

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 9, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Clark Henderson in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center. 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 19, 2016, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE TAX REFUND FOR MICHAEL DURDEN**

Administrator Patton reported that Michael Durden has asked for a tax refund on his boat. It has been reviewed by the Tax Assessors' Office and himself and there was an error. Mr. Durden paid taxes on a boat that he sold with the property, and the new property owner paid the taxes also. He recommends a refund be made as calculated by the Tax Commissioner. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve a tax refund for Michael Durden calculated by the Tax Commissioner, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE TAX REFUND FOR EVAN CRENSHAW**

Administrator Patton reported that Evan Crenshaw has also asked for a tax refund on a boat, and he did appeal it and the taxes need to be corrected. He recommends a refund be made subject to calculations from the Tax Commissioner. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve a tax refund for Evan Crenshaw calculated by the Tax Commissioner, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NECESSITY OF E911 CHARGES OF LANDLINE, WIRELESS AND  
VoIP TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is an annual action that is required by the state and basically we have to reaffirm the fees that are assessed on landline, wireless and voice over internet protocol (VoIP) within Crisp County where the revenues go into the E911 fund. There is no change except updating to the current dates; all of these lines are still \$1.50 per month per subscriber. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adopt the Resolution Reaffirming The Necessity Of Enhanced 911 Charges Of Landline, Wireless And Voice Over Internet Protocol Telecommunication Connections Within Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE NECESSITY OF E911 CHARGES OF PREPAID WIRELESS  
TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is similar to the previous resolution, the only difference is that this addresses prepaid wireless telecommunications; those fees are assessed at .75 per retail transaction. There is no change in this fee either. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution Reaffirming The Necessity of Enhanced 911 Charges Of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunication Connections Within Crisp County, Georgia, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT 2016 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is the final step in the 2016 tax levy and digest process once the resolution and associated documents are approved and signed; we will turn this over to Mrs. Adkins, Tax Commissioner, and she will submit it to the state for approval. She advised that the overall digest was up \$6.3 million, the gross tax rate was down, the sales tax rollback was also down, and this brings our millage rate to 12.120 for 2016. She read the 2016 Tax Levy Resolution stating the County Millage Rate for non-duplicate services necessary without consideration of joint Sales & Use Tax set at .015300, County Millage Rate, which if levied, would produce an amount equal to the Joint Sales & Use Tax received during the preceding year at .003180, and total County Millage Rate at .012120. Also for the providing for Planning & Zoning, Solid Waste Collection, and Fire Protection services in the unincorporated area at .001141, and maintenance and operation of the School System for education purposes at .017450. She stated that the school board had their meeting last week and she does have their resolution affirming the .017450 millage signed by them. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the 2016 Tax Levy Resolution, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first report is for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, monthly revenues for these funds are at \$682,257 million with expenditures coming in at \$1.4 million. This leaves a -4% shortfall of revenues over expenditure after the first thirty days of FY 17. We expect the revenue shortfall trend to continue for the next few months. Cash reserves are sufficient to carry us through until the revenue numbers begin to increase. In the Water Fund, monthly numbers at \$64,370 for revenue and \$44,559 in expenses leaving this Fund with a preliminary net income of \$19,812. Customer usage billed for the month was 9,341,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$143,497 in monthly revenue; \$97,855 in expenses, leaving the landfill fund with a preliminary net income of \$45,642 at July 31, 2016. Total tonnage received for the month was 4524.25 tons. Approximately 45% of that was delivered under the Advanced Environmental commercial contract, 12% under the free residential City contract and 7% under the County's residential curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$3.5 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$8.4 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$3.4 million in the proprietary funds and \$7.3 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$19.1 million. Over \$8 million of that balance is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, there were no changes to report over the last 30 days, we still have just under \$125,000 remaining to complete this issue. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, also no activity during the month of July; fund balance remains at \$2.9 million to complete the projects included in this issue. Distribution No. 54 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue, received in July representing June retail sales in the amount of \$345,006 is down about \$15,000 or -4% from this time last year. To date we have collected

\$17.6 million in revenue under this issue and expended or appropriated just over \$18 million. Our monthly average is running over \$12,000 per month short of what will be needed to meet the revised Budget. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of July for a total cash outlay of \$194,173 were the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, Crisp County Recreation, Crisp County Public Works and Sanitation Departments, Darton Project and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. This month's distribution of \$165,595 on our L.O.S.T. is also down 4% from July 2015. For the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we currently have ten loans with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million at July 31<sup>st</sup>. The final report included is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the first month of FY 17. All departments and divisions should be at or below 8% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds at 9%, the Water Fund at 7% and the Landfill Fund at 8%.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Patton advised that his report is in their packet and he won't go over it but he would like to remind them that the Legislative Fall Conference will be September 28 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, and as soon as they can check the calendar, please let Linda know if they can attend so she can make reservations. He also mentioned that he got news yesterday that the counties in the ACCG workers compensation program are getting a one-time refund from the workers compensation program; Crisp County's check will be approximately \$45,000. He and the chairman will be going over to Lee County to receive that check from ACCG Friday. He also thanked the commissioners, staff and citizens for their thoughts and prayers during the sickness and death of his mother; it was a big help to them and they do appreciate it.

### **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock reported that the deputies wrote 727 traffic citations, they served 170 warrants, 151 civil papers and 227 subpoenas, and they had 146 prisoner court transports. They housed 1448 billable days for US Marshals, Cordele PD, Warwick PD, and Monroe County SO and turned over \$57,176 for housed inmates last month. Commissioners thanked the sheriff and his department for the excellent work they do.

### **UPDATE FROM PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Public Works Director, Carl Gamble, reported that Reeves Construction Company will finish signing all the paperwork and will receive the notice of award tomorrow to begin work on the fourteen miles of paving projects in the county primarily in subdivisions and Arabi-Warwick Road from Raines Station to Hwy. 33. If all goes as planned, Reeves should be beginning work in about two weeks and hopefully complete by mid-October. They have received LMIG monies for widening and shoulder paving on Drayton Road from CSX railroad to Coney Road. He also has been in touch with GDOT bridge engineers and they are putting together some plans to temporarily repair Slade Bridge Road, while they can proceed on to permanently repair the bridge. They are also putting together the list for the 2017 LMIG. Commissioners thanked Mr. Gamble and his staff for the hard work they do in the county.

### **COMMENTS FROM IDC DIRECTOR**

Grant Buckley, IDC Director, reported that the county's unemployment rate is 17% down from where we were a year ago, June numbers were 6%. He thanked the commissioners for meeting with the Governor

at the airport last week, the partnership within the county has been great and it was evident between the Inland Port project and the subsidiaries of Kia Motors; this board committed \$500,000 in that project several months ago for a railroad spur extension at the Inland Port and that was matched by state Department of Transportation funds. They will have the final walkthrough on this project next week. Also, Mr. Farrow had asked and he is following through on the idea is trying to form a railroad coalition of counties across the state and talk about how we can support the Heart of Georgia railroad and improve the infrastructure of that rail; they will meet in two weeks to discuss this. On the prospect activity side, we have a couple of minor setbacks with a start-up company that was to be made up of primarily farmers and the farming year has not been well and it has made it difficult for that company to raise the money so for the time being that project has been tabled. They do have one company that has already closed on a building here and is renovating that building now and will start hiring next year but they are not ready to announce anything publically. They are also in final negotiations with other companies. Commissioners thanked Mr. Buckley for the great work he is doing in the community.

#### **COMMENTS FROM RUSTY SLADE REGARDING AGRICULTURAL CENTER**

Rusty Slade reported that the young farmers, 4-H, FFA have elaborated and put together a project for the county and school board for a new agricultural center; it will be a partnership with the school board and county. It is in the preliminary phase now and this will be a way to educate our youth as well as adults and also bring in some economic factors as well.

#### **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, motion carried 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. Felton, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**

#### **REAPPOINT TWO MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Jeffery Hunt and William Turner to the Board of Assessors from September 1, 2016 until August 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS RAISE**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the budgeted approved amount for salary for the Board of Assessors, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPOINT MEMBER TO CRISP/DOOLY JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to appoint James R. (Dicky) Dowdy to the Crisp/Dooly Joint Development Authority effective immediately, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE OPTION AGREEMENT WITH CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Option Agreement for lease of Real Estate with Crisp County Board of Education substantial in the form presented to be finally negotiated by the county administrator, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

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Clark Henderson, Chairman

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Tom Patton, Administrator