. Cooke stated that the city has said they would



support this for the first three years and provide in-kind staffing support to assist in getting this up and going, but things have changed with the city now. Mrs. Boike and Mr. Cooke both stated if they could get the city and county to agree to go forward with this, then they will find a way to make it work, and they would not ask the county to sign off on anything that doesn't include a real clear understanding of how it is going to be paid for. Mrs. Boike stated that with the intent we can also look for some start-up funding. Administrator Patton stated that it requires an investment, but the payoff will be there with a better community that attracts industry and makes it a better place to live, and this doesn't commit the commissioners to anything, it authorizes us to have dialog with the city. Mr. Cooke said this does not commit them to anything; it opens up the door to find out what is possible. Mrs. Boike stated that both the city and county have to be on board in order for a land bank to be created. **Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to approve the Resolution for Intent to take such actions as are required under Official Code of Georgia Annotated Title 48 Chapter 4 to create a Land Bank Authority, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

### **COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he attended two coordinating meetings with the Hospital concerning providing a Health Clinic for county employees; 3) Chairman Mathis signed a support letter for River Valley Regional Commission supporting them as the Economic Development District. As a member of the development district, Crisp County is eligible to receive funding for economic development projects through the Economic Development Administration; 4) he renewed the lease agreement with Georgia Department of Veterans Service for space in the Government Building; 5) he met with Ms. Barbara Smith of 4-E Learning & Prevention Center, Inc. She is looking to open a center in Crisp County and is looking for space; 6) we received a \$10,904 dividend from ACCG insurance program that will be applied in the form of a credit towards the county's property and liability premium for the 2012-2013 policy year; 7) he attended a Darton College update meeting with all parties involved. They discussed fund raising projects and donations to continue the project, and there will be a meeting next Wednesday at Rotary Club to update key players in the project; 8) he toured the Rec Department and discussed the deteriorating condition of the track with Eric. We will work on a solution and cost estimates to repair as it will be cheaper to repair sooner rather than waiting until the problem worsens; 9) he reviewed two requests for streetlights at 280W & Swann Dr. and N. Cedar Creek & Landing Rd. He visited both sites and there is a safety/line of sight problem with both of the sites. He recommends that security lights be placed in both intersections. Poles/electricity is already in place; and 10) the ISO evaluation was completed last week. He met with Fire Chief and ISO evaluator to complete the evaluation. No indication from the evaluator on how we came out. The numbers have to be fed into a computer to get the final results. He seemed to be impressed with our Department and I don't for see us going down in our rating.

### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel, and potential litigation.**

**COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, motion carried unanimously.

**MOTION DIED FOR LACK OF SECOND**

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to appoint Angus Warne Campbell on the Board of Tax Assessors but died for a lack of a second.

**APPROVE TAX ASSESSORS SALARY CUT**

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to lower the pay of the Board of Assessors to \$2,700 a year to match what Sumter County Board of Assessors is paid, effective September 1, 2012, seconded by Mr. Nance for discussion. Mr. Culpepper stated that he agrees with Mr. Henderson that their salary is too high. Mr. Nance thinks that if we lower it, we will not have a Board of Assessors, but he agrees that it is high, but he had a problem with reducing people's salary that are already in place; he doesn't have a problem with new people coming on. Mr. Henderson stated that it really wasn't fair to leave three people at one salary and the other two at another salary, and the people expect the Commissioners to be good stewards of the money. Also, there are some decisions that he makes that are not easy, but he can go home and sleep at night. Mr. Mathis called for the vote, and motion carried with Mr. Henderson and Mr. Culpepper voting to reduce the Tax Assessors salary to \$2,700 a year, Mr. Nance voted against the salary reduction, and the chairman couldn't vote to make a tie.

**APPOINT ROYCE REEVES, SR. TO BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint Royce Reeves, Sr. to the Board of Assessors to take Sammy Hill's position beginning September 1, 2012, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.

**REAPPOINT JEFFERY HUNT TO BOARD OF ASSESSORS**

Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to reappoint Jeffery Hunt to the Board of Assessors beginning September 1, 2012, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried, with Mr. Henderson abstaining.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Culpepper to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

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Wallace Mathis, Chairman

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Tom Patton, County Administrator