

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON MAY 10, 2016**

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Crisp County Government Center, Room 305. Commissioners present were A. James Nance, Wallace Mathis, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton. 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. Chairman Henderson welcomed all in attendance.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 12, 2016, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE NATIONAL TRAVEL TOURISM WEEK PROCLAMATION

Chairman Henderson read the National Travel Tourism Week Proclamation. The proclamation stated that Cordele-Crisp County generated \$43.1 million in direct tourism, \$1.54 million in State Tax, \$1.2 million in Local Tax, 380 jobs and \$7.84 million in payroll and that tourism is the number two industry in the State of Georgia and in Cordele-Crisp County. Chairman Henderson gave Eli Tinsley, on behalf of the Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce, the proclamation and thanked the chamber for what they do in promoting our town. Mr. Tinsley thanked the commissioners for their participation in supporting the recreation department because that is one of the largest draws to our community.

FAMILY CONNECTION UPDATE

Sherry Evans, Director of Crisp County Family Connections, advised that Georgia Family Connection partnership is a state non-profit and have a legislative point of duty in each county in Georgia. Their job is to look at their statistics and address the issues that impact families and children. Their concern is that children are healthy, they are ready for school, they are successful when they get to school, their families are stable and self-sufficient, and that the community is a strong community. Their main goal is the partnering in bringing those people that provide services and programs for families and children together to collaborate to identify resources, share resources, identify and fills gaps in services, and strengthen partners that address the issues. She provided a list of the Family Connections activities, and thanked commissioners and the administrator for their support and continued support. Commissioners thanked Mrs. Evans for what she and the partners do for the community.

COUNTY OF EXCELLENCE AWARD PRESENTED

Chairman Henderson advised that some of the commissioners went to Savannah for an Associated County Commissioners of Georgia conference, and the county and the hospital received a County of Excellence Award. He presented the award to Administrator Patton and advised that it was for a wellness program in Crisp County; Crisp County was one of five counties that received an award. Administrator Patton reported

that this gives the county bragging rights and helps support our hospital as with all the problems the state has with rural hospitals, everything that we can do to support our hospital is a positive thing.

APPROVE UTILITY AGREEMENT FOR EXECUTION

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that several years ago the county voted in the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) and now some of the money is coming back to the county. One of the things on the list when approved was the widening of the Hwy. 280 Bridge. The county has a waterline that is attached to that bridge, and the DOT advised that they will incur 100% of the \$180,784.72 for the relocation and reconnection of the water line on the land side of each side of the bridge. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to give the chairman the authority to sign the TIA Utility Agreement for improvements of the waterline on the Hwy. 280 Bridge, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2014 AND PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Mr. Gamble advised that county attorney Rick Lawson is still trying to get all the land acquisitions squared away on the Community Development Block Grant 2014; we have been ready to go to bid since August 2015 but we need to get those deeds signed as our time frame is getting close. Mr. Lawson is having difficulty in getting the last few signatures. Commissioner Felton advised that if he could get a copy of the list of names remaining he can talk with people in the area and see if they can get the signatures. Mr. Gamble also advised that public works is complete with Reid Park and it looks good; they should hopefully have all the right-of-way deeds finished and get out to the individuals by the end of the week for Simmons Dairy Road; they have several resurfacing projects being advertised for bidding; they are clipping shoulders on a good many roads for the Off System Transportation stripping and signage that will be let by the DOT at the end of May; and they are continuing helping on 8th Street with demolition for IDA. Chairman and Commissioners thanked public works for the quick response during the storm last week.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Chairman Henderson asked Administrator Patton to go over the Sheriff's report. Mr. Patton reported that the sheriff's department served 432 warrants, civil papers, and subpoenas; they wrote 643 citations and 65 warnings; they had 1839 total days billed in inmate housing; they picked up 26 animals and had 57 animal assistance calls; they booked 181 prisoners in the detention center; the deputies traveled 9425 miles during the month; and they had 2409 service calls to Crisp County Sheriff's Department, 2982 to Cordele Police Department, 986 to EMS, 116 to Crisp County Fire Rescue, and 60 to Cordele Fire Department with 7924 total service calls. Major Wiggins with the Sheriff's Department thanked the commissioners and the community for the support of the sheriff's department.

PRESENTATION OF FY17 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Mrs. Leverett reported that in accordance with our adopted budget calendar it is time to present a preliminary budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. She is presenting a budget proposal and this is not the final budget. She stated that the finance committee has been meeting with department heads and divisions. They started out with almost an \$800,000 shortfall in the General Fund, and as of today it is a lot closer but not there yet but all other funds are balanced. They do have a work session after this meeting to catch the rest of the board members up on things and how they got from \$800,000 to \$200,000 shortfall.

She reported that as of today the General Fund is unbalanced with a \$298,331 shortfall at \$13,623,752; other funds are balanced with the Law Library budget at \$36,000; Jail Maintenance Fund at \$221,000; D.A.T.E. Fund at \$43,000; E911 at \$975,481; TSPLOST–SRF at \$419,653; CDBG 14–Southern Pines at \$487,460; Special Service District at \$1,466,320; Hotel/Motel Tax Fund at \$38,400; Asset Forfeiture Fund at \$75,000; 2000 SPLOST Fund at \$100,000; 2005 SPLOST Fund at \$1,625,000; 2011 SPLOST Fund at \$3,700,000; TSPLOST at \$312,747; Water Fund at \$621,400; Landfill Fund at \$1,718,772; CDBG Revolving Loan Fund at \$18,700 with total budget of \$25,482,685. She advised that one of the key items in the General Fund is a rise in our health insurance cost this year and the total increase for that cost is almost \$150,000; we are proposing some plan changes to hold it down to as small of a number as possible. She recommended having the budget public hearing at our regularly scheduled June meeting on June 14th. Commissioner Nance advised that is going to be a conflict with the power commission conference. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to change the regular meeting date and budget public hearing to June 7, 2016, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Leverett reported that she will begin the advertising process based on the June 7th meeting, and copies are available for the public in the Finance Department in the Government Center.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined these funds are reporting YTD revenues of \$15,162,728 and YTD expenditures at \$13,201,414 providing a positive 13% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1,961,315 at the end of April. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures bring YTD totals to a net income of \$70,894. Customer usage billed for the month was 4,561,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues of \$1,711,004 and \$1,030,040 in YTD expenses leaves the landfill fund with a net income of \$680,964. Total tonnage received was 4293.79; approximately 48% of that was delivered under the Advanced Environmental commercial contract, 12% under the City's residential contact and 6% under the County's residential service contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$3.6 million. We ended the month with just over \$10 million in the General and Special Revenue funds combined, \$3.2 million in the proprietary funds and \$7.1 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving us a county wide total at 04/30/16 of just over \$20 million. Of that amount \$14.8 million is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$18.2 million leaving only \$127,000 to finish out this issue. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, we have total expenditures of \$21.8 million leaving just over \$2.9 million to complete the projects included in this issue. The downward trend remains consistent for the 2011 SPLOST Issue as Distribution no. 51, representing March retail sales, in the amount of \$320,635 is also down 5% from this time last year. To date we have collected \$17.5 million in revenue under this issue and expended or appropriated \$16.6 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of April were County Roads, County Buildings, Recreation, the Darton Project and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. L.O.S.T distributions, just like SPLOST, came in 5% less than April of 2015. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for all these accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the period of July 2015 through April 2016. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund; all departments and divisions should be at or below 83% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General and Special Revenue Funds at 87%, the Water Fund at 73% and the Landfill Fund at 77%.

CLOSE OUT PUBLIC HEARING FOR CDBG 12/STELLA JONES PROJECT

Chairman Henderson opened the public hearing. Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a close out public hearing on our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) EIP 2012, which was the Stella Jones project. It was for the construction of a railroad tie production and distribution center and to facilitate the creation of 45 jobs. That project is complete and this it is a formality required by CDBG. Chairman Henderson asked for any comments regarding this grant. Herbert Gladdin asked how many people were employed at the present time, and Grant Buckley, IDC Director, advised that it is right on target. There were no other questions or comments, so Chairman Henderson closed the public hearing.

ADMINISTRATOR PATTON'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) the finance committee has had budget meetings with the department heads and Elected Officials during the last month; 2) Reid Park is about 99% complete and they are working on something to go where the old building at the park was and this will give more ballfields when they have ball tournaments as these fields are built exactly like the other ballfields; 3) he and the commissioners attended the conference in Savannah and the highlight of that conference was the County of Excellence Award; 4) he thanked all the departments involved and public safety for the excellent work they did last week during the storm and public works is still working on getting some of the trees removed; and 5) a large impact on our budget is the legislation that the counties and ACCG sponsored that was not passed in the last legislative session including the Excise, TATV, and Gate taxes.

UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Chairman Henderson asked Grant Buckley to talk about the projects that he felt comfortable in talking about and advised that Mr. Buckley is doing a phenomenal job and we are fortunate to have him in the county. Mr. Buckley reported that he thinks they have three to four prospects that he would term pretty serious, and they are trying to get to the finish line on these projects ranging from 10 employees to 125 employees. It is out of the IDC's hands and more on their side of getting across the finished line; they are doing all they can and thank the commission for their support. There are several other inquiries and showings around the community that he is not counting. He stated that he thinks the state of the economy is very good, we are at 6.1% unemployment and have several industries in the community that are quietly and internally growing. Also, the Development Authority inherited some property downtown as part of the Darton project and there is some excess property that was not required for Darton so the IDA was left with this property; a lot of the property is very dilapidated and dangerous so they are taking steps to take care of that liability and demolish some of those buildings that are beyond repair. A contractor is doing the work, it is not costing the IDA anything as his compensation is the value in the materials that he is getting and the county has agreed to take away material the contractor does not want. He stated that he is now a property owner of Crisp County. Lastly, the Cordele Intermodal project is really three projects in one. The first project is the railroad spur extension funded jointly between the state and the county for almost one mile of track, the second project is about an eight acre pad that is next to the rail spur that will be used to stack containers that the city has taken on, and the third project will more than likely be a paving project for that pad. That project is adding employees as we speak.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and property, seconded by Mr. Nance, 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, with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

APPOINT BOARD MEMBER TO CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint Dr. William Pannell to the Crisp County Board of Health replacing Dr. Charles Ruis, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

CONTRACT BETWEEN CITY OF ARABI AND BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Administrator Patton reported that the city attorney for Arabi brought a contract for the Board of Elections to conduct the elections for the City of Arabi; they had talked with the Board of Elections and they have agreed to hold the elections for the City of Arabi. We just need approval from the Board of Commissioners.

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the contract between the City of Arabi and the Board of Elections, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 a.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator