

**CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Authur James Nance, Wallace Mathis, 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 Henderson welcomed all in attendance.

**MINUTES APPROVED**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 13, 2015, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock reported that their computer project has begun and will be spending about \$60,000 in new computers and software as the old software will no longer support the reports they are required to run their jail management programs and the license plate readers; 100% of the cost of the computers will come from the drug account. At present they have also spent about \$43,000, also coming out of the drug fund, to refurbish the administration side of the detention building. He reported that they served 175 warrants, 107 civil papers, and 126 subpoenas, with 73 hours of court in session and 148 man hours inside the courtroom in January. In the traffic division, they issued 611 citations with 7 of these inside the city limits, 8 for DUI, 6 were drug arrests, and they worked 23 accidents. They housed 2016 days for marshal service and billed out \$87,672 for those inmates housed, they also billed \$7,084 to Cordele PD, \$990 to Warwick PD, and \$930 to Terrell County, plus they collected \$7,518 for phone service and \$4,627 in commissions. In the animal division, they picked up 28 animals. In 911 division, they answered 1,810 calls for Crisp County Sheriff's Office, 1,441 for Cordele PD, 57 for Crisp Fire/Rescue, 34 for city fire department, and 462 for EMS. He reported that they had 40 man hours of surveillance in the last three weeks inside the city limits of Cordele; officers from Crisp, Tift, Turner, and Tifton PD were inside the city at various times and locations and working with Chief Hooper trying to make inside the city safer. He also presented a check for December federal housed inmates of \$92,959.50. Chairman Henderson and Commissioners thanked him and his department for what they do for the citizens of the county.

**YEARLY REVIEW OF CRISP COUNTY FAMILY CONNECTION**

Sherry Evans with Crisp County Family Connection thanked the commissioners for the many ways that they partner with them, and they always welcome the commissioners to their collaborative meetings. She also wanted to give them a mid-year review of their activities concerning child abuse and poverty initiatives. In their child abuse concern, they are working with The Gateway Center as they have parenting classes that are tied to child abuse, and they work closely with the adopt an angel program which helps over 1000 children. She advised that their poverty intuitive is where most of their work is

done, and their literacy alliance is working on first books intuitive, plus they are partnering throughout the county with Kiwanis, the school system, and other businesses to bring in more resources. Also they have a strong ministerial collaborative, around 30 members, and they are addressing teen pregnancy crisis and are also trying to strengthen what is already being done. She reported that they had a poverty simulation this year and hopes to have another one so that we can have constant education about what poverty really is, and how we could collaboratively approach issues and initiatives to tackle that. They also work closely with the recreation department with adopt an athlete. She also advised that they have been placed in all counties in the state of Georgia by Georgia Family Connection Partnership; they are accountable to you to look at our statistics and then collaboratively approach those statistics in a way that they can impact positively for the wellbeing of children and families. Chairman Henderson and commissioners thanked her for the job she does.

### **APPROVE LOCAL LEGISLATION FOR PROBATE AND MAGISTRATE JUDGES**

Magistrate Judge Steve Ingram and Probate Judge Wright came before commissioners regarding HB 113. Judge Wright advised that they are here in regards to some legislation that is forming in Atlanta, and they ask the commissioners to support that legislation and also to get in touch with Georgia Association County Commissioners and ask them to support the legislation as well. He stated that in case that HB 113 is not successful in Atlanta, they are asking for authority to approach this legislation individually. He advised that HB 113 provides for a non-partisan election of Magistrate and Probate Judges, which means the elections in Crisp County would not be associated with a political party on the ballot. He stated that both he and Judge Ingram agree that judges should not be subject to parties and pressures, plus regarding the filing fees, if it is a partisan election, the filing fees go to the democratic and republican parties, and if it is a non-partisan election, the filing fees goes directly to the county. Judge Ingram advised that he had a conversation with Representative Buddy Hardin; Mr. Hardin thinks HB 113 will pass and he agrees with this bill to make all of the judges in the state of Georgia non-partisan as there is not supposed to be anything partisan about a judge and his decisions. Judge Ingram advised that has not been the case in the past, and politics has gotten in the way of doing the right thing, and at the present time the Supreme Court Justices, Board of Appeals Judges, Superior Court Judges, and State Court Judges are non-partisan, and the rest of the judges have to clarify a party affiliation. He thinks if we can all push and stay on this, then maybe this legislation will not get swept under the rug at the last minute. Judge Ingram stated that Rep. Hardin advised that as a backup they might want to ask the county commissioners to authorize local legislation to make their two positions in Crisp County nonpartisan. They are asking for support of HB 113 in any way they can, call anyone that they know that serves in the state senate or House of Representatives, and also to authorize them to go forward with an application for local legislation for their two offices. Administrator Patton stated that judges should be non-partisan, and he would recommend that we draft an ordinance and start that process. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to grant the request of Judge Wright and Judge Ingram, to contact ACG and ask them to support HB 113, and to write a letter to Representative Hardin in support of the local legislation if HB 113 does not pass, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### **AUDITOR CRAIG MOYE WITH MAULDIN & JENKINS**

Craig Moyer, auditor with Mauldin and Jenkins, presented the annual audit report for the June 30, 2014 audit. He advised that this year they have a written audit agenda, which is a summary of some of the hotspots of the audit and some of their required communications; it is part of their requirements that they communicate these orally but they also decided to put it in a written format for the commissioners.

He advised that their responsibility as an auditor is to express their opinion on the financial statements, and as of 06/30/14, they issued the county a clean opinion, which is now referred to as an unmodified opinion. He reported that the county is the primary government with the component units being the power commission, the hospital, and the county Board of Health; he is primarily going to focus on the county. He advised that at the end of the fiscal year, total assets were \$75.2 million with almost \$10 million tied up in liabilities, giving the county a net position or equity of \$65.2 million with almost \$47.5 million tied up in capital assets and related debt. In the income statement, the county experienced an increase in net position of \$242,000 on a full accrual basis. On the governmental side, in the General Fund total assets were around \$7 million, \$5.1 million was in cash and investments, liabilities were around \$1 million which left county with total fund balance of around \$6 million, with \$5.7 million in unrestricted available to spend. The General Fund had revenues of \$14 million, total expenditures of \$12.8 million, leaving after transfers and some other finances sources and uses, the fund balance was increased of right at \$119,000; \$277,000 was transferred out into the E-911 fund as the revenues the county receives from the E-911 fund will not cover the services that it takes to provide that service. Also the county had a decrease in fund balance for the total governmental funds, which includes the capital projects funds, especially the 2005 SPLOST fund as you have already collected the money under that issue and now you are spending the money relating to that, which is what contributes to the decrease. Mr. Moye advised that the way the county handles the budgeting process is you adopt an original budget and throughout the year you make budget adjustments and also at the end of the year you amend your budget to go in line with your audit results. He advised that in the original county budget, the excess revenues over expenditures was right at \$398,000, and the actual amount of excess revenues over expenditures was right at \$1.2 million, which means you exceeded your budget goal. The county has three proprietary funds, the Water Fund, the Landfill Fund, and the Self Insurance Health Benefit Fund. At the end of the year, the Water Fund has assets of right at \$5.1 million, liabilities of \$1.6 million with total net position in the Water Fund of around \$3.5 million; the Landfill Fund had assets of around \$7.3 million, liabilities of \$6.4 million with net position of \$950,000; and in the Self Insurance Health Benefit Fund had assets of around \$713,000. In each of the priority funds the county had a positive operating income – Water Fund around \$112,000, Landfill Fund around \$195,000, and the Self Insurance Health Benefit Fund around \$23,000, with total increase of net positions for these three funds right at \$202,000; this shows that the charges you are charging is covering the expenses that it takes to operate those funds. He stated that all in all it was a great year for all the funds, especially for the General Fund, and all departments work really well with them in getting all the information in a timely fashion.

### **ADOPT SOUTH GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE FBLA-PBL WEEK**

Teresa Jolly, Karen Bloodsworth, advisors, and members of PBL (Phi Beta Lambda) were present. Ms. Jolly advised that PBL is a co-secondary option of FBLA in high school, and their main platform is to raise money for the March of Dimes. She advised that this week is PBL week throughout the nation, and they are also getting ready to go to District competition in March; the students will participate in hospitality management, impromptu speech, and job interviews. They have been to nationals the last three years, and you have to win at state to be able to go to nationals. They want to thank the commissioners for helping the students that not only want to be a student but give something extra while they are in school. Ms. Bloodsworth advised that they are excited to have some of their students here today, and PBL does mean a great deal to their students, and it means a lot to the employers as they are looking for well-rounded individuals, not only in education but also involved in community service. She stated that this means a lot to their students to be here today, and she thanked the commissioners for adopting the proclamation. Chairman Henderson read the Proclamation proclaiming February 9-13, 2015 as National

PBLA-PBL Week in Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation In Recognition of FBLA-PBL Week, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT WITH THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY OF CRISP COUNTY**

Chairman Henderson advised that this resolution would save the hospital authority quite a bit of money because of the change in interest rates; the hospital is a component of the county. Jessica Carter with the hospital authority advised that interest rates have fallen and it became apparent that there was an opportunity for them to lower their annual debt service. They received several proposals, and they have partnered with someone and will be able to lower their interest rate to 2.47%, they were at about 3.88%, and that will save them about \$100,000 annually in debt service. She advised that they are doing a direct placement this time with the bank as opposed to having bondholders. She stated that they are going to receive about \$1.4 million in decreased reimbursement over the next three years due to cuts in the Affordable Care Act, they have to continue to find ways to save money as they do not have the expansion of Medicare in the state of Georgia, and therefore they have to find ways to provide quality care but at a lower cost, and this is just one avenue of how they can continue to provide that care. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to grant the request of the Hospital Authority of Crisp County to adopt the Resolution Of The Board Of Commissioners Of Crisp County, Georgia, Approving And Authorizing, Among Other Things The Execution, Delivery And Performance Of An Intergovernmental Contract With The Hospital Authority Of Crisp County, Georgia: Authorization Of Participation In The Validation Of Certain Revenue Anticipation Certificates: And For Other Purposes, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT FISCAL GRANT MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR CRISP COUNTY**

Mrs. Leverett reported that they have been notified by the Department of Justice that in order to continue to qualify for grant funds the county must adopt a separate policy for the financial management of grants. Currently the financial management of grants is addressed in our financial policy but it is not detailed enough to satisfy the Department of Justice; they want a separate policy. She advised that she was sent a sample, and we tweaked it to fit the county. There is nothing in the new policy that hasn't been in the policy before, and it seems like they are really tightening up on the grant dollars. This policy basically says that the grants have to come through finance and before the county commissioners. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adopt the Procedures For Financial Management Of Grants, Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF DOT GRANT APPLICATION IN SUPPORT OF 5311 TRANSIT PROGRAM**

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has a resolution authorizing the filing of the grant application in support of our 5311 Transit Program. It is once again time to file for Fy16 funds and this is annual action that commissioners take to authorize their office to file that grant application; we also need authorization for the chairman to sign the documents that go with the grant paperwork. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Resolution Authorizing The Filing Of An Application With The Georgia Department Of Transportation And The United States Department Of Transportation, For A Grant For Public Transportation Assistance Under Section 5311 Of The Federal Transit Laws Under Chapter 53 Of Title**

**49 Of The United States Code and giving Chairman Henderson the authority to sign the necessary paperwork, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett advised that the first report is the revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major special revenue funds ending January 31, 2015. Combined monthly revenues of \$2.5 million exceeded combined monthly expenses of \$1.3 million pushing YTD revenues above YTD expenditures by approximately 10%. In the Water Fund, we recorded monthly revenues of \$49,291 and expenditures of \$39,813 increasing our YTD net income for this fund to \$23,446. Water consumption billed for the month was 5.7 million gallons, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1,495,986. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting accrued revenue at \$112,326 and accrued expenses of \$104,462 bringing year to date totals to \$859,255 in accrued revenue and \$758,326 in expenses increasing our YTD gain for this fund to just over \$100,000. The total tonnage received for the month of January was 3665.85 tons. Approximately 43% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract, 15% under the City's residential contract and about 8% under the County's residential curbside service contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$4.1 million. In the Cash report, the General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$8.8 million, the proprietary funds \$2.5 million, and the SPLOST funds just over \$8 million, leaving a county wide total at 01/31/15 of \$19.6 million. Of that amount over \$9.5 million is reserved or restricted for special uses and/or projects. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$17.5 million leaving just over \$800,000 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures to date of \$20.4 million leaves \$4.3 million to complete the projects budgeted under this issue. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, distribution no. 36 in the amount of \$355,202 is up slightly over last year, about 3%. It brings issue to date collections to \$11.9 million and monthly average to \$331,770. To date, we have expended \$10.2 million from this issue. Following that is the detail list of all the SPLOST Expenditures for the month of January. We spent \$486,890 in SPLOST dollars during the month. Projects benefiting were Crisp County Roads, County Recreation, Crisp County E911 and EMS, County Buildings, the CCSO, Crisp County Sanitation, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. For the Local Option Sales Tax Distribution (LOST), this month's distribution of \$170,481 is up, just over 3% from the previous year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we have a total of seven outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$1.6 million. The last report included is the 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. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 61%; the Water Fund is at 58% and the Landfill fund ended the month at 61%.

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

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he attended several Atlanta Fish Fry coordinating meetings; 3) as the county's legislative representative he is closely monitoring bills as they come up in the State Assembly. HB 170 (Transportation) is in subcommittee under review. As presently written it could cost the city and county several hundred thousand dollars in lost gas tax revenue. The bill proposes that it would take the gas tax out of SPLOST, LOST, and ESPLOST and convert that to an excise tax that will go to the state when our SPLOST, etc. expires. Almost 24% of SPLOST is in motor fuel sales tax; they are proposing to replace that and local governments will be able by ordinance to increase gas tax 6 cents a gallon which will take effect when the SPLOST, etc. ends. It will cost the county about \$400,000 a year in lost revenue. He has contacted our representatives and asked them not to support this as the state is putting the burden on local governments

to tax citizens to pay for transportation projects. He will monitor this closely as he expects some changes with this; 4) he attended an Arts Alliance meeting and they are sponsoring an event (Night out with Patsy Cline) at the retreat on February 26<sup>th</sup>. One thing industry looks at when placing a new industry in a city is the cultural activity available for its employees. The Arts Alliance is one of those things that helps attract new industry and growth; and 5) he met with Advanced Disposal to discuss delinquent accounts. The number hovers around 800 consistently, about 10% of all accounts. They are looking at possible solutions to this problem.

### **COMMISSIONER NANCE READ LETTER FROM CITIZENS GROUP**

Commissioner Nance advised that he had received a letter he wanted to share with the Board from a group called I Am My Brother's Keeper stating that they have become aware of the commissioner's decision regarding A. S. Clark school, expressing an interest to the Crisp County Board of Education on behalf of the citizens of the county, and on behalf of the citizens of the west side of the county, and that they support their interest in this for many reasons, some being the historical significance of A. S. Clark, the investment on the west side of Cordele and Crisp County and necessary community resource center, and a potential financial self-sufficient revenue generator for the county. They think the facility is valuable in its current position because there are so many opportunities to obtain grant funding for it, and there are some organizations that have some plans available so that they can do something with the facility. He went on to read that they support an in-kind donation of the building by the Crisp County Board of Education, however they do not support any demolition on any part of the building at this time; they think this social institution on the west side of Cordele should remain community owned and operated.

### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation, personnel, and real estate, seconded by Mr. Nance, with all members 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, with all members voting to come out of Executive Session.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

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**Clark Henderson, Chairman**

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**Tom Patton, Administrator**

