

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2016**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Clark Henderson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center. Commissioners Authur James Nance, Wallace Mathis, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton were in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and Planning Director Connie Youngblood. Sheriff Billy Hancock gave the invocation, and 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 minutes of the regular meeting held on August 9, 2016, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Curry and Ms. Hardeman, Youth Development Center had requested to be on the agenda but were not present for the meeting. Mr. Henderson stated that they were recruiting volunteers for employment at the YDC for counseling. Mr. Felton stated that he would get with the ladies for a follow up after today's meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE PERMIT – LINDSAY PASSMORE

Chairman Henderson advised that the public hearing is for a request from Lindsay Passmore for a Special Use Permit to locate a Beauty Shop in an RR (Rural Residential) zoned district. Property located at 4371 US Hwy. 280 East. He opened the public hearing. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, spoke on behalf of the request for Ms. Passmore. Ms. Youngblood stated that Ms. Passmore has currently been working at a beauty shop in town but wanted to relocate her business to this location and that the beauty shop was going to be located in an existing building. Chairman Henderson asked if anyone would like to speak for or against the request. David Gandy stated that he lives across the road from where Ms. Passmore is going to operate her business and he has no objection to the request and is glad to see a business going there that would supply a service to the surrounding area and is in support of the request. Dickie Dowdy also stated that they are very fortunate to have Lindsay opening the shop at this location and that he is in support of the request. Mrs. Youngblood read the ten standards the commissioners have to consider when approving a Special Use Permit. Chairman Henderson closed the public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the request from Lindsay Passmore for a Special Use Permit to locate a beauty shop in an RR (Rural Residential) zone district, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER A FIRE DEPARTMENT MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN CRISP AND DOOLY
COUNTIES**

Fire Chief Jonathan Windham presented the request to the Board. Chief Windham told the Board that this need was only until he can get the fire station built on the north end of the county and there are two

stations that fall in the category, Dooly and Drayton within the 5-mile radius for the discount on the ISO credit. Chairman Henderson asked what the rate from a 10 would go to. Chief Windham replied a nine and possible a five. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Fire Department Mutual/Automatic Aid Agreement between Crisp and Dooly, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

ACCEPTANCE OF LOW BID AND APPROVAL FOR CDBG 14P-Y-040-1Y5658. SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Public Works Director Carl Gamble stated there were seven bid documents that was picked up, he also stated that he received an email yesterday afternoon that said they needed to ask for an extension in the grant period for the CDBG since the two years is up. He stated that he needed to know when the construction is to begin and completed so they can get that extension for asphalt from DCA. He asked the commissioners if they wanted to accept the bid now of \$449,267.38. Mr. Henderson stated that this is the only thing that can fix the problems in that neighborhood, they have septic tanks down there that won't percolate and love her or hate her but Connie is what keeps stuff like this from happening, is the Planning and Zoning Department. Mr. Gamble stated there was no sanitary sewer in that area and it has a high ground water table in the older part. Mr. Henderson stated that he was glad that they were able to get these grants to benefit the citizens, there are a lot of hoops involved in getting these grants and that Mr. Felton had worked on some of this to get this finalized. Mr. Mathis thanked the state and the CDBG for allowing this funding and the easiest way to trim budgets is by turning in good grants and he appreciates all the work that has been done. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to accept the low bid from Popco Inc. for \$449,267.38, seconded by Mr. Felton. Mr. Nance stated that he would like to include that motion to accept for an extension as well. Mr. Gamble also asked they could add a possibility of adding a 3rd party. Mr. Henderson asked for all in favor of the motion with amendment as stated, let it be known as stated I. Motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS'S REPORT

Mr. Gamble also asked the board if he could discuss the LOR which is the speed zone ordinances that they had problems with that needed to get straightened out. He stated that after about three consecutive days with DOT they finally have it straightened out and he has the new ones that need to be signed; the process to go through has already been done, just need new signatures. He also updated the commissioners on the Slade Bridge Road project. He stated that he received some information last week and just to repair what is there is around \$50,000.00, but they will not allow them to increase the weight limits or anything else on that bridge when that money is spent and that is with the understanding that when they do that they will put it on the low bridge impact program which could take up to two years and waste the \$50,000.00. He told the members he went back and asked for an estimate to replace the entirety of the bridge (removal and all) and put a new one in its place and that cost was \$589,200.00 to take that one out and they could do that now, so his question is that he would like to pursue with the DOT Commission with the opportunity to see what kind of funding is available and not go with the low impact bridge program but go on and put a new bridge in there. He said he had spoken with some DOT offices and there may be some monies available, does not know how much but would like to pursue it. Mr. Henderson asked if school buses use that road. Mr. Gamble replied they can. Mr. Mathis stated there was a saying of throwing good money after bad and that is exactly what that would be doing. Mr. Gamble stated to replace it you can get the weight limits back up to what it needs to be and that it won't be a wide bridge like on Primrose but it would be a bridge that fits the road itself and a lot wider than

what is on there now. Mr. Henderson asked if they could get a grant or are they just going to have to find the money somewhere. Mr. Gamble stated that is what he was going to talk with the DOT Commissioner about to see if there were any bridge monies available; the only other option available is they still have the majority of the monies sitting there out of this year's LMIG, \$538,000.00 that will have to be submitted during December but was hoping they could get other monies and still continue paving with the \$538,000.00. Mr. Henderson told Carl to find out what the best route to take is. Mr. Farrow told Mr. Gamble that he would also like to see what the cost would be to do the by-pass road that they had talked about just to compare it and would not have to worry about doing the bridge again, basically the same thing they did with the bridge on Coney Road. Mr. Gamble also stated that the paving contractors should be moved in here in the next couple of weeks to start putting the asphalt down, and that they had been trying to get up to their 200 tons of garbage per day at the landfill and that during the month of August they had been up to 197 tons per day.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that there was not anything out of the ordinary on his report and he had given Sherrie a check for \$50,422, which was down a little bit his month but still a positive check coming in. He stated they were housing about 40 federal inmates a day they were down to about 30-35 last month but that is coming up. Sheriff Hancock also stated that Sherrie would be bringing them a couple of grants that they have been able to receive through Emergency Management, and one that was set up yesterday they received notice last week from the Governor's office for a \$10,000.00 (almost \$11,000.00) grant to buy bullet proof vests to replace the ones that their special response team has as the vests are reaching their 5-year limit. He told the board they are finishing up their final stages of the courtroom and they are almost complete with the renovations in the processing room; now the officers no longer have to turn their backs to work on the computer when processing and everything is done in that one sitting. He invited the Commissioners to come by and take a look at what was going on. Mr. Felton asked the Sheriff if everyone was signed off on the radios with the school systems. Sheriff Hancock stated they had worked on it and he knows the attorney had the MOU's and he knows the school board is supposed to approve their MOU tonight at their meeting but would have to yield to Mr. Patton and Sherrie for the others on theirs. On a final comment – Sheriff Hancock stated the chatter has been because they have lost a couple of people within the last few months. Sheriff Hancock told the Board last month it was a couple but if you kept up with it they have lost a couple more over the last 30 days; one had 18 years' experience and is going into the private sector, and one has gone with Department with Public Safety on the Motor Carriers Division. He told the Board that the State has offered a 20% raise for the next budget session and that is going to hurt them. He stated that when he is paying a detention officer \$25,000-\$26,000 a year to start and the State is starting them off at \$30,000, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that if they are going to be locked up inside a detention center 12 hours a day working with inmates and they can make \$4-\$5 thousand dollars more a year with this agency instead of this agency then that is where they are going to go. He stated that is why they started years ago trying to certify any detention officer that wanted to go to school and the Commissioners were great on that. He stated that puts a detention officer at \$26,000 up to \$31,500- \$32,000 by attending mandate school. He stated there was going to be a push state wide to try and find funding to pay officers more than what they are making now for what they are going through.

UPDATE FROM FIRE CHIEF JONATHAN WINDHAM

Chairman Henderson stated that he wanted Fire Chief Jonathan Windham to come up and give an

update on what is going on. Mr. Henderson also stated that Chief Windham had managed to get the County a 6-thousand-gallon tanker for \$200.00 and it is things like this that are available to the Counties if you have someone that will go out and take advantage of it. Chief Windham stated they had about 48 calls for the month of August which is down about twelve, two structure fires, four vehicle fires, two wrecks, one woods fire, twenty-nine medical calls and 10 other alarms that did not fit into the categories. Chief Windham stated they have gotten their training and paper work up to date with the State Fire Marshall and the Georgia Fire Fighters & Standards Training Camp. He has appointed Mike Postell as Assistant Fire Chief and he is doing a wonderful job. Chief Windham stated they have completed the tanker with the help of Public Works, they have re-roofed the training tower with donated material from Payne's Roofing; most recently they have gotten a couple of local businesses who have agreed to pay for several of their classes which include a Confined Space Class and High-Angle Rescue Class that is going to be taught at their department. Also, one of the businesses has agreed to build THEM a burn building if he can pull the materials together; this will also help their ISO rating. They participated in the back to school bash, Honors day for the National Guard, and Fire Safety month begins at the end of this month and goes through the month of October and they will try and touch base with every person from day-care all the way to third grade along with home school kids. Also, Fort Valley State College agreed to give them some beds and end tables that they were getting rid of and at the same time offered them a good chance at an F-450 truck rescue truck, which we will receive a massive amount of ISO points for and they are working on the Automatic Mutual Aid with Dooly County Fire Dept. He stated the biggest issue to work out has been communications between the two and we are on a completely different system from them. He stated he has been in touch with the Tift County Fire Dept. and their EMA Director has agreed to give them a piece of equipment that will allow them to be able to talk together, also renovations are to begin tomorrow at Station 1 and they have started the Explorer Program back up. The Board thanked Chief Windham for everything he did.

UPDATE FROM ERIC BOZEMAN WITH THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Eric Bozeman told the Board that he wanted to say first of all that he thought the County had one spectacular team. He stated that Public Works and Sheriff's Department have helped him out a lot over the last couple of months with some different projects and things going on and he wanted to say thank you to Mr. Patton and Sherrie as they have been wonderful in helping them out and getting them through some times and working on different projects going on. He stated they had their Opening Day/football an 11-hour day, the heat was pretty tough but his staff was there until the very end, they had couple thousand people out there. He stated for their cheerleading/soccer ball program for this fall has over 500 people which is a 20% increase, he stated he did not know the exact cause of the increase – could be the fees are lower, he has heard a lot of positive things because of fees, or it could be the high school football teams have increased their number of wins lately. They facilitated a horseshoe tournament Saturday at Turner Park, basketball registration will start in October, fall programs will still be going on while they begin registering for winter programs, and fall tournaments begin September 24th. They have also renovated two fields at the ball complex to get them to match other fields giving them a total of 9 fields. They are trying to get some larger tournaments here for 2018, 2 - 3 day events.

UPDATE FROM GRANT BUCKLEY/IDA

Mr. Buckley told the board that basically the state of our economy is good, late spring through early summer those unemployment numbers have been bumping between 5.2 and 5.9% unemployment and that same time period couple of months ago it was up over 7% about a 17-20% decrease in

unemployment rate over the last 12 months. He stated he drove out to the Inland Port earlier today and that project is coming along well, asphalt down, fencing up, and have containers some stacked three high. He stated that the whole project could not have happened without the partnership of multiple bodies; this body being one of them with a commitment of \$500,000.00 for the railroad spur extension. He reported that he drove by Big Tex Trailers and there was a sign out front saying "We're Now Hiring". He also reported that Marvair was hiring and in the non-manufacturing Engo Money is hiring, by the end of the year adding about 100 people. He stated he was not aware of any company here that is threatening to close down or struggling; things had slowed down a little over the summer but things are starting to pick back up on the prospect activity front and he likes to think a year from now we are going to be a lot more international than we were a year ago. Mr. Buckley stated that we have a Canadian operation here—Norbord; we have an Irish Company that has closed on a building here but not ready to publicly announce it, and they have some folks from China that we are talking to. He advised that this Inland Port is being watched all over the State and congratulations to this community for envisioning this 5 years ago, it started off with two employees and one train a week going to Savannah, now they have over 100 employees and two trains a day going from here to Savannah. The commissioners thanked Mr. Buckley for the job he is doing.

ACCEPTANCE OF LOW BID AND APPROVAL OF VENDOR CONTRACT FOR THE CRACK SEAL AIRPORT PAVEMENT DOT/AVIATION PROJECT

Finance Director Sherrie Leverett advised the commissioners that they have two Airport contracts, everything had been completed according to DOT's and FAA's regulations and the engineers have reviewed and approved the bid specs and documents in those packets. Ms. Leverett stated there is only one contract on the agenda but actually have two. Ms. Leverett stated the 1st one is the Remarking Contract, project cost is \$176,599 with a local match of \$8,829, and the low bid for that contract is Peek Pavement. Ms. Leverett stated she did not have the original contract but if the board would approve the proposed contract, the contractor was going to overnight the original one not to hold up the project would like to get the approval for the chairman to sign those documents when the originals come in pending final review from our attorney. Ms. Leverett gave the board the project cost for the second one which is the Crack Seal Contract, she advised the board that the project cost is \$114,194 with a local match of \$4,914 with an additional local funding required because of the project. She advised the board that both of these projects were bid out earlier this year in March and the contractor pulled out on the bid and it had to be re-bid. She stated there was an additional \$16,000.00 required of local money from the Airport SPLOST fund to go into this project for a total local match on Crack Seal of \$20,836. Chairman Henderson stated that he would like to make a recommendation that the company that did not honor the bid that he would like to see that the County not accept any more bids from them. Ms. Leverett advised the board that the vendor on the contract that won the low bid of \$114,194 was JJ Cunningham. Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to authorize chairman to sign for the Crack Seal for the Airport with a bid of \$114,194.00. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Nance, subject to final review, motion carried unanimously.** Chairman Henderson asked for a motion to approve the Remarking Contract of \$176,599.00. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Chairman to sign each document and the Remarking Contract, subject to attorney's review, seconded by Mr. Nance. Motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first thing she has are two grants on behalf of the Sheriff's Department. One is the Bullet Proof Vest Grant. She stated the money does come from GEMA and is a total grant of \$10,850. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to authorize the chairman to sign the grant for the Bullet Proof Vests for the Sheriff's Department, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Leverett advised the board that the second grant is also a Georgia Emergency Homeland Security Grant for Annual EMA Director with the total amount of \$17,754 with a local match of 50% of that at \$8,727, Ms. Leverett advised that this grant helps pay for the salaries of the EMA personnel, any equipment, travel, training and those type things in the EMA division of the Sheriff's Department. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to accept this Emergency Management Grant and to authorize the chairman to sign up on attorney's review, seconded by Mr. Nance. Motion carried unanimously.** Ms. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report is the report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, these funds are reporting YTD revenues received of \$1.4 million and YTD expenditures at \$3.6 million leaving us with an -13% net shortfall after the first 60 days of this fiscal year of \$2.2. Also, as a matter of information, we have received notification from the Department of Revenue that our 2016 tax digest packet was found to be in proper form along with authorization granted to the Tax Commissioner to proceed with the 2016 Ad Valorem Tax billing process. With \$130,411 in YTD revenue and \$100,115 in YTD expenses, the Water Fund ended the period with a net income of \$30,297. Water consumption billed for the month was 9,655,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenue of \$299,004 and YTD expenses at \$ 260,427 leaves this fund with a net income at 8/31/16 of \$38,576. The total tonnage received for the month was 4,937.54. Approximately 43% of that was received from Advanced under their commercial contract, 11% under the city's residential contract and 6% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$3.5 million. In the cash report, the General Fund and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$8.2 million, the proprietary funds with \$3.5 million and the SPLOST funds at \$7.2 million, bringing County wide total to \$19 million at 8/31/16. Of that amount over \$14 million is reserved or restricted for special uses or projects. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we spent an additional \$9,000 during the month of August, dropping the remaining balance there down to \$115,585. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures of \$21.8 million leave us with \$2.9 million to complete the projects as budgeted under this issue. Distribution no. 55 of the 2011 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$326,135 is once again down just under 7% from August of 2015. It does bring issue to date collections to \$17.9 million but drops our monthly average down to over \$25,000 short of what is going to be needed to meet the revised budget. To date, we have expended and/or appropriated \$18.1 million. We spent \$442,904 in Special Local Option Sales Tax dollars during the month of August. Projects benefiting were County Buildings, the Cordele-Crisp County Airport, the CCSO, the County Health Department, County Sanitation and Solid Waste, the Darton College Project and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Next, this month's distribution of \$156,539 is also down 7% from this same period last year for the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we currently have ten loans with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million. The last report included is the 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 below 17%. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 22%; the Water Fund is at 16% and the Landfill Fund is at 15%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) he and the chairman traveled to Leesburg and received a \$45,000.00 one-time workman's comp rebate check from ACCG. The Board of Managers decided that was too much money to hold in reserves for that account so they made redistributions back to the Counties; 2) he and the chairman traveled last month to Vidalia to a meeting that Grant Buckley has set up on Sam and Central Railroads, well received by everyone with a benefit for all the cities and counties along that line to get this thing up; 3) the County will be doing some in kind work at the Park – Friends of the Park allocated \$17,000.00 to extend five more campgrounds at the Park and the State has different rules where local engineers and surveyors cannot be used and just getting that down used most of the money so Public Works will be doing some work for that project. Mr. Felton asked Mr. Patton for an update on Daron College in reference to someone new. Mr. Patton replied that they have an Interim and are still working through the merger with over 900 check list items that have to be completed. Mr. Felton also asked the status of the soccer fields. Mr. Patton replied that Carl Gamble is working on several projects and that is one of them and would take a lot of work.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel, 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. 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 11:55 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator