

**MINUTES OF CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 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. Sheriff Billy Hancock gave the invocation, and Mr. 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 regular meeting minutes of January 12, 2016, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported that in the Sheriff's report for the month of January, in the Warrants/Civil Division they served 122 warrants, 232 civil papers, 107 subpoenas, and had 105 prisoner court transports. In the Traffic Division, they wrote 370 citations and 37 warnings, with 22 Arabi citations, 8 City of Cordele, 15 Superior Court, 325 Probate Court; also 7 DUI's, 2 drug arrests, and 28 accidents worked. In Inmate Housing, they billed the US Marshals 2025 days, Cordele PD 319 days, Warwick PD 14 days, Monroe Co SO 31 days, and Bureau of Prisons 12 days. In the E-911 report the Crisp County SO had 1215 service calls, Cordele PD had 1567 calls, EMS had 476 calls, Crisp County Fire had 47 calls, and Cordele Fire had 30 calls. In animal control they picked up 40 animals, sent 33 to the Cordele Animal Shelter, and had 55 assistance calls. In the detention center report, 147 prisoners were booked for January, 155 were released, and had 311 total man hours for transports. They also drove 83,770 miles with cost of .25 mile to operate. He gave the county a check for \$95,907 for inmate housing for December, 2015.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Recreation Director Eric Bozeman reported that 2015 was a great year for the recreation department. On the program side they serviced 1554 participates, and he and the parents appreciate the lower fee rates the commissioners made this year. In the basketball program, they had 18 large teams, and they also had a great year in basketball. He also looked back to 2011, the first year he came to Crisp County; the county had 11 programs and in 2016 we are now have 25 programs. We have had several sports camps also. In the special events side, last year we had 30 special events, which basketball, football & baseball/softball events, and we brought in 481 teams and 21,000 vehicles, which is a big economic impact to the community. He advised that this year they are scheduled for 38 special events, so we will have a busy year this year as well. He advised that last year they had six state football championships in Crisp County, which is not heard of very often in one location as usually they are spread out over the state. He thanked Sheriff Hancock and his staff as our county surpasses what a lot of other tournament venues do by having our sheriff's department deputies on site at the fields. He also advised that they upgraded Pickens Pool last year, they are continuing to work on Reid Park to get the ballfield back in

shape there, and they have taken down a few old buildings that were an eye soar and trying to make the property a little more attractive. He thanked all the department heads as when he has called on them, they have always been there to help. Commissioner Felton stated that the only problem he sees is that during basketball season they didn't really have enough time to practice and play, and he thinks we really need a new gym. Chairman and commissioners thanked Eric and his staff for the job they are doing at the recreation department.

PUBLIC HEARING – SOUTHERN TRANQUILITY SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing for a request from Southern Tranquility (with the property owner's authorization) for a Special Use Permit for a Massage Therapy license to be issued in a GC (General Commercial) Zone district. Property is located at 1482 Ga. Hwy. 90 South. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that Tammy Crumley has a massage license and she would like to locate her business at 1482 Ga. Hwy. 90 South. The property is already zoned General Commercial but it does take a Special Use Permit in order to issue a license for a massage therapist. Ms. Crumley advised that she is licensed in the state of Georgia as a Massage Therapist and will perform therapeutic massages at this location. Chairman Henderson advised that he knows there is a medical need for these services for people that have back problems. He asked if anyone else would like to speak for the request. Jerry Crumley advised that this is his place of business and his daughter; she has put a lot of effort and time into this, and we have the room for her business. Ms. Crumley advised that she went to school in Florida to get certified. Chairman Henderson asked if anyone wanted to speak against the request, there was none, so he closed the public hearing. Mrs. Youngblood read the standards the commissioners have to consider before making a decision. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Special Use Permit for Southern Tranquility at 1482 Ga. Hwy. 90 South, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS VOTING PRECINCT LOCATION CHANGE

Patti Smith, Chairman of the Board of Elections and Registration, advised that they are in the process of searching for a new location for the Jamestown Precinct; the current location is at the Hwy. 300 Fire Station. There are problems with this location with the biggest problem being the parking issue as some of the vehicles have to park on the grass on Hwy. 300 and it does create a dangerous hazard as Hwy. 300 is pretty busy. Also the space inside the building is very limited and when we have a large crowd at the precinct we have people that have to wait outside; the firemen don't have to leave the premises but most of them chose to leave and go to another location for the day. She advised that these reasons are why they are looking for another voting precinct. They have been in contact with Ebenezer Baptist Church as they have built a new fellowship hall and the bathrooms are handicap accessible, it is very spacious, and is off the road with plenty of parking. The church is having a meeting tomorrow night to determine whether or not they will approve the county to use the building. She stated that the property is also pretty centrally located for the Jamestown area, and if this location doesn't work, they do have some other places in mind to look at. They hope to get the new location in place by the May 24th primary. If Ebenezer Church members approve this, they would like to move forward and be able to let the voters know when they come in March that the voting precinct will be changing. The process to change the location would be running an ad in the newspaper two weeks prior to changing the location and post on the old site the location of the new site. Chairman Henderson asked if the only expense the county would have would be to pay for the electricity for the days that we use the building. Mrs. Smith advised that that would be up to the church and they may charge a fee to rent out the facility. Ronnie

Gray, board member, advised that they already provide funding for some of the other precincts that they use, it is worked well, and he thinks the county would be well served by changing this location simply because of the safety factor. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow the Board of Elections and Registration to pursue the avenue of using Ebenezer Baptist Church for the Jamestown Precinct, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that a good many of the county dirt roads are rough and have deep ruts and runoff on the sides of the roads after the rains but we have been very fortunate that even though they are rough you can get from one end of the road to the other. They are working on getting these roads back up to standards. He advised that the paved roads do have a good many potholes, and every day they can they are patching these roads. The bridge at Primrose Bridge Road is about 80% complete, also they have been helping the recreation department with some of the ballfields. He stated that they do have a problem with people throwing garbage out which is stopping up pipes on the roads. The wet weather is affecting the landfill, but they are getting everyone in and out. Chairman Henderson thanked Mr. Gamble and wanted him to let all his employees know that the board appreciates what they do. Mr. Gamble advised that they are also working on Reid Park and the soccer fields at the complex, and the surveyor is working on getting the plats updated on Simmons Dairy Road.

ADOPT PROCLAMATION FOR GEORGIA CITY-COUNTY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION 60TH ANNIVERSARY

Administrator Patton reported that he has a proclamation to recognize the Georgia City-County Management Association (GCCMA) 60th anniversary. He read the proclamation. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adopt the Proclamation for Georgia City-County Management Association 60th Anniversary, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT CRISP COUNTY PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PLAN 2016-2020

Mrs. Leverett reported that the state requires the county to have in place a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan and from time to time we have to update that plan. With the River Valley Regional Commission's assistance and along with the Cities of Cordele and Arabi, they have met and identified all the areas of concern and public safety concerns should we be faced with some type of disaster. They also held the required public hearings, and now is time for the board to approve the plan; the cost to update the plan was paid by grant dollars. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Crisp County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2016-2020, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds ending January 31, 2016 shows monthly revenues combined of \$2.7 million exceeded combined monthly expenses of \$2.2 million, pushing YTD revenues above YTD expenditures by approximately 16%. At the end of the month, the Water Fund increased the YTD net income to \$47,138. Water consumption billed for the month was 6.0 million gallons, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.5 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting accrued YTD revenue of \$1.3 million and accrued YTD expenses of \$739,655 leaving this fund with a net gain of \$562,527 after the

first seven months of the fiscal year. The total tonnage received for the month of January was 4,027.91. Approximately 47% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract, 14% under the City's residential contract, and 8% under the County's residential curbside service contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$3.7 million. In the Cash report, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$11.3 million, the proprietary funds \$3.2 million, and SPLOST funds \$7.7 million, leaving a County Wide total at 01/31/16 of \$22.2 million. Just under \$9 million of that amount is reserved or restricted for special uses and/or projects. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$18.2 million leaving us with only \$131,413 to complete the various projects associated with this issue. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures to date of \$21.6 million leave us with just under \$3.1 million to complete the projects budgeted under this issue. Distribution no. 48 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$338,779 is down about 5% from a year ago. It does bring issue to date collections to \$15.7 million but drops the monthly average down to \$328,213, which is almost \$9,500 short of what's needed to meet project budgets. We will continue to monitor this very closely. Additional project budget adjustments may very well be needed before this issue is complete. To date, we have expended \$17.4 million from this issue. We spent \$186,289 in Special Local Option Sales Tax dollars during the month. Projects benefiting were County Roads, the Darton Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. This month's distribution of \$162,619 in the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions is down, just like SPLOST, about 5% from the previous year and the total collections for calendar year 2015 were about \$75,000 less than the 2014 distributions. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we have a total of seven outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$1.5 million. The last report included 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. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 64%, the Water Fund is at 53% and the Landfill Fund ended the month at 55%. To date we have received about 89% of the amount projected for 2015 Ad Valorem Tax Revenue.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that his report is in the packet but he would like to brief the commission on a couple of things. They are in the process of getting all the repairs done at the Ag building but in that process, they found that over time the ceiling had actually sagged about 14 inches, and they are almost complete in getting that all complete. All the offices are up and running in the building except USDA and they are operating in Wilcox County office. Also, Friday afternoon the managers and Grant Buckley, IDC Director, met with a company that is willing to take out those buildings the IDA owns on the other side of Darton College at really no cost because they will recycle the timbers and brick. He also advised that a local relater brought in a Chinese company in that is looking at an industrial building in the Industrial Park east. One of the main reasons they are looking here is because of the Inland Port and the proximity to the rail lines.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

DISCUSS FIRE CHIEF APPLICATIONS

Administrator Patton reported that he and a couple of fire chiefs in the area have had several interviews with applicants for the fire chief, and they will interview about ten people in all, and hopefully by the end of next week they will be through with the process and be able to announce a fire chief.

ADOPT POLICIES PROTECTING NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Administrator Patton reported that as a part of the Comprehensive Plan, the state requires that we now have to establish more policies to help preserve our natural resources in the county. He has a resolution to adopt these policies which include; 1) protection and conservation of our resources will play an important role in making decisions about future growth and development; 2) we will take into account impacts on infrastructure and natural resources in our decision making on economic development projects; 3) we will support appropriate residential and non-residential in-fill development and redevelopment in ways that complement surrounding areas; 4) our community will make efficient use of existing infrastructure and public facilities to minimize the need for costly new and/or expanded facilities and services; 5) we will encourage new development to locate in suitable locations in order to protect natural resources, environmentally sensitive areas, or valuable historic, archaeological or cultural resources from encroachment; and 6) we will carefully consider both benefits and costs to the community when making decisions on proposed economic development projects. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to adopt the Resolution to Adopt Policies Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator