

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON JUNE 9, 2015**

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clark Henderson, with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, A. James Nance, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 12, 2015, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported that his office served 149 warrants, 162 civil papers, 116 subpoenas, and had 68 prisoner court transports last month. The Traffic Division issued 678 citations with 25 of those in Arabi and 4 inside the city limits of Cordele; they had three DUI arrests, nine drug arrests, and worked 27 accidents. Inmate housing was up, US Marshal Service had 3,214 total billable days housed, Bureau of Prison inmates days housed at 12, 389 days for Cordele PD, 42 days for Warwick PD, and 31 days for Monroe County SO. The Detention Center booked 186 prisoners, released 223 and had 6,654 miles of transports. The Animal Control Division picked up 35 animals, sent 31 animals to the Cordele Animal Shelter, and they had 40 animal assistance calls. E-911 received 11,585 total calls from all agencies last month. Sheriff Hancock advised that they would like to apply for a couple of grants; one is a Department of Justice COPS hiring grant, and this would be 100% paid for by the Department of Justice. It would be for a three year period for three officers. The second one would be a body camera pilot program, also from the Department of Justice, and it would be a 50-50 in-kind match; he would commit to take their 50% out of the drug account, as to put cameras on patrol officers would cost about \$35,000. He also advised that we have received a contract from the Georgia State Farmers Market so that we can keep deputies out there during the summer, and they were able to increase that from \$22,000 to \$25,000 this year. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to give the Sheriff the authority to apply for both grants from the Department of Justice, one for COPS program at no cost to the county, and the other one a 50/50% grant for a body camera pilot program with county's 50% coming from drug funds, and authorizing the chairman to sign both grants, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** The sheriff also presented a check for \$125,588 for inmate housing for last month.

ADOPT WATERMELON DAYS PROCLAMATION

Chairman Henderson read the “Watermelon Days” In Crisp County “Get Your Melon Kicks On Route 66” Proclamation celebrating the 66th Anniversary of the festival and proclaiming the month of June 1st thru June 28th, 2015 as “Watermelon Days in Cordele, Georgia”. Bob Evans, on behalf of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce, thanked the Commissioners for their continued support of the watermelon festival. **By common consent, Commissioners adopted the Watermelon Days Proclamation.**

RESOLUTION COMMENDING JULIAN FOX AS 2015 GRPA STATE CHAMPION, TRACK- SOFTBALL THROW

Chairman Henderson read a Resolution Commending Julian Fox as the 2015 GRPA State Champion Track-Softball Throw with a distance of 137 feet. The resolution further read how he proudly brought that honor back to Crisp County, and the Board of Commissioners with highest commendation extend hearty congratulations to Julian Fox for an outstanding 2015 season. He presented the resolution to Julian Fox, and stated that he has a great future ahead of him. Eric Bozeman, Recreation Department Director, stated that when they go into each track season, they really don’t know what to expect, he has the best coaching staff you could imagine, and they are all volunteers, Bernard Harvey, Eric Morgan, and Brandon Mullino; recently Coach Morgan has joined the staff as a full-time employee; and it is great to have one of our coaches in house. He stated this is the fourth year they have had track at the recreation department, and he thinks this should be a great benefit to the middle and high school track teams in the future. They had 48 kids to qualify for state, and they brought home 76 medals, they had two first-place state champions and a good many second and third place winners. He advised that they are very proud of all of their kids, and look forward to great things in the future. Julian has exceeded their expectations this year, and he excelled in the softball throw in all three meets and dominated the competition. Sgt. Harry Fox, Julian’s father, stated that Julian also made all A’s all year in school as well, and being a dad makes him proud and very humble to stand up with him today, and it is an honor to be here.

RESOLUTION COMMENDING REAGAN BOZEMAN –GRPA STATE CHAMPION TRACK- SOFTBALL THROW

Chairman Henderson read a Resolution Commending Reagan Bozeman as the 2015 GRPA State Champion Track-Softball Throw with a distance of 103 feet. The resolution further read how she proudly brought that honor back to Crisp County, and the Board of Commissioners with highest commendation extend hearty congratulations to Reagan Bozeman for an outstanding 2015 season. He presented the resolution to Reagan Bozeman, and stated that she also has a great future ahead of her. Eric Bozeman, Reagan’s father, stated that Reagan kind of surprised them this year as she moved up in age group where last year she won it in the 8 and under division. Going into the state tournament, he knew her throw was good but didn’t expect her to win state; she threw a personal best by about 15 feet. There were 28 teams that participated and 700 kids at the state meet, he is proud of her and she is also an honor student

as well with straight A's. Chairman Henderson and Commissioners commended Mr. Bozeman for the job he is doing at the recreation department. Commissioner Felton thanked Mr. Bozeman for the work he does, and stated that we do need another gym in this town since the gym at the recreation department is closed during summer day camp activities.

ADOPT CRISP COUNTY ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ORDINANCE

Wen Howell, Crisp County Health Department Environmental Specialist, stated that the ordinance before them is nothing new to the county, there is already an ordinance in place that covers on-site sewage, and the difference is the division. Since he has been at the health department they have gone from the Department of Community Health to the Department of Public Health, and that is the change, plus this ordinance speeds up the process. Chairman Henderson asked if this was for existing as well as new systems, and Mr. Howell advised that it is for new and existing systems. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Crisp County On-Site Sewage Management System Ordinance, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY RESOLUTION FOR THE LEASE OF A VEHICLE FOR CRISP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Administrator Patton reported that they need to ratify the agreement that the commissioners voted at the last meeting to lease a vehicle from Southland Chrysler, with Southland Chrysler paying the lease on the vehicle for the next two years. The paperwork came between the two meetings, and we need to ratify the vote from last meeting. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to ratify the agreement between Sheriff Hancock and Southland Chrysler for a jeep for the CHAMPS program, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY 2015 MARKET SECURITY GRANT CONTRACT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has the basic annual action between the Board of Commissioners and the Georgia Department of Agriculture for the provision of security services at our local farmers market. The sheriff was able to negotiate a slight increase in the funds this year from \$22,000 to \$25,000, and the contract runs during the peak market period of June through August. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to ratify the 2015 Market Security Grant Contract for \$25,000 with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined preliminary numbers for May; these funds are reporting YTD revenues at \$15.2 million and YTD expenditures at \$13.7 million providing us with positive 9% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1.4 million as of this report. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures bring YTD totals to \$548,094 and \$525,737 leaving the Water Fund with a small net income of \$22,357 at 5/31/15. Customer usage billed

for the month was up slightly over last year at 6,344,000 gallons, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$1.4 million in accrued year to date revenue and just under \$1.1 million in accrued expenses leaving this fund with a net income of \$280,455 at the end of May. The total tonnage received for the month of 4,170.89 was down about 900 tons from last May. Approximately 39% of that was delivered under the Advanced Environmental commercial contract, 14% under the City's free residential contract, and 7% under the County's residential curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at just over \$4.0 million. We ended the month with \$7.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$2.6 million in the proprietary funds, and \$8.1 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of just under \$18.7 million. Almost half of that amount, \$9.3 million, is reserved or restricted for special use or projects. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, as of May 31st we have spent \$17.6 million leaving \$724,000 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, to date we have total expenditures of \$20.8 million leaving \$3.9 million to complete the projects included in this issue. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, Distribution No. 40, representing April retail sales, in the amount of \$295,981 is down over \$30,000 from May of 2014 and drops our issue to date monthly average down to \$329,295 which is \$2,774 under what is needed to make our revised budget. As of May 31st, we have expended almost \$13.0 million on projects scheduled under this issue. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of May were the Crisp County Airport, County Buildings, Crisp County EMS, the Recreation Department, Public Works, the Darton Project and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. Just like SPLOST, L.O.S.T. distribution's May receipt of \$142,063.67 came in 9% under May of 2014. 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 eleven-month period of July 2014 through May 2015. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of May 31st, all departments and divisions should be at or below 92% of their annual allowances. Overall, as of this report, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are at 91%, the Water Fund is at 92% and the Landfill Fund is at 87%.

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing on the FY 2016 Proposed Budget. Mrs. Leverett reported that as required by the state of Georgia and in accordance with our adopted budget calendar, this is the public hearing on the proposed FY 16 Budget. The public hearing has been properly advertised, and she read a brief synopsis of where we are. It is a balanced budget for all funds: the General Fund is balanced at \$13,355,291; Special Service District Fund is balanced at \$1,548,576; The Water Fund is balanced at \$630,642; The Landfill Fund is balanced at \$1,335,451; The E-911 Fund is balanced at \$899,460; the TSPLOST Fund is balanced at \$722,200; The Law Library Fund is balanced at \$26,500; the Jail Maintenance Fund is balanced at \$217,720; the D.A.T.E. Fund is balanced at \$40,000; the Asset Forfeiture Fund is balanced at \$75,000; the CDBG 14-Southern Pines Project Fund is balanced at \$499,328; the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund is balanced at \$40,000; the CDBG RLF is balanced at \$22,500; the 2000

SPLOST Fund is balanced at \$476,500; the 2005 SPLOST Fund is balanced at \$350,000; the 2011 SPLOST Fund is balanced at \$3,805,000, with total balance for all funds at \$24,044,168. She stated that this is an increase of \$1,467,994 over last year's budget, with most of the increase in the General Fund and the CDBG Grant Fund. The General Fund, after all reviews, remains short about \$370,000; and they have factored in a tax increase to make up this difference, and they are included in the numbers that were presented today. The tax increase, based on the most recent numbers but are still not the final numbers from the Tax Assessors, will be somewhere between ½ and ¾ mills of tax. Administrator Patton also reminded the Commissioners that they have a formal request from the IDA/IDC to add ½ mill for economic development. Commissioner Nance stated that economic development is going to be important to generate jobs for the community as if you don't have jobs, people can't graduate from college and come back home to work. Economic development is an important thing, and we probably should have considered this years ago. Administrator Patton advised that what is troubling is that this year's digest is down, and that is a real indicator that we are not growing and you can't make that up in residential housing, property owners cannot carry the load anymore, the only way you are going to do this is through industrial and commercial growth. Other counties have gotten some prospects that looked here because they had the money to help those businesses, and we didn't have the money to help them get established. Chairman Henderson asked for any comments from the public for or against the 2016 Proposed Budget. Commissioner Felton agreed that we do need more jobs in this community. There were no other comments, so Chairman Henderson closed the public hearing.

SET CALLED MEETING DATE TO ADOPT THE 2016 FINAL BUDGET

Mrs. Leverett reported that they need to set a called meeting date to adopt the 2016 Final Budget, and due to advertising constraints, they can't meet before Friday, June 19th, we need to have a meeting sometime after this date and before July 1st. **By common consent, Commissioners set Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. to adopt the Final Budget.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he attended several meetings and events last month; 2) he participated in a Webinar for the implementation of the new Transportation procedures; 3) he attended the kick-off of Watermelon Days in Cordele/Crisp County with the Chairman. "This is your life" Banquet honoring Mr. Erskine Weaver will be Thursday, June 18th. The Parade will be on the 27th, followed by the luncheon at the middle school; 4) Rec Department has begun a busy summer season with several large ball tournaments that has brought many visitors to our community; 5) he met with Advanced Disposal to discuss delinquent accounts. The number hovers around 800 consistently, about 10% of all accounts. Continue to look at possible solutions to this problem; 6) he met with Steve Rentfrow and Edward Beach to continue with the search for Bruce's replacement and reorganization of the IDA/IDC, 7) ACCG's 2015 Legislative Leadership Conference will be October 7-9 at Jekyll Island/Glynn County; and 8) he attended a meeting with consultants to develop a strategic master plan for the inland port.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel, and litigation, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing 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 agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

APPROVE 5311 CONTRACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Mrs. Leverett reported that on the 5311 Transit program, the CART service, the state has decided that they are going to combine the FY 2016 funding into one contract, but what happened is the state contract with a specific vendor's contract expires in August, so they want to get the new contract, which includes the capital purchases, in place in time to make the purchases before the contract runs out with the vendor that they currently have. She has received an email from our district representative saying if the Commissioners could pre authorize the county to execute the 5311 contract as soon as we get them; then we can have them ratified later. Our third party administrator, Resource Management, which runs the system for the county has been absorbing the local match on everything and as far as she knows, they will continue to do that. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to pre approve the contract for the 5311 FY 2016 funding and authorize the chairman to sign the paperwork, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m., seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator