

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 14, 2014**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Authur James Nance called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. 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. Sheriff Billy Hancock 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 minutes of the regular meeting of September 9, 2014, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that they were requested to check the speed limit on Hwy. 280 in the area of Striplings and Arrowhead; that survey has been completed by the Department of Transportation, and it is not recommended to reduce the speed limit from 55 to 45 at this location at this present time. Commissioner Mathis asked about putting up signs warning of the congested traffic in this area, and the sheriff advised that he would see if they could get signs advising of the high traffic. Sheriff Hancock reported that they served 224 warrants, 211 civil papers, 83 subpoenas last month, and logged 76.5 manned court hours with 67 prisoners transported from the detention center to the courthouse. In the traffic division they wrote 525 citations, 21 citations in Arabi, and one DUI. They had 15 drug arrests, plus they worked 16 accidents. He advised that they housed 1543 days of inmates for the US Marshal, 348 days housed for Cordele PD, and 26 days for Warwick PD, and between the Marshals and citations last month estimated revenue will be \$223,342. There were also 9 cases received on the license plate reader, and they picked up 32 animals last month with animal assist calls of 31. He also gave Mrs. Leverette a check for \$74,910 that was produced from the Marshal Service month before last, and a check for \$7,500 from the Drug Asset Forfeiture Account for money to be put back into their overtime budget due to the high cost of the overtime on the two homicides they had in the last few weeks. Chairman Nance and commissioners thanked the sheriff for the funds and for the good job he and his employees are doing.

E-911 EMPLOYEES UNDER THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Hancock advised that Major Ken Partain is going to retire on December 31, 2014 as the E-911 Director; sometime back E-911 was put under Emergency Management, and he would like consideration to move those few people and the E-911 center under the sheriff's department. The GCIS could be run out of that division and it would make a good fit as a division to be operated by someone that is a division commander, plus it could save some money on salary. He advised that he does not want to change anything else with the center, just the management. Also, every deputy that comes on board has to train at 911 as part of their field training, so they would also have a gap filled in to work the radio

if two or three of the dispatchers were out at the same time. Also, there is no light duty work at the sheriff's department if a deputy gets hurt, but if we had that capability we could move them to the center, and they could man the console until they were ready to return to full duty. He asked that they consider E-911 employees become a division of the sheriff's department and operate like other divisions with its own commander. If it doesn't work, we can go back the old way, but he thinks it would be a plus for all. Commissioner Felton thinks having E-911 with the sheriff's department would be good as he has been at E-911 several times, and they have been short of help. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow E-911 employees to be under the sheriff's department, seconded by Mr. Felton for discussion.** Administrator Patton stated that it does not change the budgetary process. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow E-911 employees to be under the sheriff's department to be effective November 1, 2014, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Commissioners will pursue engagement with the city regarding the E-911 salaries contract.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON TRUCK PARKING

Mrs. Smith advised that she lives on Meadow Drive, and there are trucks parking on both sides of the street, she gets off work late and you can hardly see around the trucks to pull out into the street. Also people are hiding behind these trucks and trailers, and it is dangerous. She understands there is a county ordinance that they cannot park on the streets, and they shouldn't be parked on the side of the street, and she also doesn't feel safe getting out of her car going into her house at night. She would also like to see more lights and more patrol in that area. Commissioner Henderson asked Public Works Director Carl Gamble if these trucks are exceeding our weight limits for parking trucks in a residential area. Mr. Gamble advised that the county right of way is not a parking lot, and trucks are not supposed to park on the right of way, and there is an ordinance supporting this. It is a safety problem, not a problem with individuals. Mr. Henderson stated that it is also a financial problem if we have to patch holes in the road due to the heavy trucks, and he doesn't think we need to take any action because we already have an ordinance in place. Jeffery Mumphery, truck driver, stated that Norman Henderson has been parking in this area for over 27 years, and he has been parking there 6 years, and they make sure that there is no damage to the roads. He advised that both their vehicles weigh 17,000 pounds empty, and the weight limit is 18,000 pounds. He advised that when they were asked to move their trucks a few weeks ago, no one asked them how much their trucks weighed. He has a lot beside his house he can park his truck inside of his yard and it will be away from the road, plus they should have no problem with safety because they park away from the road. Mr. Mumphery advised that he parks inside his yard unless he makes a quick stop. Mr. Henderson advised that he has been parking there for some 20 odd years, and he has never had a complaint about it, plus he keeps his truck way off the road. He said some of the products that he hauls he is not supposed to be no more than 60 feet away from the truck, and if the company knows that they are away from those products, he will lose those contracts; that will affect their livelihood. Commissioner Henderson asked if his truck was behind the fence, and Mr. Henderson replied sometimes he might put it behind the fence, but he could put it back there all the time if need be. Mr. Mumphery advised that he has a list of names of people that live on the two streets, and none of them have an issue with safety or them parking their trucks in their neighborhood or on the side of the road. Chairman Nance advised that our issue is we have to balance the safety concerns plus abide by the county ordinance; we need to sit down and take a look at where we are. Mrs. Henderson advised that her concern is their trucks are her protection as she has had to call the law when the trucks are not there because people are looking for things to steal as they know she is by herself. She stated that this is their means of living, and they need to have sympathy so people can make a living as there are not many jobs in town. Mrs. Smith stated that those trucks are sitting out there all the time, it is not a run in

and run out; she had no problem with it at first but Mr. Mumphery is putting trailers on both sides of the street and leaving them there. Mr. Mumphery stated that he only owns one trailer, and he will gladly park his truck and trailer in the lot that he owns by his house, but he was told he couldn't. Chairman Nance advised that the commissioners will look at it and see if they can make a resolution for everybody. We will do the best we can based on the facts. Commissioner Felton stated that he doesn't see where the county has had to patch the roads out there as the roads look good to him.

APPROVE NEW 5-YEAR FRANCHISE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CRISP CO. BOC AND CCPC

Administrator Patton reported that it is time for the county to renew the 5 year franchise agreement with the power commission. The agreement is essentially identical to the current contract with the exception of an increase in the annual fixed amount from \$88,000 to \$100,000 per year. The contract period will be from January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2019, and estimated revenue for fiscal year 2015 will be \$953,000. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the 5 year Franchise Agreement with Crisp County Power Commission, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT BETWEEN GDOT AND CRISP COUNTY

Administrator Patton reported that this is a floating contract with the airport as we are constantly improving the airport, and this year the project is for engineering and design of the airfield drainage, and to rehabilitate the drainage. It is a contract between the county and the Georgia Department of Transportation Aviation; the federal government picks up 95% of the cost, the state picks up 2 ½% of the cost, and the county picks up 2 ½% of the cost. Total cost of the project will be \$200,295, and the county's portion comes to \$12,410, which will come from Special Local Option Sales Tax. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to approve the Resolution Approving the Agreement for Airport Engineering Assistance between GDOT and Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG 14 POST AWARD

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a post award public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant that we received, we had the big check presentation last month, and there will be no action taken today. Chairman Nance opened the public hearing at 10:00 a.m. and stated this was for the purpose of discussing the approved activities of the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Award. On September 5, 2014, Crisp County was awarded a CDBG grant for Cedar Lake/Southern Pines Sewer System Improvements benefiting 127 persons. Mrs. Leverett reported that the total amount of funds received will be \$500,000, and the county is in compliance with all the fair housing laws as CDBG is a pass-thru from USDA. She advised that as soon as the public hearing is over, the paperwork will be forwarded to the Department of Community Affairs, and we will be able to start the project. Chairman Nance asked if anyone would like to comment on this grant award and project. Dennis Fraser stated that he thought this was a well needed project as he is familiar with this area. Chairman Nance asked if anyone else would like to speak, there were no other comments; he closed the public hearing at 10:05 a.m.

APPROVE RATIFICATION OF CCTV SECURITY SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR CRISP COUNTY JAIL, COURTHOUSE, GOVERNMENT CENTER & RECREATION CENTER WITH COOPERCRAFT

Administrator Patton reported that we had to make some changes for our court system, and that required additional camera systems; in the interest of time to make sure we kept the warranties in place we had to go ahead and approve that contract for the maintenance. The amount of the contract is \$23,974, and the chairman will need to ratify that contract with an auto renewal option unless terminated by either party 30 days prior to anniversary of the contract. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the ratification of the CCTV Security System Maintenance Contract for the Crisp County Jail, Courthouse, Government Center, and Recreation Department between Sheriff Hancock and CooperCraft Communications, Inc., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RATIFICATION OF TELEPHONE SYSTEM MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR CCSO BETWEEN SHERIFF HANCOCK AND COOPERCRAFT

Administrator Patton reported that they also need to ratify the telephone system maintenance contract for the Crisp County Sheriff's Office between Sheriff Hancock and CooperCraft Communications in the amount of \$2,457. This contract will also have the auto renewal option unless terminated by either party 30 days prior to the anniversary of the contract. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to approve the ratification of the telephone system maintenance contract for Crisp County Sheriff's Office between Sheriff Hancock and CooperCraft Communications, Inc. in the amount of \$2,457, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE REVOLVING LOAN FUND LOAN #2 TO TITAN HOSPITALITY

Mrs. Leverett reported that they had a Revolving Loan Fund Committee meeting on October 1st in which they took under consideration an application received from Titan Hospitality for another \$250,000 or an extension of \$250,000 of the current \$500,000 loan. The committee reviewed the application as if it was a new loan, all the paperwork was submitted, and the committee is recommending that the county approve this loan to Titan Hospitality for \$250,000 pending them paying down the current loan to that amount. She stated that we will amortize the \$250,000, and the reason for the \$250,000 was the Hampton Inn franchise changed the interior design of the hotel after they had received the initial financing. The proposed request includes paying down the current \$502,474 loan plus interest to date to \$250,000 then extending the \$250,000 loan for 7 years based on a 20 year amortization, which will include a balloon payment at the end of the term. Mrs. Leverett stated that the county would remain in third position behind SBA and Planters First, and we would have a first position on two out parcels that the principles have. Also, as SBA and Planters First loans are paid off, then our lien position would move up the ladder, plus we have the personal guarantees of the principle owners, both of which are financially sound at this time; the project meets eligibility requirements. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to accept the Revolving Loan Fund Committee recommendation for the Titan Hospitality, seconded by Mr. Henderson, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that included in the financial report section is a preliminary report for the first quarter of FY 15. Combined, the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds are reporting September revenues received at \$954,085 and expenditures at \$1,021,956; year to date totals of \$1.9

million in revenue and \$3.6 million in expenditures leave the county with a \$1.7 million shortfall. Cash reserves remain tight but should be sufficient to get us through. For the month of September, the Water Fund recorded monthly revenues of \$56,896 and expenditures of \$35,380; YTD revenues of \$171,139 and YTD expenditures of \$146,969, leaving the Water Fund with a 4% net gain of just over \$24,000. Water consumption billed for the month was 7.2 million gallons. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued revenue for September was \$115,392 and accrued expenses of \$97,282, brings year to date totals to \$399,393 in accrued revenue and \$327,631 in expenses leaving the landfill fund with a small net gain of \$71,762. The total tonnage received for the month of September was 3,383.85 tons. Approximately 46% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract, 19% under the residential contract, and 8% under the county's curbside contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$4.2 million. As of September 30th, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$4.5 million, the proprietary funds at \$2.5 million, and the SPLOST funds at \$7.8 million, leaving a county wide total of \$14.9 million. As of September 30th, we have spent \$17.7 million under the 2000 SPLOST Issue. We have expended approximately \$20.4 million under the 2005 SPLOST Issue, and distribution no. 32 in the amount of \$323,225 is up about 6% over last year and brings the issue to date collections to \$10.6 million. We have expended \$9 million on projects associated with this issue. We spent a total of \$613,201.90 in SPLOST dollars during the month. Projects benefiting were the Crisp County Airport, County Roads, the Crisp County Detention Center, County Buildings, Crisp County Fire Department, Crisp County Recreation, Crisp County Public Works, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Also, this month's distribution of \$155,134 on the Local Option Sales Tax Distribution is up almost 6% over September of 2013. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund, we have seven active loans with a total balance due of \$2,099,920. In the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund, the expenditures should be below 25%. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds are at 24%; the Water and the Landfill Funds are both at 26%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he met with several telephone vendors to determine the best course of action to replace aged telephone system for county government; 3) he attended Darton College progress meetings. Project is reaching completion; 4) he approved the annual reports and required tests for the landfill. These are part of a multiyear engineer contract for services required by EPD; 5) he met with perspective customer for landfill use; 6) he met with Synergy, Inc. to discuss septic system locations and future landfill use. This is an ongoing project; 7) they let the bid for off road safety program. This is for restriping and signage. The contract with DOT was previously approved. State DOT will pay this, no cost to county taxpayers; and 8) he attended the Defined Benefit Pension Board of Trustees meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is looking at a quick response project on U. S. 280 West in front of Georgia Veterans Park in constructing a right turn lane into the park in an eastbound direction. DOT is not responsive to dropping the speed limit along Hwy 300 close to Old Hatley Road. The landfill is going fairly well, the equipment is worn completely out, and they are looking at having to spend about \$20,000 for a transmission in the compactor as every day we are not using the compactor we are losing air space. Commissioner Henderson asked if Mr. Gamble thought we would be better off at leasing equipment with a maintenance contract instead of trying to buy outright. Mr. Gamble stated that we need to look at a buy-back program where you run the equipment for five years while under warranties. Commissioner Mathis asked what was the average age of the equipment at the landfill, and Mr. Gamble replied about 20 years. Administrator Patton reported

that unfortunately there was no money put in the last SPLOST for the equipment at the landfill as it was put in but was cut out due to other priorities, and he likes the buy-back program as well. Mr. Gamble advised that the scales are obsolete, and they have received two bids, one to replace the scales and one to rebuild the scales. The bids were within \$2,000, and if you rebuild the scales, you still have 30 year old scales. He also advised that most of the public works equipment is about worn out also. Administrator Patton stated that he recommends that we put money in the next SPLOST for county infrastructure as we neglected it in the last SPLOST. Chairman Nance asked Mr. Gamble, Mr. Patton, and Mrs. Leverett to get together and coordinate with the commissioners to plan to have a work session on these issues.

UPDATE ON CEDAR CREEK AREA

Administrator Patton advised that the railroad has the packet with all the data that he sent them, and the railroad now says that they need a letter stating that the commissioners have voted to move ahead with this project and Norfolk Southern cannot be held liable for any downstream damages as a result of putting in additional pipes. They say once that letter has been done and the county has put together a construction plan, they will determine their position based on the evaluation of potential flood damage that may be done to their road bed. He advised that they are saying they are not going to pay to put the pipes in other than maybe some participation based on their analysis of rail bed damage, plus additionally they would like an updated civil engineer study as it has been some time since the last study. Commissioners Mathis stated that to him this being a dam, it looks like they would have more liability for holding up the water coming through than they would below it with the natural flow.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, real estate, and personnel, seconded by Mr. Henderson with Commissioners Nance, Mathis, and Farrow voting in to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously, with Commissioners Nance, Mathis, and Henderson voting to come out of Executive Session.

APPROVE FUNDING FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S LITIGATION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to allow the Public Defender's office to keep this past fiscal year's money usually refunded to the county, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried with Mr. Henderson voting no.

APPOINT TWO BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR DFACS BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to appoint Gabrella Dimery to fill the unexpired position of retiring Sandra Duckworth to the Crisp County Division of Family and Children Services Board, term expiring June 30, 2017, and also appoint Melinda C. Whiddon to fill the unexpired position of Lonnie Jacobs, due to his moving to another county, to the Crisp County Division of Family and Children Services Board term beginning October 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2018, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE RESOLUTION TO AMEND LOCAL LEGISLATION

Attorney Lawson read the resolution to amend the local legislation by deleting the words “at the courthouse” of section three of the act and addition resolution to comply with the U. S. Constitution. **Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to approve the Resolution of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners to Amend Its Local Legislation Pursuant to GA. Const. ART. IX, §2, Para. 1(b) (1), seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m., seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

Authur James Nance, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator