

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2016**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., with Commissioners A. 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.

CLARK HENDERSON ELECTED CHAIRMAN FOR YEAR 2016

Administrator Patton called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Crisp County for 2016. Mr. Nance nominated Clark Henderson and moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Mr. Henderson. **Administrator Patton called for the vote and Commissioners Henderson, Nance, and Felton voted in favor of Mr. Henderson. Clark Henderson was elected chairman for 2016.**

A. JAMES NANCE ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR YEAR 2016

Chairman Henderson called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Crisp County for 2016. Mr. Felton nominated A. James Nance, there were no other nominations. Mr. Nance moved that the nominations be closed. **Chairman Henderson called for the vote and Commissioners Henderson, Nance, and Felton voted in favor of Mr. Nance. A. James Nance was elected vice-chairman for 2016.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the regular December 8, 2015 meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that the Five Year Hazardous Mitigation Grant where they identify the hazards and things that could happen in our community has been approved. Also, he received a letter yesterday that the \$10,000 that they had applied for additional mobile data units in the patrol cars has been approved. He reported that in the Warrants/Civil Division they served 152 warrants, 187 civil papers, 51 subpoenas, and had 174 prisoner court transports. In the Traffic Division they wrote 630 citations with 35 of those in Arabi, 8 in City of Cordele, 17 Superior Court, and 570 Probate Court. They gave out 79 warnings, had 9 drug arrests, and worked 34 accidents. In Inmate Housing they billed US Marshalls 2227 days, Cordele PD 365 days, Warwick PD 14 days, and Monroe County SO 31 days. In Animal Control they picked up 21 animals and had 45 animal assistance calls. In the E-911 report Crisp County SO had 1262 service calls, Cordele PD had 2130 calls, EMS had 474 calls, Crisp County Fire Rescue had 60 calls, and Cordele Fire Department had 27 calls. They patrolled 88,199 miles with operation costs of those vehicles at about .20 a mile. He presented a check to the county for \$80,730.00 for inmate housing.

FISCAL YEAR 2015 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT REPORT

Craig Moye, auditor with Mauldin and Jenkins, presented the FY 2015 audited financial statement. He reported that they once again issued an unmodified or clean opinion, which means that your financial statements are materially correct in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles. They performed their audit under governmental auditing standards and issued that modified opinion. This was the year that the new GASB 68 was implemented. At the end of the year total assets were right at \$76 million including the governmental activities, which include the General Fund, SPLOST Fund, and Special Tax District and the business side which includes the Landfill, Self-Insurance, and Water Fund. The net pension liability is around \$4.7 million, which is what you owe for your employees; this is a new liability this year. In looking at how Crisp County compares to everyone else in the ACCG Plans, the funding percentages are right at 78% and the county is at 75%, so you are right in line with how the other entities are funding. He advised that the county did experience a loss in your governmental activities of about \$1.1 million but then experienced an increase in the business type activities of about \$1.5 million giving a total increase in net position of right at \$375,000; that is taking into consideration depreciation and all the debts. Also, at the end of the year, the General Fund had assets of about \$8.5 million, and \$6.9 million of that was tied into cash and investments. The General Fund generated revenues of \$14.2 million, total expenditures of \$12.4 million, with transfers in and out; you increased your fund balance of around \$1.5 million. He reported that the county takes advantage of the law that allows you to amend your budget and you do so at the latest moment so you can match your revenues to your budget. Total revenues budgeted was right at \$12.7 million and at the end of the year you earned \$14.2 million, a good portion of that came in some charges in services that were greater than anticipated during the year; total expenditures budgeted was around \$12.3 million and the county ended up spending about \$12.3 million so you were right in line of your original budget on the expenditure side. He advised that GASB allowed them to not hit their clients with the entire pension liability, so instead of showing the whole \$4.7 million expense in the current year, they were able to make a prior year adjustment so the liability related to the pension actually did decrease during the current year and you were able to fund it a little more than you had funded in the prior year. He stated that all in all it was a really good year for the county; you were subject to the single audit as you had federal awards in excess of \$500,000, and you were in compliance with all the requirements and internal control requirements. Going forward, the single audit threshold in the past has been \$500,000 now the county will have to spend \$750,000 in federal awards to be subject to that single audit. Chairman Henderson advised that they appreciate all the hard work the auditors do, the finance department and other departments do as well.

DR. MATHEW WHITEST COMMENTS

Dr. Mathew Whitest advised that he wanted to address three items. The first thing he wanted to know was about the Special Local Option Sales Tax and how those funds can be appropriated as he and his team recently acquired A. S. Clark School. They are in the process of developing that facility into a Biomedical Pharmaceutical Research and Development Center and additionally there will be a clinic there. He stated that this county ranks 150 in 159 counties in overall good health and that is because of the high premature death rate, high amount of diseases, like cancer, and overall it affects the longevity of our citizens. The national average life span for Americans is about 78 and in Crisp County it is 71; if you separate it by race it drops down in the 60's for African Americans. Secondly, he wants to bring to their attention that they need to look at some of the things as it relates to hiring in our community as

Crisp County's population is about 55% white citizens and 45% African American citizens; that is not reflected in these county agencies, directors, and clerical staff that you have. He thinks they need to do a better job when there is a change in demographics in the community, that impacts the community and the people that you represent as those people are not making decisions based upon the community they come from but rather making decisions based on where they live. Bringing people in from all aspects of the community reflects the services and you are more sensitive to the needs of all of the community, and they need to bring some systems in place to address the hiring practices. Thirdly he wants to talk about councils that appropriate public funding like the Industrial Development Council. The board doesn't look like the citizens of Crisp County, and he would like them to be a little bit more sensitive to more representation and the needs of all the citizens. Also, when businesses come they are not responsible in making sure that they are hiring from all aspects of the community. Chairman Henderson advised that when a business comes to the community, they look at what our demographics are. Commissioner Nance stated that in his view what Dr. Whitest is saying in terms of looking at the community and development in the past 20-25 years, development has been minimal on the west side even though industrial prospects have come to Crisp County, it is not reflective throughout the community. He thinks his argument is part fair, intellectually articulated, and he thinks there are some valid concerns that he thinks the community and this board should look at and other boards can look at. He doesn't know whether the county commission can resolve all the issues, and he appreciates him bringing these concerns to the board. Administrator Patton gave Dr. Whitest the SPLOST regulations. Commissioner Mathis asked Dr. Whitest to let everyone know what his plans are for A.S. Clark School. Dr. Whitest advised that one of the things they are interested in doing is bio medical research, a major opportunity for southwest Georgia, and also they are also talking to some developers and major pharmaceutical companies to do some research and clinical trials. The second component is they want to make one of those wings in the school a clinic for the west side of the community, but will be open to everyone. Also the gym and auditorium will continue to be available for the community.

RENEE BODREY REGARDING SIMMONS DAIRY ROAD

Renee Bodrey brought a petition signed by the residents of Simmons Dairy Road requesting that their road to be paved; this is the second time that they have petitioned to have it paved. She advised that their road needs some major repairs and every time it rains it creates hazards and problems not only for the residents but for the school board or anyone that travels that road; it is also a direct link from Hwy. 300 to Hwy. 33. They would like to get on the list for getting the road paved. She also had pictures of the road from the last rain that she showed the commissioners, plus they don't understand why some roads with only a few people living on the roads get paved and they have fifteen or twenty residents and they can't get their road paved. The road is progressively getting worse. Public Works Director Carl Gamble advised that this road is on the list to get paved, no other road projects are ahead of them, and the surveys have been done but they have had other projects they had to get done first. Commissioner Nance advised that commissioners are all in agreement with paving of the road. Mr. Gamble advised that he will start the process of getting the deed's drawn up pretty soon, and Mrs. Bodrey will get back with Mr. Gamble to pick up the deeds to have them signed.

DISCUSS DEVELOPMENTAL FOOTBALL TEAM

Charlencia Waters, President of Georgia Flashers a semi-pro football team in this area, stated that they just want people to know who they are; they started the football program in October, 2015, and they are a team that will represent the City of Cordele and surrounding counties by interplaying in a football

league. She advised that the team and organization wants to provide a safe environment for the community to come out and enjoy, and they are open to anyone who wishes to join, ages are 18 and up. They have had fund raisers, and they are collecting donations and sponsorships to help with the starting cost of the organization. They also request usage of a recreation field for practice and to hold their home games. She stated that the Georgia Flashers is a nonprofit organization, they will play ten games, five at home and five away, and the main purpose of the football team is to give back to the younger generation, allow more recreation events in the community, and with the success of this organization, they are hoping to build a legitimate fan base. They think the city will also have an economic impact by receiving more revenue for local stores when the teams come to town. Their purpose in coming before the commissioners is to get recognition from the citizens and to show them that we have something for the younger generation to look up to them. The members of the team introduced themselves. Ms. Waters also stated that this program can provide a second chance for the athletes. Commissioner Nance and other commissioners applauded them as there are a lot of people who may be good athletes but they don't have a coach or someone to advocate for them to go on and play college. Sheriff Hancock advised that he had met with this group, and they need some help and consideration with some practice fields and some of the recreational facilities that might have lights because they are trying to practice after hours, or if you can give them a discount on the electricity to use the fields. Chairman Henderson advised that any way they could help as a board, they want to do that. Commissioner Felton advised the group to get with the Recreation Director and he will set up something for them to practice with the lights on, but they have to make sure the director knows they are there.

REAPPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Rick Lawson as the county attorney for 2016, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

RATIFY ACCEPTANCE OF CDBG 15 AWARD

Mrs. Leverett reported that a couple of days after the December meeting, we received the award letter on the 2015 CDBG-EIP Project, which is the Synergy Project. We had a window that we had to return the award documents back to Department of Community Affairs, and we asked the chairman to go ahead and sign it; today we need to ratify acceptance of that CDBG award. We applied for a \$500,000 grant award and it was reduced to \$332,446 and the remaining \$167,554, with acceptance of the award documents, you are basically agreeing to make up that difference from the Revolving Loan Fund.

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to ratify the CDBG 2015 Award as presented, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

POST AWARD PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant 2015 for Synergy. Mrs. Leverett reported that the funds have been approved for the Synergy Solutions, Crisp County. The project will create 88 jobs, the funding that has been awarded will be \$312,500 for activities assistance to private for profit entities, approximately \$19,946 for activity administration, and the remaining \$5.7 million will be private investment leverage from the company, plus the \$167,554 that will come from the RLF. All of these are federal dollars, and we have to comply with all the federal regulations. She has all the documentation if anyone wants to read it plus it is posted on the bulletin board next to Finance Department. William Creekmore reported that they purchased the facility in

November 2013, they have now opened the facility and have over 40 jobs so far and over 50% of their employees are African American. Over the next six months, they will be hiring about 50 more people. They have put in a lot of money in the facility, and they appreciate the efforts the commissioners made for the CDBG-EIP Grant. He advised that they are bringing expired liquids into the facility, typically soft drinks; they extract the liquid out and make fuel grade ethanol, one of only four plants in the United States that does this. He advised that they have two other technologies that they are working on. One is to completely recycle household garbage, and they hope this will be open by the end of March. The other technology is commercialized metal shredding, and they hope this will begin in April. Mrs. Leverett reported that the county has met all the requirements, and the next step will be to send all the documentation to Mr. Lawson once this public hearing is closed. Mr. Lawson will draft the loan agreements and send to DCA for approval then they will send it back to the county, and the \$332,446 will be paid back into our revolving loan fund. Chairman Henderson asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the Community Development Block Grant 2015 for Synergy; there was none so he closed the public hearing.

APPOINTMENTS TO CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION

Chairman Henderson appointed Mr. Nance, Mr. Mathis, and himself to the Crisp County Power Commission Board for term January 1, 2016 thru June 30, 2016

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEES FOR 2016

Chairman Henderson, with commissioner's approval, left all the commissioners on the county commission committees as they were in 2015.

ADOPTION OF CALENDAR YEAR 2016 FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET AND TAX DIGEST APPROVAL CALENDAR

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a routine matter formally adopting the calendar as a working tool for processing the FY2017 budget and the 2016 ad valorem tax digest. Once you have approved it, she will get to the directors as part of the package that they will get for budget submission; the objective is to make sure everyone is aware of the state deadlines involved in both of these processes and mindful of when things are needed in order for the county to comply with those regulations. The process starts this month with the distribution of the FY17 budget forms and ends with the collection of the 2016 ad valorem taxes. There is one small change; the state changed the deadline for submission of the tax digest from August 1st to September 1st. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the budget calendar, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION SETTING QUALIFYING FEES FOR COUNTY OFFICES

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is an election year so they will need to adopt this resolution setting the qualifying fees. She read the resolution setting the fees as follows: Crisp County Board of Commission District 2, Post 3 - \$360; Crisp County Sheriff - \$1,779.86; Crisp County Clerk of Superior Court - \$1,491.65; Crisp County Judge of Probate Court - \$1,491.65; Crisp County Chief Magistrate, part-time - \$1,078.29; Crisp County Tax Commissioner - \$1,491.65; Crisp County Coroner - \$421.95; Crisp County Board of Education, City of Cordele District - \$116.25; Crisp County Board of Education, East Crisp District - \$97.50; Crisp County Land Surveyor - \$0.00. She advised that qualifying will be March 7-11,

2016, General Primary Election will be May 24, 2016, runoff for that election will be July 26, 2016, and the General Election will be November 8, 2016. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Setting the Qualifying Fees for County Offices in the 2016 General Primary Election, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR DRUG FUND CD

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a resolution the sheriff needs to change the name on a Certificate of Deposit that he has for the Sheriff's Department Drug Fund Account. She read the resolution where certificate of deposits may be utilized as investments in accordance with the guidelines established by local government agencies and the commissioners must designate certain employees and officials of the county as authorized signatories. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution to Update Authorized Signatories for Crisp County Sheriff's Department Drug Fund Certificate of Deposit, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT HOTEL MOTEL TAX ORDINANCE TO REFLECT 5% TAX RATE AS APPROVED BY RESOLUTION IN 2011

Mrs. Leverett reported that the county increased the Hotel Motel Tax Rate from 3% to 5% in 2011 by resolution but the ordinance was never updated to reflect the 5% Tax Rate. She and Attorney Lawson have been working on this, and they have an updated ordinance to present to them today, and basically it increases the tax rate from 3% to 5% and it needs to be adopted retroactive to October 1, 2011. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance to reflect the 5% Tax Rate as approved in 2011 reflective retroactive to October 1, 2011, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of this month's report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds for the first half of FY 16. Combined, these funds are reporting year to date revenues of \$9.4 million and YTD expenditures of \$7.5 million leaving a positive 13% revenue over expenditure balance at 12/31/15; we have received about 62% of the 2014 Ad Valorem Tax revenue projections. The Water Fund YTD revenues were \$324,562 and expenditures \$285,188 giving it a net income after the first six months of \$39,374. Water consumption billed for the month was 4,308,000 gallons, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues were \$1.2 million; year to date expenses of \$622,000 leaves a net gain of \$552,830 at 12/31/15. Total tonnage received for the month of December was 4,949.91. Approximately 33% of that was received under the Advanced Disposal Commercial contract, 15% under the City of Cordele residential contract, and 7% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$3.8 million. In the cash report, the General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$9.7 million; the proprietary funds \$3.2 million, and the SPLOST funds \$7.0 million, leaving a County Wide total at 12/31/15 of \$20.1 million. Of that amount \$8.4 million is reserved or restricted for special uses and/or projects. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$18.2 million leaving us with \$132,400 left to complete the remaining projects associated with this issue. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue expenditures of \$22 million leaves us with \$2.7 million to complete the projects budgeted there. Distribution no. 47 of the 2011 SPLOST Issue, in the amount of \$307,239, representing November retail sales is down 6% from December of 2014. It does bring our issue to date collections to

\$15.4 million; however our monthly average is still over \$9,000 short of what's needed to meet the revised budget for this issue. To date, we have expended \$17.5 million. Following that is the detail list of all the SPLOST Expenditures for the month of December. We spent \$941,390 in total Special Local Option Sales Tax dollars during the month; projects benefiting were Crisp County Airport, County Roads, County Buildings, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. In the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, this month's distribution of \$147,464 is down 6% from this time last year. Next is the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report. As of 12/31/15 the outstanding balance on our seven current RLF loans was \$1,529,281. The last report is a 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. All expenditures should be at 50% or below; the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 49%; the Water Fund is at 45% and the Landfill fund ended the month at 47%.

APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS OF MIDDLE FLINT WIOA AREA 15

Mr. Patton reported that this is a routine renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement by and between local elected officials of Middle Flint Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act in Area 15, which is basically the eastern counties and cities in the Regional Commission. He advised that the Workforce Investment Board is made up of representatives and businesses and the purpose is to develop the workforce in our area. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to renew the Memorandum of Agreement By and Between the Local Elected Officials of Middle Flint Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (WIOA) Area 15, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Patton advised that they have his report in their packet but there are two things he would like to bring out; 1) he would like to commend the sheriff's office and public works department in the good job that they did during the heavy rains and flooding that we have had in the last few weeks, and 2) with all the rains we have had plus when the building was built it was not up to code, the building next door that houses the USDA, FSA, and extension office had four girders to break in the ceiling. The insurance adjuster and an engineer have come in to look and hopefully we will have the work completed in a few weeks. The offices did have to move out for about a week but all offices have returned back to the building except the USDA office that is working out of the Wilcox County agency.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation, seconded by Mr. Nance, with all commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Nance, with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

APPROVE CONSENT ORDER FOR ARABI FEED AND SEED

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the consent order with Arabi Feed and Seed and allow Attorney Jennifer Herzog permission to sign the consent order, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINT JOHN GORDON TO THE AIRPORT BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint John Gordon to the Airport Board, term ending 12/31/20, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT DRAVIEN MCGILL TO THE CRISP/TURNER JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Dravien McGill to the Crisp/Turner Joint Development Authority term ending 3/9/18, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE CRISP COUNTY RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Chris Paul, Charles Kerr, and appoint George Holmes to the Crisp County Recreation Advisory Board, terms ending 12/31/18, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE REFUND TO NOEL WILLIAMS, JR.

Administrator Patton reported that he received a letter this morning from Noel Williams, Jr. advising that on his 2015 property tax they charged him for a boat that he does not own, and he was advised to bring it before the commissioners; he recommends the approval of the boat reimbursement in the approximate amount of \$330.89. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to approve the boat refund on the tax bill for Noel Williams, Jr., seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE CONTRACT SUPPLEMENT FOR DOT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has received notification from the Department of Transportation District Director yesterday that in the FY2016 Capital Contract there is some supplemental money available. She advised that she doesn't have any documents yet but she is asking the commissioners, so that we can expedite it within the window that we have, to approve the local match, \$13,259.40, to replace three vans. She has contacted Resource Management, the third party administrator who pays the local match, and she has confirmation that they will be responsible for the local match. The county will have to write the check and then we will get reimbursed. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Contract Supplement and authorize Mrs. Leverett to send in the local match, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m., seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator