

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 12, 2014**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Authur James Nance called the meeting to order with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, Clark Henderson, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Clerk Linda Finch. Rickey Smarr gave the invocation, and Administrator Patton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Nance welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 8, 2014, and the called meeting minutes of July 29, 2014, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported that his office served 226 warrants, 216 civil papers, and 85 subpoenas this month. In the traffic division, they issued 671 citations, with 60 citations in the City of Arabi, leaving the remaining balance to Crisp County with estimated income on citations of \$123,422. They had one felony drug arrest, six misdemeanor drug arrests, two possessions of methamphetamines, and apprehended two wanted persons, plus they worked 23 accidents. They billed 1,699 days of federal inmates with an estimated income of \$71,358, they billed Cordele Police Department for 584 days with an estimated income of \$16,352, and they billed Warwick Police Department for 101 days with estimated income at \$3,030, bringing total estimated income last most of \$214,162. They had 11 inmate trips with 73.5 officer hours. They have an inmate housed here that is a good carpenter and the last two weeks they have cleaned up and refurbished in and around the sheriff's department. They are also working on a new contract for their commissary as they are presently receiving 7% of commissary sales to the inmates, and they now have a contract that will allow them to receive 40% sales, which will bring in an additional \$35,000 to \$40,000 a year. He advised that this money can be used to buy transport vehicles, and things that go back into the jail to keep from having to take it out of the general fund. They have also had several officers at the schools last week as the new school year has begun. He advised that they have had 71 transports of mental health patients that required 312 man hours to make those transports and traveled over 12,000 miles making these transports in the last year. They also picked up 47 animals and carried 45 to the Cordele Animal Shelter. They saved \$40,779 on medical bills by using the laws that were on the books, and he gave the finance director a check for \$156,779 for revenue produced over the last couple of months. He also advised that they will be getting some of the kitchen equipment from the schools to use in the detention facility. Commissioners thanked the sheriff for his work in the community, and the statistical data in his report.

APPROVE PATRICK INVESTMENT CORPORATION REZONING

Connie Sangster, Planning Director, reported that the public hearing was held last month on the rezoning of property from GC (General Commercial) to RR (Rural Residential) owned by Patrick Investment Corporation for the purpose of a single family residence. Property is located at South Hwy. 300. She read the review checklist that the Commissioners go by when making their decision. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to approve the rezoning of property located at 2032 S. Hwy. 300 with the special conditions: the Fellowship Hall is to only be used as one single family residential unit, and the main building previously used as the Church Sanctuary shall only be used for storage as the applicant stated at the Public Hearing on July 8, 2014, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE E911 MONTHLY FEES ON LANDLINE, WIRELESS AND VOIP TELECOMMUNICATIONS SUBSCRIBERS

Administrator Patton reported that this routine annual action to reaffirm the E911 telephone fees on landline, wireless, and VOIP (voice over internet protocol) telecommunications subscribers. He read the resolution stating that the fee will be \$1.50, and that the Board of Commissioners of Crisp County find that the E911 charge is necessary and that the revenues from said charge will not result in unexpended funds in the Emergency Telephone System Fund and reaffirm these charges effective September 1, 2014. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to accept the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of Enhanced 911 Charges of Landline, Wireless, and VoIP Telecommunications Connections Within Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING E911 FEES ON PREPAID WIRELESS

Administrator Patton reported that this is routine action also to reaffirm the necessity of the enhanced 911 charges on prepaid wireless telecommunication connections. He read the resolution stating that the rate will be .75 (75 cents) per retail transaction and that the E911 charges are necessary, and that the revenues from said charges will not result in unexpended funds in the Emergency Telephone System Fund and reaffirm said charges effective September 1, 2014. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to accept the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of Enhanced 911 Charges of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunication Connections within Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Leverett advised that our E911 fees support our E911 services at about 37% with the balance coming from the city and county. Through some assistance with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, we have learned recently about the great number of companies who sell prepaid to normal wireless phones. Anybody doing business in our county must register with GEMA, and they have obtained a list from GEMA of the telecommunications providers doing business in the state of Georgia and it also identifies which counties they are registered to do business in, and as of yesterday she had almost 100 letters going out to various companies that have not registered in our county and we are not receiving any revenue from. She advised that they may come back with an acceptable explanation as to why they are not remitting those 911 fees; we may or may not have some lost revenues.

GREATER NEW BIRTH MINISTRIES REQUEST

Pastor Kenneth Bivins of the Greater New Birth Youth Ministries in Cordele stated that they are here to make a proposal to utilize the A. S. Clark School. They wish to use it for a program called Families in Action where they desire to reach out to the community to provide resources and education to better our community. Chairman Nance advised them that the school board has the A. S. Clark School, we have been in discussion with them about taking part of this school, but the commissioners have not made a decision on it yet. Connie Bivins advised that recently one of their community members passed away, Mary G. Williams, the program was called Families in Action Mentoring Program but because this was something Mrs. Williams was so passionate about, they have added the Mary G. Williams Families in Action Mentoring Program. Their program is a model of the Strive to Thrive Program in Albany, whose initiative was to eradicate poverty in the City of Albany. The National's Circles Trainer and the former executive director for Strive to Thrive Program in Albany, Osha Jackson, stated that the basis for what they do is to bring the community together and hold families accountable; they partnered with different organizations to bring services together to help families get out of poverty. Some of the barriers that they face are making sure that the community understands about poverty plus transportation is a major issue, and they need a central location. It was not only successful in Albany but also around the country. Mrs. Bivins stated that in order to give the individuals age appropriate curriculum, they need the space like A. S. Clark, as they will teach children as well as parents. High poverty leads to high crime, and 51.9% of families in Cordele are living in poverty. They need a place where they can come together and share resources; they have the collaborative and now they are looking to be a bridge. Marissa Wedges, who grew up in Cordele and is now part of this community, stated that she lived in Florida for 20 years, and worked with the youth there, and she also wants to see some of these services in Cordele. She advised to have a central location for a youth center that stays open all year long would be great. Mrs. Bivins stated that they are asking to be able to utilize the A. S. Clark building to do what it was designed to do and take it a little further. It is a hands up program and not a hands out program, and they are funded through business partners in the community and grants. Mr. Bivins thanked the Commissioners for listening to them. Mr. Farrow asked if they had addressed the school board with this as the Commissioners don't have anything to do with the school. Mrs. Bivins stated that they are on the school board's next agenda but they also told them to come to the Commissioners. Chairman Nance commended them for the work they are doing.

ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM TO ALLOW PACKAGE SALES ON SUNDAY BY RETAILERS OF PACKAGE MALT BEVERAGES, WINE, AND DISTILLED SPIRITS

Administrator Patton reported that two resolutions are required to put Sunday Sales on the November ballot; one for package sales and another for by the drink sales. He stated that they are not voting to do Sunday Sales, they are only voting on the resolution to put it on the ballot for the citizens to decide. He read the resolution stating that the County Clerk is authorized and directed to transmit this Resolution to the Elections Superintendent to issue the call for a referendum for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the county the question of authorizing Sunday package sales by retailers of malt beverages, wine, and distilled spirits between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adopt the Resolution Authorizing A Referendum To Allow Package Sales on Sunday By Retailers of Package Malt Beverages, Wine, And Distilled Spirits, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REFERENDUM TO ALLOW SUNDAY SALES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES FOR CONSUMPTION ON THE PREMISES

Administrator Patton reported that this is authorizing a resolution to allow Sunday Sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises. He read the resolution authorizing and directing the County Clerk to transmit this Resolution to the Elections Superintendent to issue the call for a referendum for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the county the question of authorizing Sunday sales of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises by licensed establishments from 12:30 p.m. until 12:00 Midnight. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to adopt the Resolution Authorizing A Referendum To Allow Sunday Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for Consumption on the Premises, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the financial report is very preliminary report 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 in July represents June activity and has been accrued to the previous month. The General and three major Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting revenues received for the month of July at \$106,902 while expenditures reached \$1.6 million leaving us with a \$1.5 million shortfall. The 2014 digest paperwork was delivered, found to be in order and approved by the Department of Revenue. The Water Fund recorded revenues of \$58,507 and expenditures of \$49,494, leaving the Water Fund with a net gain after one month of \$9,014. Water consumption billed for the month was 9,497,000 gallons, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$160,258 in accrued monthly revenue and \$108,053 in expenses leaving the landfill with a net gain of \$52,205. The total tonnage received for the month of July was 4,869.24 tons. Approximately 47% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract and 11% under the residential contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$4.3 million. In the Cash Report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined ended the month with \$5,069,462, which is down about \$350,000 from 7/31/13, the proprietary funds at \$2.6 million, and the SPLOST funds at \$7.8 million, leaving a County Wide total of \$15.3 million, down overall by about \$1.1 million from this time last year. In the SPLOST reports, for the 2000 Issue, we have spent \$17.4 million of the \$17.6 million collected, leaving us with just under \$200,000 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total collections were \$24.7 million; total expenditures \$20.3 million leaving \$4.4 million to complete the projects as budgeted under this issue. In the 2011 SPLOST Issue, Distribution no. 30 in the amount of \$343,928 is down just under 2.5% from this time last year and drops our monthly average down to \$331,304, still short of the monthly average needed to generate the adjusted budget total of \$23,886,063 in support of projects under this issue. We spent \$357,847 in SPLOST dollars during the month. Projects benefiting were the Crisp County Sheriff's Department, Crisp County Recreation, County Roads, the Crisp County Airport, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Following that is an updated spreadsheet on the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions; this month's distribution of \$165,128 is up, 3.85% over last month but down 2.47% over this time last year. Next is the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts which shows the number of loans remains at eight with a total balance due of \$2.1 million. The summary report by fund and expenditure by department report should be at or below 8%, and as of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 11%; the Water Fund at 9% and the Landfill Fund also at 9%.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month, 2) he met with City Manager to coordinate Cordele/Crisp County participation in the City of Ashburn's Ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans on September 5, 2014; 3) he attended Darton College progress meetings. Project is on time and below costs. We are completing the demolition of the buildings on Wall Street as we had agreed to do as in kind work for the college project; 4) he met with our consulting engineers to correct issues found at the landfill. We are making progress with most of the issues at the landfill. Many improvements have been made at the landfill to move traffic in and out without having to tow them in and out; 5) he met with a prospective customer for landfill use; 6) he met with Synergy, Inc. to discuss possibilities for septic system locations. This is an ongoing project; and 7) due to better weather conditions, we are catching up on our road work and repairing roads damaged over the winter. New mowers are out working the right of ways and cutting back line of site at intersections.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation, and property, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

DISCUSS CDBG 10 GRANT

Administrator Patton advised that they have still not closed out the CDBG 10 Grant even though we have had the public hearing closing, and it has been about 60 days since they had approved the final drawdown and retainage payment to the contractor. He advised that a CDBG auditor has a question about the hourly salaries of a couple of people who were not paid heavy equipment operator salaries where people were driving mini excavators. Mrs. Leverett stated that they are complaining that two men in one week's payroll should have been paid at the higher heavy equipment operator salaries. Chairman Nance advised that he would try to talk with someone regarding this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to adjourn the meeting at 12:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Authur James Nance, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator