

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 10, 2015**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Clack Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. 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. Carl Gamble 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 February 10, 2015, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF BILLY HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported that they are back up and in operation after the kitchen fire in the jail; they sustained around \$60,000 in damages and have repaired a good bit of the work with inmate labor. He reported that last month they served 131 warrants, 129 civil papers, and 276 subpoenas with total court hours worked at 308 and 108 prisoner transports. In the traffic division, there were 715 citations written with 21 going to Arabi and 18 to Cordele, and reporting 25 accidents for the month. They housed 1802 billable days for the U.S. Marshals, 293 days for Cordele PD, 24 days for Warwick PD, and 28 days for Terrell County SO. In the animal control report, they picked up 45 animals and assisted Cordele with one animal pickup. He advised that they had 179 prisoners that were booked into the jail, 194 released, feds picked up 18, 11 court transports, 15 for medical, and 64 others. Sheriff Hancock stated that they are requesting approval to apply for an Office of Highway Safety grant at no cost to the county so that they can work on some things for advertising, communications about safe road ways, etc., and they are also applying for a missing persons with Alzheimer's disease grant from the U.S. Department of Justice which will require a 25% match, but the match is an in-kind match and will not cost any actual money. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve both grants, one with the Office of Highway Safety and Law Enforcement, and one from the US Department of Justice and authorize the chairman to sign both grants for the sheriff's department, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.** Sheriff Hancock also gave the finance department a check for \$85,911.50 for last month's federal housing.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FROM JIMMY VERNON SMITH AND JESSE VERNON SMITH

Chairman Henderson stated that this public hearing is for a request from Jimmy Vernon Smith and Jesse Vernon Smith, as trustees for Julianna Clair Smith, to rezone a parcel of property (3.973 acres) from RS1 (Single Family Residential) to I (Industrial) for the purpose of an Outdoor Storage Yard/Equipment area. Property is located between 1329 and 1227 South Coney Road. This is only the public hearing; the decision will not be made until the next regular meeting on April 14, 2015. Connie Sangster, Planning Director, advised that around November of last year trucks were starting to be parked on this property;

she received a phone call in reference to the trucks, and her office sent the Smith's a letter asking what their intentions were with the property. They did come in and make application to locate the vehicles on this property. Michael Smith advised that he had not moved all of the trucks from the current property as Ms. Sangster gave them the stop work order when she received the call. The property that the vehicles are currently on, he has no control over in the event of his father's passing, as it is owned by his brother and his family trust. He stated they started moving them and it was only going to be for a short period of time because they had some personal issues going on, and they were going to take them and put them right back, and after having to deal with all of this he knew that eventually he was going to have to do something to put the vehicles in a location where he had control over them. He chose this location because it is the same distance from the shop that they already have, and he is not intending to do any work at this facility, all he wants to do is park his vehicles there and store some of the loose stuff that was at his father's residence. He advised that he has bought trailers to try and put the loose materials into the trailers so that way they won't have any debris and will keep the community clean, keep it separate and out of sight of the community, and this way the trucks will be in a closed in area. This property was given a temporary use permit by a different county commission for there to be a shop there; he has document of this as well, and that is what he was really hoping for but Ms. Sangster said it wasn't possible to get the special use permit to put the vehicles there and that is why they are having to go for the zoning that we have. Having the property done this way will allow them to keep the community clean, keep it out of sight of the community and he has plans to plant pine trees so that one side will be completely invisible. He advised that their shop area is not very large and they do a lot of calls from 911, and he is trying to keep it where they keep that work at the commercial property at the shop so that way it won't interfere with anybody's daily life on Coney Road or Lakeshore Way. With the secondary yard being so close it allows them to respond to 911, the regular wrecker calls with a fast ETA so they can provide the service that they try and provide for the community in a responsible way. Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing for comments from the public. Carolyn Hamby, 303 28th Avenue West, said she thought it was an excellent idea that he wants to keep the community clean, and she is speaking in favor of this request. Mr. Smith showed a picture of the trucks parked off the road. Commissioner Mathis asked if the lot had been cleared, and Mr. Smith advised that the lot had been cleared for a long time. Herbert Gladdin, 837 Lakeshore Drive, stated that he was in favor of the request as he passes this facility frequently, and he has seen it and does see it regularly, and he thinks they have done a good job of storing vehicles and if he plants a tree screen that he is talking about, he thinks it is close to the highest and best use for the property at this time. Chairman Henderson asked if there were any more comments. Commissioner Farrow asked Mr. Smith to explain if it is zoned on Hwy 300 where the shop is, why it can't be done there. Mr. Smith stated that they do a lot of work and the trucks and trailers are so large, they have so many trucks there at one time, and he wouldn't be able to park his customer's vehicles there. When his father created the business, he didn't really think about growing; it has grown quite extensively in the last two years, and is trying to make this a safer operation and keep it cleaner. Commissioner Mathis stated that this is something that has been ongoing, he appreciates what should be a possible solution to this and it is right across from his house, and if they can get the trucks on a lot that is permissible and if the board is in agreement with it and get them legal then there is a whole lot of issues to be put to bed; in today's world with more eyes you can keep on your stuff, the better off you are. Mr. Smith showed pictures of the commercial shop and vehicles, and advised that there is not much room in front of the shop, and years ago the commissioners said they only had to be fifty feet from the road and they are exactly that, and when you have two trucks and two trailers trying to pull up in there, they barely have enough room to function, and if he puts them in the back he won't be able to pull around and pull them through; having a secondary yard is the only way he thinks his business can function. Commissioner Mathis asked Ms. Sangster what all did it effect to change to

Industrial. Ms. Sangster replied that you are mixing industrial in the middle of residential. Chairman Henderson asked if we had any concerns from the neighbors, and Ms. Sangster replied that she had sent letters to the adjacent property owners, the Smith's own the property around there, and she had not heard from anyone. She posted signs, posted one on Lakeshore Way but it was taken up she understands. Commissioner Felton stated that he did not want to try to starve the man, they need to try to work with them if they can; he knows Vernon and he sees where they have moved the vehicles already; they have it set up real nice. Mr. Smith stated that he wants to make it more professional and more beneficial for the community. Ms. Sangster advised that they would not make a decision today as this is a rezoning and is a two month process. There was no one there that spoke in opposition to the request. Ms. Sangster asked if they had plans to build a shop or just park the vehicles there, and Mr. Smith replied just to park the vehicles now as building anything on this lot would be well into the future; he does not want to do any work there, it is only going to be a storage facility. It will be a lean type metal shed with a metal roof, no sides. Chairman Henderson asked if there were any more questions from the commissioners or comments from the public, there was none. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

REVISE AGREEMENT FOR SEPTIC TANK DRAINFIELD FOR SYNERGY SOLUTIONS

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that this is an ongoing process that started in 2009 with the old recycling facility. Synergy Solutions needs to put in a septic tank drain field, which is a requirement with EPD and is necessary for Synergy Solutions to operate their business. In 2010, the commissioners agreed to give them an easement in our buffer zone in the borrow area, since that time, other things have taken place, and the size of the drain field is going to have to be larger than it was in 2010. Synergy has requested that we increase our easement to $\frac{3}{4}$ acre and to slightly re-design the drain field to fit the criteria that they need. This would decrease our buffer by another $\frac{1}{4}$ acre, it is a requirement that has to be done so that we can send that information off to EPA and accommodate Synergy. Chairman Henderson asked what Synergy is doing that the other company was not doing. Mr. Gamble stated that the standards have changed from 2010. Administrator Patton advised that this is necessary for Synergy to operate. Mr. Gamble advised that where ever you put the drain fields in now you are required to have an alternate site as well in case that drain field should fail. Commissioner Nance asked what type of liability the county would encounter in the event there was some type of contamination. Commissioner Mathis advised that this is just concerning a septic field that services the employees restroom. Mr. Gamble advised that Synergy will have to get an E & S Plan; we are still within the 200 feet of what would be classified as state waters so they will have to have this plan to satisfy the needs of the county since the county is the local issuing authority. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to revise the drain field agreement with Synergy Solutions and give the county attorney the authority to draw up the easement, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

UPDATE ON COUNTY ROADS AND EQUIPMENT

Mr. Gamble reported that they have moved the playground equipment that the school had given the county to the parks, road shoulders are being clipped, they started the off-system safety plan stripping and signage, they are in the process of getting ready for advertising for the paving, and are trying to maintain the dirt roads.

APPROVAL/RATIFICATION OF FTA DOT 5311 CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANT CONTRACT

Mrs. Leverett reported that there were some additional monies that the Department of Transportation had left over in the 2014 cycle; and our third part administrator for the 5311 transit program applied for a small grant. \$3,680 will be paid with federal dollars, \$460 with state dollars, and \$460 local dollars. This will be for computer equipment for the third party operator, and they will pay the \$460 local match; the window of this happened in between meetings, we did get the documents executed so that they would not miss out on this grant, and basically today we need approval and ratification for this FTA DOT 5311 Capital Assistance Grant. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance for approval/ratification of the FTA DOT 5311 Capital Assistance Grant Contract, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MID-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Mrs. Levertt reported that they did mid-year reviews with most of the major departments, and has some recommended mid-year budget adjustments for their approval. The majority of this activity includes the county wide redistribution of workers compensation, pension, and liability cost increase over last year to align the budget to what the actuals were when they came in on the analysis. She advised that there were a couple other significant revenue adjustments to record, grants and grant activity and insurance activity that were not included in the original budget and one fuel cost that we basically miscalculated. She read the summary with the adjustments; General Fund original budget of \$12,645,872 is reduced by \$11,859 bringing it down to \$12,634,013, the Jail Maintenance had adjustments but they were within the jail maintenance fund so that did not change the original budget of \$214,000, the E-911 Fund, original budget of \$793,595 reduction of \$5,900 brings it to \$787,695, Special Service District Fund original budget of \$1,519,394 reduction of \$17,400 leaves it at \$1,501,994; T-SPLOST original budget of \$716,955 reduction of \$84,500 leaves it at \$632,455, Water Fund original budget of \$575,559 reduction of \$1,400 leave it at \$574,159, and the Landfill original budget of \$1,252,510 increase of \$3,700 leaves it at \$1,256,210. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the mid-year adjustment budgets, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF SPLOST PROJECT BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she also has a SPLOST project budget adjustment to accommodate the purchasing of equipment for public works and the landfill. She advised that in the 2000 SPLOST, we will reduce the sanitation budget and increase Roads budget by \$54,615, and in the 2011 SPLOST we will reduce the Roads budget by \$562.59 and put that into the Sanitation/Solid Waste Project budget. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the SPLOST Project budget adjustments, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING THE LEASE AGREEMENT PURCHASES OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT FROM BANCORP SOUTH

Mrs. Leverett reported that these three resolutions are lease agreements to purchase much needed public works equipment. We will be leasing five pieces of equipment and buying four. The resolutions are all identical except for the description of the equipment and will be from Bancorp South, which is the financing arm of Flint Equipment. The first resolution will cover the John Deere 850K Waste Handler with purchase price of \$328,000, the second resolution if for a John Deere 250G Excavator with purchase price of \$195,397.92, and the third resolution is for a Landfill Compactor at a purchase price of \$529,378.92. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the resolutions authorizing the execution of**

the equipment lease purchase agreement for all three pieces of equipment, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEASE AGREEMENT PURCHASE OF PUBLIC WORKS EQUIPMENT FROM CATERPILLAR

Mrs. Leverett reported that she doesn't have the resolution for the caterpillar equipment yet, and she asked that the board authorize the chairman to sign this resolution when it comes in. This resolution will cover the purchase of two Caterpillar 725C Articulated Trucks for \$336,735.00 each; the financing will come through Caterpillar Financial Services, Inc. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the resolution authorizing the execution of the equipment lease purchase agreement with Caterpillar Financial Services, Inc. and giving the chairman the authority to sign the paperwork when it is completed, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, are reporting monthly revenues of \$865,782 and monthly expenditures at \$1,000,834. Those totals bring YTD numbers to \$11.7 million for revenues and \$10.3 million in expenditures and provide a positive 9% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1.3 million at the end of eight months of this fiscal year. As of this report we have received over 90% of the 2013 Ad Valorem property tax revenue projections, \$5,268,261 of \$5,450,128. For the Water Fund, February activity brings YTD revenue totals to \$401,082 and YTD expenditures to \$391,103 leaving the Water Fund with a net income of \$9,979 at 2/28/15. Customer usage billed for the month was 3,729,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, February accruals bring YTD totals to \$968,020 in revenue and \$845,181 in expenditures, increasing the YTD net gain slightly up to \$122,839. Total tonnage received for the month was 3629.54. Approximately 43% of that was delivered under the Advanced Environmental commercial contract, 12% under the City's free residential contract, and 6% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$4.1 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$7.8 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined; \$2.5 million in the proprietary funds; and \$8.3 million in the SPLOST funds giving us a county wide total at 02/28 of \$18.7 million. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$17.5 million of the \$17.6 million collected, leaving us with \$824,864 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total collections remain at \$24.7 million. To date we have total expenditures of \$20.5 million leaving us with a little over \$4 million to complete the projects included in this issue. Distribution No. 37 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue, representing January retail sales, in the amount of \$279,991 came in short of the previous year by over 4%. To date we have collected \$12.2 million in revenue under this issue and expended \$10.4 million. The Final SPLOST Schedule includes a list of all expenditures for the month of February from all SPLOST Funds. Projects benefiting for the month of February were Crisp County EMS, County Buildings, Crisp County Recreation, Crisp County Water Works, Crisp County Landfill, the Darton Project and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. Just like SPLOST, the LOST distribution of \$134,377 fell short of last year by over 4%. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$1.6 million for all these accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the eight-month period. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of February 28th, all departments and divisions should be at 67% of their

annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds at 68%, the Water Fund at 68% and the Landfill Fund at 67%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he attended the ACCG GebCorp DB Board of Trustees quarterly meeting. Our pension plan continues to exceed the set bench mark for earned profits, exceeding all other state pension funds; 3) as the county's Legislative Representative, he is closely monitoring bills as they come up in the State Assembly. HB 170 (Transportation) has undergone several changes and we can expect more; 4) he attended a meeting with public safety officials to discuss upgrades to our 800 communications system; 5) he met with Advanced Disposal to discuss delinquent accounts. The number hovers around 800 consistently, about 10% of all accounts. The will continue to look at possible solutions to this problem, and 6) he is working on the annual report to the Air Force on the aircraft at Veteran's State Park. The report requires an inspection of the aircraft for signs of deterioration and there are some signs of deterioration that we will have to address.

ADOPT RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE 2014 AMENDED AND RESTATED PLAN

Administrator Patton reported that these are yearly IRS requirements on our defined benefit plan. This is a resolution to adopt the 2014 Amended and Restated Plan. We will send the approved resolution to ACCG, and they will send to the IRS. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution to Adopt the 2014 Amended and Restated Plan, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS SHOW BARN

Commissioner Mathis advised that Benji Johnson had met with the administrator and himself and was inquiring about having a livestock auction in the show barn facilities and asking about renting the facility or the county making a percentage off of the auctions, and Administrator Patton had suggested that they mention this to the show barn committee and Lions Club to see what their thoughts are about this. It could bring in some revenue to the county to help repair the show barn. He was wondering what the commissioners thought of this idea before they carried if further. Administrator Patton advised that there are not that many locations in south Georgia where you can sell your animals. Chairman Henderson stated that would be a good use of the facility. Commissioners agreed for Commissioner Mathis to pursue mentioning the request to the show barn committee and Lions Club to get their input.

SUSPEND MEETING

Chairman Henderson declared the meeting suspended for ten minutes.

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, motion carried with all Commissioners voting in favor of going 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 in favor of coming out of Executive Session.

REAPPOINT ROBERT POWELL TO THE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to reappoint Robert Powell to the Board of Tax Assessors term ending March 31, 2019, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINT DAVID FALLIN TO THE MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORIAL HEALTHCARE BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint David Fallin to the Middle Flint Behavioral Healthcare Board, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE THE SPEED LIMIT ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Speed Limit Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to adjourn the meeting at 12:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator