

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

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, A. James Nance, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Clerk Linda Finch. Bob Evans 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.

**DISCUSS FIVE YEAR HISTORY AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR ADVERTISING**

Administrator Patton reported that the five year history and proposed millage rate for advertising is a requirement for the annual budget; we have just received the information we needed so we are in a time constraint with the advertising and public hearings. Mrs. Leverett reported that the net digest, county wide, is \$570,976,329, which is down from the previous year, and we also had a negative inflationary growth number of \$1,072,954. The drop in the digest and the negative inflationary growth both impact the rollback calculation. She has taken the net digest and calculated it times a proposed rate of 11.612 to give us the necessary revenue to meet the FY16 Budget. This number does not include the ½ mill that the Industrial Development Authority has asked for. The ½ mill the assessed digest will produce is \$285,488 in gross revenue; there are some other factors that we have to include in the IDA calculation, just like the county's. That includes some appeals still not settled, and the Board of Assessors feel like we need to account for those appeals as there are a couple of big ones and others that that feel will probably not go in the county's favor. She advised that once you account for those appeals, we normally collect an average of about 92% in a year with the other 8% coming in years later, so those numbers will not be included in the current year's budget. When you take all those things into consideration, the net amount based on the net taxable digest would generate about \$255,310 for the IDA. She has spoken with our attorney, and he is comfortable with this, and it will be another line item in the budget; the money will be distributed from the finance department on a monthly basis. The total county-wide mill rate to meet the FY16 Budget will be 11.612 plus .500 for IDA; this will give a total 2015 mill rate of 12.112. This 12.112 is a total increase in the mill rate over the previous year of 1.282 mills, and .0020 mills is a result of the decrease in the digest, .762 is the mill increase to meet the county budget, and .500 for IDA. She advised that the Special Service District digest calculation is treated a little bit differently by law in that you have to set the tax rate high enough to meet the budget. She has taken the net digest for the Special Service District and calculated a rate that will meet the budget requirements for the revenue generated and this will be an increase of .00007; Special Service District will go from 1.07 mills to 1.14 mills. Also, the county's roll back millage rate for 2015 would have been 10.850, and up to this amount would not have been considered a tax increase as that makes up for the drop and negative inflationary growth in the digest. If we set our millage at 12.112, which is needed to make the requirements of the budget plus IDA, that will be 11.63% increase, and we are required by law to hold three public hearings and one has to be in the evening. They have proposed July 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., and July 31, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

### **APPROVE IDA REQUEST FOR ½ MILL AD VALOREM TAX**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the IDA request for ½ mill ad valorem tax in support of Economic Development which will generate jobs in our community, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with Commissioner Mathis voting no.

### **APPROVE FIVE YEAR HISTORY AND PROPOSED MILLAGE RATE FOR ADVERTISING**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the five year history and proposed millage rate for advertising as presented, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT TO INCREASE AD VALOREM TAXES**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve a budget adjustment to increase ad valorem taxes by \$255,310 and increase our contribution to Industrial Development Authority by \$255,310, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

### **APPROVE MEETING DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Mrs. Leverett reported that we need to set the dates for the public hearings and millage rate adoption date. She advised that the earliest she can advertise the property tax increase is next Friday's edition of the newspaper, and we have to wait at least two weeks before we can adopt the millage rate and at least one week before we can have the first public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the public hearing dates of July 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m., and have the third public hearing on July 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m., followed by the meeting to adopt the millage rate at 2:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **DISCUSS CHANGING METHOD OF BILLING FOR RESIDENTIAL GARBAGE PICKUP**

Mrs. Leverett reported that Advanced Disposal is having difficulty collecting their fees on the mandatory curbside residential solid waste pickup, and they have requested that we change the method of collection to the way that a lot of other counties are doing; the flat fee added to each residential property ad valorem tax bill on the unincorporated ad valorem tax bill. Administrator Patton advised that it is not just Advanced that is dealing with this issue, but it is also the Magistrate Court, Sheriff Department, and Finance Department; it is a real administrative problem. He advised that It is not an increase in cost, and that it is a pretty significant loss of revenue to Advanced Disposal, and not many haulers are willing to handle collection like they are doing. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to table this request until they have a work session on July 28, 2015 at 3:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with Mr. Mathis absent.**

### **APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL AND CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Mrs. Leverett advised that this is really a formality as they have already included these numbers for the public defender in the budget. Our attorney has looked at the numbers, and they match what is in the budget. Administrator Patton advised that this goes back to having to provide another public defender and an investigator, which is an unfunded mandate. The annual increase will be \$60,462.00. **Motion**

was by Mr. Nance to approve the Agreement between the Georgia Public Defender Council and the Crisp County Board of Commissioners for the fiscal period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 as presented and authorize the chairman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried with Mr. Mathis absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 2:56 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with Mr. Mathis absent.

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Clark Henderson, Chairman

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Tom Patton, Administrator