

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

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clark Henderson 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 10, 2015, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM CAROLYN HEMBY

Carolyn Hemby, on behalf of My Brother's Keeper and My Sister's Keeper, read a letter they had written seeking to bring change and uplift to the Westside of Cordele and Crisp County in general, and stating that the members have come together to take action to reverse the growing deterioration that they have witnessed over the years. She advised that My Sister's Keeper was formed to empower, mobilize, and bring women of Cordele and Crisp County together to further the mission and objectives of My Brother's Keeper. They addressed the top ten issues as their top goals, which include crime, jobs/employment, poverty, lack of activities for youth, education/schools, leadership/elected officials, illegal drugs, teen pregnancy, law enforcement, and civil rights/justice. They stand ready to work with the Commissioners to address the concerns that the community has raised. Chairman Henderson advised that the Commissioners agree with everything she listed and any way that this board can help, they stand ready to do so. Ms. Hemby advised that Sheriff Hancock has been to one of their meetings and did a presentation, and she told him to keep up the work, so they are working together.

COMMENTS FROM SHERRY EVANS

Sherry Evans advised that as the county's local collaborator she brings the statistics to the local level, they have almost 70 members, which include state agencies and as well as local agencies to insure that they are all on the same page and that they can talk and help and share resources for one another. She advised that this is child abuse presentation month as well as alcohol awareness month, and on April 23rd at their regular collaborative meeting, they will have an awareness event that will be open to the community. They are asking the commissioners to come and support this event, and they will have a banner listing the issues that are tied to child abuse and alcohol abuse. They want the Commissioners to sign on that banner or pledge that they are interested, aware, and that we are working together on these issues. Chairman Henderson advised that she is a vital function to families and individuals, and the commission appreciates everything she does.

COMMENTS FROM DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Gina Jones, Director of Crisp and Dooly Counties Department of Family and Children Services, advised that this month is prevent child abuse month, they work all year on this, but they specifically recognize this month with several activities. April is nationally recognized as child abuse prevention month, a time for families and communities to come together to show their support for children and families as each year thousands of Georgia children are exposed to violence, abuse, and neglect. She advised that child abuse is 100% preventable, and they have to play a role in making sure our community is the best place for children and families to thrive. They want to eliminate child abuse and neglect by strengthening children and families through education and prevention. She advised that they want the Commissioners to join them by affirming their commitment to helping communities, strong families, and great childhoods by wearing blue on Friday in representation of prevent child abuse. They all work collaboratively with Family Connections, the judicial and court system, education, and law enforcement. Rosie Howard, Foster Care Supervisor for Crisp and Dooly counties, advised that they have one state approved foster home in Crisp County with 42 children, and she is asking if they know anyone that they think would make a good foster home to encourage them to get in contact with them so they could keep those children here in Crisp County, so that they can stay in the same schools, in the same churches, be on the same ball teams, and graduate high school here. They also need emergency placement foster parents to keep children for a few hours until a relative can come from another state to get them. Ms. Franklin, Recruit Specialist for foster homes, stated that since they have only one home and 42 children in the system, they have to send the children out of county. Foster parents also now have a role in the children they pick as they can choose sex, age, and race of the child. Also, once those children are in a foster home, they come in monthly to make sure things are running good and see if they are having any problems. The state also provides physical therapy and whatever type of help those children need. She advised that they do work with the parent of the child as their goal is to re-unify that family but sometimes that cannot happen. She thanked Commissioner Felton for the great job he is doing helping with foster children. Linda Rollins, Child Protective Supervisor for Crisp and Dooly counties, stated they have the unfortunate task of making the initial contacts when they get the child abuse reports. They have had four deaths since December, and most of these cases are preventable, and these are the ones that they grapple with the most. She advised that three of those children died in the bed with their caretaker, and some of these did not have the money to buy cribs. Chairman Henderson thanked the ladies for sharing with the Commissioners.

ADOPT CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairman Henderson advised that April 19-25, 2015 is Crime Victims' Rights Week, and the Crime Victim's Rights Week Proclamation reaffirms the county's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year. Belinda Griffin, on behalf of District Attorney Denise Fachini, thanked the commissioners for recognizing crime victims and the theme for this year is engaging communities and empowering victims, which is what we have heard this morning. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Crime Victim's Rights Week Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock advised that last year during budget time, the Commissioners gave him permission to start trying to get more deputies certified with arrest powers. The seven gentlemen here today are the results of their votes. These individuals are assigned to the corrections facility, and some have been moved to road duty because of being short-handed. These individuals have graduated from the Police Academy since July of last year, and he introduced Devosie Jones, John Sears, Wren Harper, Jonathan Cranford, Sammy John, Justin Childs, and Daniel Fore. He advised that each gentleman has gone through 11-16 weeks of basic academy training, ride in a patrol car with another certified deputy for over three months, where they have to meet criteria before they can go on their own. Prior to going to the academy, they took a local examination, state examination, and a physical agility test. He thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to have more certified deputies. Sheriff Hancock also advised that May 6th and 7th, the sheriff's office has teamed up with the Department of Justice, and they will be holding a class on Federal Civil Rights Issues and the 21st Century Policing class for surrounding law enforcement officers. Major Arzola had the contact to bring them here, and it has only been taught one other time in the United States. For the March report, he advised that they served 158 warrants, 190 civil papers, 135 subpoenas, and had 88 prisoner court transports. In the traffic division, there were 787 citations written with 28 of these citations for Arabi and 2 for Cordele. In inmate housing, they housed 2081 billable days for US Marshals, 286 days for Cordele PD, 17 days for Warwick PD, and 3 days for Terrell County SO. He advised that since last week, a facility was closed in Georgia and US Marshals brought them an additional 28 federal inmates. Also, in about two weeks every patrol car will have a GPS unit in it, so they can answer questions for our community and also protect our deputies. They also worked three accidents, and had three nights of city robbery detail, three nights of entering auto detail, and assisted with two wanted persons. In the jail, 201 prisoners were booked during the month, and the total man hours for transports were 326. In the animal division, they picked up 46 animals and had 47 animal assistance calls. Sheriff Hancock advised that with him he has the Code Red Contract that the county pays for where citizens can call in and register their phone for an emergency; they have re-negotiated that contract this year for \$10,000 instead of the \$15,000 that the county had been paying. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow Sheriff Hancock to renew the Code Red Contract for \$10,000, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.** Sheriff Hancock advised that this week is Telecommunications Week and the week they honor our 911 employees as last month they took in over 12,000 phone calls. They are going to honor these employees one day and will invite the Commissioners to come as we want to let them know that we thank them for what they do.

COMMENTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CARL GAMBLE

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that since last meeting, he received a letter from the Department of Transportation that advised that Crisp County has been selected for the FY2016 Safety Action Plan and Off System Signage Program, which is something we have been doing over the years but the format is changing. Now the state is going to scientifically rate the roads after he submitted approximately 42 miles of roads at an estimate of \$250,000. The state will choose out of these miles about 25 miles of roads that will be approved for the signage and striping. He advised that they are about 55% finished with the road list from last year. The LMIG is being advertised, and we should know on April 21st who the low bidder is on this. He also advised that they had an inspection at the landfill in March, and they received a 100 on the inspection. There are some issues at the old landfill that they are working on, weather permitting. They also learned that the old inert landfill was not closed when the old landfill was closed, they have gone through all the criteria to get that complete, and they are waiting for

EPD approval for the Synergy project Commissioners approved last month. Also, the two new excavators Commissioners approved last month are in.

APPROVE REZONING REQUEST FROM JIMMY VERNON SMITH

Chairman Henderson advised that commissioners can make the decision today for Jimmy Vernon Smith and Jesse Vernon Smith regarding a request to rezone a parcel of property (3.973) from RS1 (Single Family Residential) to I (Industrial) for the purpose of an Outdoor Storage Yard/Equipment area. Property is located between 1329 and 1337 South Coney Road. The public hearing was held last month. Administrator Patton read the review checklist standards for the rezoning request. Jimmy Smith advised that on this property he will be parking rolling stock, wreckers and equipment that he currently uses in his business. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, asked if he was planning on using this as their principle use, and Mr. Smith replied no, that is not their intent. Mr. Mathis stated that he is not in opposition to allowing him to do this because he understands the necessity of being able to improve the numbers of wreckers and trucks being able to get in and out. Mr. Farrow advised that he thinks we need to consider the request and take everything into account and see if we want to put some special conditions on this property. Mr. Smith advised that they also have a wrecker yard in Worth County. Mr. Nance advised that we will have to address the problem with question #3 as it will adversely affect the existing use of the property because of concerns about the residential property owners and their concerns. Mrs. Youngblood advised that they could make this rezoning request for this use only and if they ever wanted to build anything, they would have to come back before the Planning Department. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to the approve the rezoning request to from Single Family Residential to Industrial, with the stipulation that they use this for equipment, trucks, and trailers that is rolling and not to be used for any storage of junk vehicles and storage buildings, and that any other use will have to come back before the Commissioners for approval; Commissioners reserve the right to make sure they comply with the use, and the rezoning is only for this owner, and owner will also plant vegetation around the area of the property, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING - REQUEST FROM JAMES T. HOWARD

Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing to consider a request from James T. Howard (with the property owners authorization) to rezone a parcel of property from NC (Neighborhood Commercial) to GC (General Commercial) for the purpose of conducting a Used Merchandise Store. Property is located at 107 Cemetery Road. Chairman Henderson asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the request. Mrs. Youngblood advised that she has a letter from the health department regarding the onsite sewage management system failing at the restaurant that was there before and advising that the system has had nine months to recover without being used, and that they have no problems with using the sewage management system as long as there is no food service and only used as a thrift or antique store. She advised that the health department has talked with the property owner and he agrees to repair the system if the system fails. Tommy Hughes stated he wasn't against the request as he doesn't care what goes in there as long as the septic tank is working, but he does not want to go through what he has gone through since 2005 with the septic system. Mr. Felton advised that he doesn't think there will be a problem with the septic tank now as the septic system will not be used near as much as it was as a restaurant. There being no further comments, Chairman Henderson closed the public hearing and advised that Commissioners will make their decision at the next regular meeting in May.

RATIFIED THE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING AMERICORP NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

Administrator Patton reported that they had an event called the county's day of national recognition for AmeriCorps last week, and they had to have the proclamation for the event, so Commissioners need to ratify the proclamation that was read last week. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to ratify the Proclamation Recognizing AmeriCorps National Day of Service, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE THE REQUEST TO SELL A USED AMBULANCE

Mrs. Leverett reported that David Edwards, EMS Director, has requested to sell a used ambulance to a private ambulance company. She advised that he has a 2002 Ford Ambulance that is perceived to be in fair condition with over 215,000 miles on it that is coming off line. Normally when we dispose of assets, we auction them off on GovDeals; however Mr. Edwards has been approached by a private ambulance service interesting in purchasing this vehicle. We can transfer it to another government agency without auctioning it off to GovDeals, but this is a private non-emergency ambulance service. She advised that buyers would be limited for ambulances, and they did check the Kelly Blue Book value for a similar vehicle with that amount of mileage, and the price ranged from \$2500 to \$3500 down to \$1000 average. She advised that there is an active auction on GovDeals at the present time on an almost exact same vehicle, and the bid on it is \$1500, and we have an offer from this private ambulance company for \$3500; Mr. Edwards thinks this is a good offer for this vehicle. Within our policies, she cannot approve the sale to the private company without their approval. Mr. Edwards advised that the sale would only be for the vehicle as they take off all of the equipment and attachments. Attorney Lawson advised that they need to make sure the buyer is no relation to any of the Commissioners. Mr. Edwards advised that the name of the company is Hope EMS out of Tifton, Georgia, and the owners are Allen Owen and his wife; to the best of his knowledge no Commissioner is related to the buyer. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the sale of the 2002 Ford Ambulance to Hope EMS, not related to any Commissioner, for \$3500, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report shows the monthly and year-to-date activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds ending March 31, 2015. Combined, these funds bring YTD totals to \$12.9 million for revenues and \$11.5 million in expenditures providing positive 9% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1.4 million at the end of the third quarter of this fiscal year. March activity brings the YTD revenue total to \$446,651 for the Water Fund and YTD expenditures to \$425,405, increasing the net income to \$21,246. We billed approximately 1295 customers for a total usage of 4,768,000 gallons. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, YTD accrued revenue was \$1,098,599 and expenditures \$945,648, leaving this fund with a net operating income of \$152,951. The total tonnage received for the month was 4,277.53. Approximately 42% of that was delivered under the Advanced Environmental commercial contract, 12% under the City's residential contract and 7% under the County's residential contract. The GEFA Loans are current at just over \$4.0 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 & TSPLOST Funds giving a county wide total at 3/31/15 of \$18.7 million. Of that amount, \$12.7 is restricted or reserved for special purposes or investments. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$17.6 million leaving \$760,000 to finish out the projects associated with this issue. For the 2005 SPLOST

Issue, we have total expenditures of \$20.6 million leaving us with \$4.1 million to complete the projects. Distribution no. 38 of the 2011 SPLOST that was received in March representing February retail sales, was \$313,015, which is down by just under 1% from this time last year. To date we have collected \$12.5 million in revenue under this issue and expended \$12.3 million. Projects benefiting from SPLOST dollars in March were Crisp County Airport, Crisp County Recreation, County Roads, County Buildings, Crisp County EMS and E911, the Darton Project and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. The L.O.S.T distributions came in just under 1% less than last March. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, we had a total outstanding balance of \$1.6 million. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the nine-month period of July 2014 through March 2015. As of March 31st, all departments and divisions should be at 75% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds at 76%, the Water Fund at 74% and the Landfill Fund at 75%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events; 2) he attended the Farmers Appreciation Dinner; 3) as the county's legislation representative, he monitored and corresponded with our State Legislators on legislation that would impact our county; 4) he attended the Sheriff's Office CHAMPS graduation event; 5) he met with Advanced Disposal to discuss delinquent accounts. The number hovers around 800 consistently, about 10% of all accounts. He will continue to look at possible solutions to this problem; 6) he completed the annual inspection and report on our custodial aircraft at the Vet State Park to the Air Force; 7) he met with Steve Rentfrow and Edward Beach to develop advertisement and timeline for IDC/IDA Director's position; 8) the City will be celebrating 100 years of the city's historic water tower on April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. and has invited us to attend; 9) he was the guest speaker at the Lions Club on the 7th of April; and 10) he attended the AmeriCorps National Day of Recognition event at the extension service facility.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and real estate, seconded by Mr. Felton with all of the 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 with all of the Commissioners voting in favor of coming out of Executive Session.

AUTHORIZE COUNSEL TO EXECUTE AGREEMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to authorize our counsel in the NP ex rel. Darden, et al. with the State of Georgia, et al. lawsuit to execute an agreement that settles the lawsuit for the counties who will only provide one additional attorney at the lower cost attorney of the two requested by the circuit public defender and the additional requested investigator, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator