

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2015**

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. Sergeant Harry Fox 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.

CLARK HENDERSON ELECTED CHAIRMAN FOR 2015

Administrator Patton called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2015. Commissioner Farrow nominated Wallace Mathis, and Commissioner Nance nominated Clark Henderson. Commissioner Nance moved that the nominations be closed, and Commissioner Farrow seconded the motion. Members voting in favor of Commissioner Mathis were Commissioners Mathis and Farrow. Members voting in favor of Commissioner Henderson were Commissioners Henderson, Felton, and Nance, with motion carried. **Commissioner Henderson was elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2015.**

AUTHUR JAMES NANCE ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2015

Chairman Henderson called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2015. Commissioner Farrow nominated Wallace Mathis, and Commissioner Felton nominated Authur James Nance. Commissioner Nance moved that the nominations be closed, and Commissioner Farrow seconded the motion. Members voting in favor of Commissioner Mathis were Commissioners Mathis and Farrow. Members voting in favor of Commissioner Nance were Commissioners Henderson, Felton, and Nance, with motion carried. **Commissioner Nance was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2015.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2014, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock introduced Major Arzola, a new employee at the Crisp County Sheriff's Department and advises that he comes here with a long line of history in the military and law enforcement; his direct responsibilities will be over the detention center. The Sheriff reported in December they served 159 warrants, 177 civil papers, and 51 subpoenas, court was in session 79.5 hours with 68 officers, and they transported 78 inmates to the courthouse from the detention center. In the traffic division, 646 citations were issued with average cost of those citations at \$223.87, they issued 27 citations in Arabi, and 9 in Cordele; they worked 22 accidents in December. In the animal control report, they picked up 41 animals and answered 35 assistance calls. In the Detention Center, they housed 2174 days for the U.S. Marshall, with estimated revenue around 71,000, they also housed 255 days for Cordele PD, 16 days for Warwick PD, and 24 days for Terrell County SO. Phone commissions were \$7,510.11, and Commissary earnings were \$5,039.97. He gave Mrs. Leverett a check for \$89,007 for inmate housing for

November, 2014. Also for 911, a total of 9,698 phone calls went through that facility last month. Sheriff Hancock invited Commissioners to the Sheriff's Department on January 22nd for a laser "shoot, don't shoot", which will be set up for city and county government officials. This will run them through scenarios that sometimes officers face, and let them see how quick those decisions have to be made by officers.

ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT

Marty Fore, with the Georgia Forestry Commission, reported that last year at the new elementary school they planted twelve trees, which was under a program called making the shade. This was a matching grant program; the trees will be used for shade on the school ground but also will be used as an educational program. He advised that their job is to protect the trees, and this past year they had 24 wild fires throughout Crisp and Dooly counties; 11 were in Crisp County which totaled less than 17 acres burned. He commended Crisp County Fire Rescue and Chief Lunsford as they do a tremendous job, and they have a good working relationship. He advised that the fire count last year was down due to the wet conditions; we have already had more fires this year than last year, and wanted to remind everyone that they are there to serve the community. He advised that there were good and bad fires as we want to burn our woods and farm lands off to plant new crops and reminded everyone that they need a burn permit to burn outdoors, plus permits are only good for natural vegetative materials. Chairman and Commissioners thanked Mr. Fore and the Forestry for the work they do.

APPROVE RESOLUTION COMMENDING RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOOTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

Chairman Henderson read the Resolution Recognizing Crisp County Recreation Department 8-Under GRPA Football All-Star State Champions, which commended them for posting a victory over Cedartown and gave them an undefeated record of 9-0 for the entire season; it is the Crisp County Recreation Department's first ever GRPA State Championship in football, and the resolution declared January 13, 2015 as Crisp County 8-Under Football All-Star Day in Crisp County. Eric Bozeman, Recreation Director, stated that the core of this group made it to the state finals last year, and going into 2014, the coaches made a goal that when they got the team back together for all-stars again, they were going to push for first instead of second place. Mr. Bozeman advised that this team won the Watermelon Bowl, so they knew they had a special group of players, then they went to district in Tifton and breezed through that, then they went to the regional playoff and beat Jones County, and then went to the state finals in Calhoun and played the north Georgia Champions and beat them 30-7. They are very proud of these players, and he could not have asked for a better group of volunteer coaches as these guys not only teach them the fundamentals in football but are mentors for the kids as well. Also, he thanked the parents for supporting the children as when they went to Calhoun, they had more parents and friends on their side than the home team did. Chairman Henderson thanked Mr. Bozeman and his entire staff for the jobs they do, and praised the team. Commissioner Felton thanked all the players, the Recreation Director, Michael Pomirko, Recreation Department Committee Chairman, and all the parents. **By common consent, Commissioners approved the Resolution.**

APPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Administrator Patton reported that he had contacted County Attorney Rick Lawson to see if he was willing to serve another year as county attorney, and he advised that he would. He also had contacted Charles Jones, the county's landfill attorney, and Mr. Jones advised that he has accepted a new position

and he will not be able to serve as the county's landfill attorney this year. Mr. Patton recommended that we not fill that position, there is no requirement to have one, and if something comes up, we can use him on a case to case basis. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to reappoint Rick Lawson as the county's attorney, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION BOARD

Chairman Henderson appointed himself, Commissioners Nance and Mathis to the Crisp County Power Commission as voting members from January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015, and appointed himself, Commissioners Farrow and Felton to the Crisp County Power Commission as voting members from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEES FOR 2015

Chainman Henderson appointed: 1) Mr. Henderson to the Agri-Industrial Development Division; 2) Mr. Mathis and himself as the Chamber of Commerce representatives; 3) Mr. Henderson to the Cordele-Crisp Industrial Development Authority; 4) Mr. Henderson to the Crisp County Board of Health; 5) Mr. Mathis and Mr. Farrow to the Crisp County Emergency Food and Shelter Committee; 6) Mr. Nance to serve to the Crisp-Sumter Joint Development Authority; 7) Mr. Mathis to the Crisp-Turner Joint Development Authority; 8) Mr. Henderson to the Crisp County EC/EZ Board; 9) Mr. Henderson to the River Valley Regional Commission; 9) Mr. Farrow and Mr. Mathis to the Mid-South RC & D Council; 10) Mr. Felton to the Recreation Advisory Board; 11) Mr. Mathis and Mr. Farrow to the Train Authority; 12) Mr. Nance and Mr. Farrow to the Landfill Committee; 13) Mr. Mathis and Mr. Felton to the Water System Committee; 14) Mr. Felton and Mr. Farrow to the Public Safety Committee; 15) Mr. Mathis and Mr. Henderson to the Public Works Committee; 16) Mr. Henderson to the Crisp County Community Council; 17) Mr. Farrow, Mr. Henderson, and Administrator to the Crisp County Planning Committee; 18) Mr. Felton, Mr. Henderson, Administrator, and Finance Director to the Finance Committee; and 19) Mr. Mathis and Administrator to the Stormwater Mitigation Advisory Board.

DELETE APPROVAL OF THIRD PARTY FINANCING FOR SHERIFF OFFICE COMPUTERS

Administrator Patton reported that the approval of third party financing for sheriff office computers has been deleted from the agenda.

APPROVAL OF NEW BEER LICENSE FOR CRISP MOTORSPORTS PARK, LLC

Finance Director Leverett reported that as required by our beer and wine policy, any new applicant must come before the Board of Commissioners for approval. We do have a new application for Crisp Motorsports Park, LLC, formerly Watermelon Speedway, owner Robert Wayne Lyle. She advised that all the documents are in order, and the sheriff has recommended approval of the license. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the new beer license for Crisp Motorsports Park, LLC., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Lyle, owner, advised that he thinks this park is a great potential for this area, they intend to make a lot of improvements at the park, and they want to make it a multi-event place with not only auto sports but shows and other entertainment as well. They plan to make it a top notch facility. He advised that two weeks from now they are going to have "Speedfest", it will be the fourth year it has been here, and they expect from 2,000 to 3,000 people here during that weekend; there will be three or four NASCAR drivers here as well as cars from all over the country. After

this will be Daytona and Atlanta. He introduced Eddie McDonalds, who has been affiliated with the facility for many years as an operator and driver and now manager of the complex, and Justin Andrews with 340 Creative Group out of Albany, they will be handling promotions for things in the future. Mr. McDonalds advised that this Friday David Reagan, NASCAR driver, will be at the track from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and next week there will be other drivers as well. Mr. Andrews advised that most people do not know that this is the second largest paved track in the state of Georgia, it is really a big deal for a lot of people, and they are excited to get it back to what it used to be. Chairman Henderson and Commissioners welcomed them and their investment in our community.

ADOPTION OF CALENDAR YEAR 2015

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a routine matter to formally adopt the budget calendar as a working tool. The process will end with the adoption of the FY 16 budget and the 2015 ad valorem tax digest. The Tax Commissioner and the Tax Assessor's office will receive a copy of this along with all the other division directors once it is approved by the board, everyone can be on the same page so we can remain in compliance with state law. The beginning process, distribution of the FY 16 budget forms, will go out this month. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the 2015 calendar, seconded Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the preliminary report of revenues and expenditures is for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds for the first half of FY 2015. Combined, these funds are reporting December revenues received at \$3.6 million and expenditures at just over \$1 million. Year to date totals of \$8.3 million in revenue and \$7.8 million in expenditures leave us for the first time this fiscal year with the percentage of annual revenues exceeding the percentage of annual appropriations by 3%. As of this report we have received about 65% of the 2014 Ad Valorem Tax revenue projections. The Water Fund recorded monthly revenues of \$45,475 and expenditures of \$38,621; YTD revenues of \$308,315 and YTD expenditures of \$294,347, leaving the Water Fund with a small net gain at 12/31/14 of \$13,968. Water consumption billed for the month was 4,746,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting accrued revenue at \$111,147 and accrued expenses of \$95,884 bringing year to date totals to \$746,929 in accrued revenue and \$653,864 in expenses leaving us with a net gain of \$93,065 at 12/31. The total tonnage received for the month was 3555.76 tons, down 1,245 from Dec. 2013. Approximately 48% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract, 17% under the residential contract, and 8% under the County curbside pickup contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$4.1 million. She reported that as of December 31st, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$8.2 million, the proprietary funds at \$2.5 million, and the SPLOST Funds at \$8.4 million, leaving a county wide total of \$19.1 million. Of that amount over \$10 million is reserved or restricted for special uses and/or projects. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, as of December 31, 2014, we have spent \$17.3 million leaving us with just under \$1 million to complete the various projects associated with this issue. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures to date are \$20.4 million leaving \$4.3 million to complete the projects budgeted. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we are happy to report that distribution no. 35, in the amount of \$325,824.66, representing November retail sales, is up about 8% over the previous year. This distribution brings our issue to date collections to \$11.5 million; however our monthly average is still about \$1,000 short of what's needed to meet the adjusted project budget for this issue. To date, we have expended \$9.8 million. Following that is the detail list of all the SPLOST Expenditures for the month of December. We

spent \$223,248 in SPLOST dollars during the month. Projects benefiting were the Crisp County Airport, Crisp County Recreation, Crisp County Roads, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Next is the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, and like SPLOST, this month's distribution of \$156,353 is up, just over 8% from this time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we closed the IDA/Darton Project loan during December increasing our total number of active loans to seven with a total balance due of \$1.6 million. The last report is preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. All expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 52%; the Water Fund is at 51%; and the Landfill fund ended the month at 52%. Mrs. Leverett also advised that the audit is complete.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he attended the Crisp County Christmas Dinner; 3) he had several meetings with a prospect to try to work out financing for their project; 4) he met with State Rep. Harden to discuss upcoming State Legislation Assembly. So far no legislation that would adversely affect us. Will monitor as new legislation is introduced. Will watch closely the legislation for DOT changes and keep commissioners informed as to impact on local governments; 5) the new Civilian Labor Force estimates show our November, 2014 unemployment rate was 8.9, October 2014 unemployment rate was 9.4, and November 2013 unemployment rate was 10.5. This is a positive sign that things are looking better for us; and 6) he met with Advanced Disposal to discuss delinquent accounts. The number hovers around 800 consistently, about 10% of all accounts. Will discuss in more detail in executive session.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, real estate and personnel, seconded by Mr. Felton with all commissioners voting to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with all commissioners voting to come out of Executive Session.

TAKE OVER A.S.CLARK SCHOOL GYM/AUDITORIUM WITH SCHOOL BOARD DEMO OF SCHOOL BUILDING

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to accept the gym/auditorium of A. S. Clark with the school board agreeing to demo the school building, seconded by Mr. Felton, with Mr. Mathis and Mr. Farrow voting no, and motion passed with Chairman Henderson breaking the tie.

ADOPT THE TILE VI PLAN FOR CRISP COUNTY TRANSIT

Mrs. Leverett reported that that the TPO for the transit system, Resource Management, has been working on a requirement that the Department of Transportation sent down to formulate a Title VI Plan for the transit system. They have finished this plan now, and she needs approval. She advised when they started working on this in November Mr. Nance was the chairman, so they will change the name of

the chairman. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Title VI Plan for Crisp County Transit and authorize the chairman to sign the Title VI Non Discrimination Policy Statement and Management Commitment to the Title VI Plan, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator