

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 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 present were A. James Nance, Sam Farrow, and Larry Felton, with Commissioner Wallace Mathis absent. 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 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 Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 11, 2016, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

INTRODUCE CRISP COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE NEW EMPLOYEE

Randy West with Crisp Extension Service introduced Andrea Scarrow, the new Program Development Coordinator for the Southwest District Extension. Ms. Scarrow stated that they are thrilled to be here today and thanked the commissioners for their cooperation in support of the extension service in Crisp County. It is her honor to help their Family and Consumer Science Agents (FACS) get started and trained and on to a good program in each of their counties. She advised that for the last few years, Crisp County has been without an agent, and she is thrilled to introduce Rebecca Stackhouse as the new FACS agent in Crisp County; she has had many varied experiences so far working with youth and families and has her Master's Degree in Family Study and brings a lot of talent to Crisp County. She will begin on December 1, 2016. Ms. Stackhouse thanked the commissioners for the support in helping the position be available to her in Crisp County. Chairman Henderson, on behalf of the commissioners, thanked Ms. Stackhouse for the services she will be providing in Crisp County and any way this board can help, let them know.

CRISP COUNTY DFACS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Jena Jones, Director of the Crisp County Department of Family and Children Services, thanked Commissioners for allowing her to talk today and also the financial support and resources they give to the department every year. She also wanted to make the commissioners and community aware of some of the things they will be doing over the holidays. They will have a food drive to distribute to some of their veterans and homeless families that they encounter daily and will also be giving out food baskets to their families that are less fortunate; they will have boxes in their lobby if anyone wants to come in and drop off canned goods. Also they are doing Secret Santa for their foster children. She wanted the commissioners to be aware that there are three pillars DFACS is operating on around family centered services based on children and families. The first one is making sure that all of the 159 counties operate under the same umbrella, truth, values, efficiency and a philosophy that they are willing to make Georgians self-sufficient, motivated to work, and help them with any financial services, employment or Medicaid; the second piece is the hiring as they have had robust hiring this year and also retention of their workers; and the third pillar is to build partnerships with everyone in the community and also build

other partnerships. She advised that they are still recruiting for foster parents, right now Crisp County has six foster homes and Dooly County has two. Chairman Henderson, on behalf of the Commissioners, thanked Ms. Jones and her department for all the work they do.

APPROVED SPECIAL USE REQUEST FROM OXFORD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that the decision on the request from Oxford Construction Company was tabled last month until we could get an agreement regarding the roads repair and upkeep. They now have the agreement and Oxford Construction has agreed and signed the paperwork. Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that Oxford has repaired places on Old Penia Road and have done exactly what they said they would do. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Special Use Permit to operate a borrow pit with the agreement attached, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE A SIX MONTH MORATORIUM ON NEW CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR FIELDS

Mrs. Youngblood reported that she had a call about someone possibly interested in a three hundred acre solar field, and she thought we might need to have a moratorium on permitting solar fields until they can prepare some stipulations and also get input from the power commission. Administrator Patton advised that we do need to make sure that this complies with our land use plan. Mrs. Youngblood advised that the six month moratorium will allow her to get the ordinance together and make sure we are protecting the county, and it may be that we will have it before the six months and can lift it at that time. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Setting Temporary Moratorium On Permitting Solar Energy Systems, And For Other Purposes and giving authorization to the chairman to sign the resolution, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S UPDATE

Sheriff Hancock reported that his report is in front of them and ran about like it does every month and they turned over \$55,000 in revenue this month. In regards to the accident in Peach County Sunday night where two deputies responded to a disturbance between neighbors, the deputies took the complaint from the plaintiff, which was over riding a motorcycle and four-wheeler; when they drove up in the driveway of the suspect to get his side of the story, he didn't have a weapon showing or any signs of aggression and spoke in a quite manner, within a matter of five minutes both deputies were shot in the head. Deputy Daryl Smallwood, who had spent five years as a deputy in Crisp County, is still in ICU in Macon Medical Center. Some of his employees are struggling with this. The men and women of the sheriff's office here gathered Sunday night and circled with prayer, someone posted it to Facebook and that post has been looked at over 500,000 times and there is an article in a Washington, DC newspaper today in regards to what the men and women of this sheriff's office did; that speaks highly of those men and women and this community to profess their faith and show their concern about their fellow officer.

APPROVE BID FOR 2016 DRAYTON ROAD PROJECT

Mr. Gamble reported that after duly advertised and bid, the Drayton Road shoulder paving project, which is a supplement to the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant, bid was \$215,440.00 from Reeves Construction Company. This was the low bid and only bid on the project. He advised if the commissioners agree to accept the bid, the Department of Transportation has already made the process

to start the disbursement of the funds back to Crisp County. Also, he said there is a difference of \$50,440.00 that the DOT will reimburse the county, and Administrator Patton stated that will come out of SPLOST funds. The project will go from CSX Railroad to Coney Road. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the bid from Reeves Construction Company of \$215,440.00 for the 2016 Drayton Road shoulder paving project as presented, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF THE GDOT 5311 TRANSIT APPLICATION FOR FY18

Mrs. Leverett reported that it is time to apply for FY18 funding for the GDOT 5311 Transit Application, nothing has changed since last year. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Filing of an Application with the GDOT and the United States Department of Transportation for a Grant for Public Transportation Assistance under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Laws under Chapter 53 of Title 49 U.S.C., and authorize the chairman to sign the paperwork, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

DESIGNATION OF DOR FOR SALES TAX REFUNDS

Mrs. Leverett reported that the Department of Revenue has implemented a new regulation where they now require counties to formally authorize a designee to receive notices of any sales tax refund claims that are of significance to our county. She has prepared the letter noting herself as the designee as the finance director; we have been doing this in the past, they just want a formal designation. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the letter to send to the Department of Revenue designating Mrs. Leverett, Finance Director, as the person that will receive information regarding sales tax claims for the county, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE FISCAL YEAR 2016 FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is the annual budget adjustments for FY16. The summary includes General Fund original budget of \$13,435,180, final budget \$13,437,580; Law Library original budget of \$26,500, final budget of \$51,200; Jail Maintenance Fund original budget of \$217,720, final budget of \$201,720; DATE Fund original budget of \$52,989, final budget of \$24,875; E911 Fund original budget of \$899,460, final budget of \$875,235; TSPLOST Special Revenue Fund original budget of \$0, final budget of \$929,077; CDBG EIP Projects original budget of \$0, final budget of \$332,866.00; CDBG 14 CL/SP Sewer original budget of \$499,328, final budget of \$42,650; Special Service District original budget of \$1,548,576, final budget of \$1,490,518; Hotel Motel Tax Fund original budget of \$40,000, final budget of \$41,050; SPLOST 2000 original budget of \$476,500, final budget of \$766,800; SPLOST 2005 original budget of \$350,000, final budget of \$1,448,828; SPLOST 2011 original budget of \$3,805,000, final budget of \$3,205,530; TSPLOST Fund of \$722,200, final budget of \$726,512; Water Distribution Fund original budget of \$630,642, final budget of \$650,492; Landfill Fund original budget of \$1,355,451, final budget of \$2,001,576; CDBG RLF fund original budget of \$22,500, final budget of \$326,300; Asset Forfeiture Fund original budget of \$75,000, final budget of \$75,000, with total original budget of \$24,137,046 and final budget of \$26,627,809. She advised that this is to shore up the actuals to the budget numbers as required by the state of Georgia and the Department of Audits. In addition to those we also have a project budget adjustment on the 2011 SPLOST as we moved \$153,585 to cover projects that came in over original projections, the offset to cover that and the shortfall in revenues came from contingency and the postponement of radio equipment that will hopefully fall into the next SPLOST. **Motion was**

made by Mr. Farrow to adopt the budget adjustments and the projects on the 2011 SPLOST funds as presented, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE REVOLVING LOAN FUND FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN FIBER WORX, LLC

Mrs. Leverett reported that the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) committee has met and discussed for reviewing an application for Southern Fiber Worx, LLC in the amount of \$400,000.00 in support of a fiber optic network project for Crisp County which will create and retain twenty to twenty-five jobs. The RLF committee is recommending approval of this funding, the funds are available and it meets the criteria required for RLF funding. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to approve the Revolving Loan Fund funding for Southern Fiber Worx, LLC, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that included in the financial report is a preliminary report for the period of July through October, 2016. The report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds combined, shows year to date revenues received of just over \$4 million and YTD expenditures at \$5.8 million leaving a -11% net shortfall of just under -\$2 million. The 2016 Ad Valorum Tax payments have started to trickle in; to date we have received about 5% of those revenue projections. With \$247,232 in YTD revenue and \$166,375 in YTD expenses, the Water Fund ended with a small net profit of just over \$80,857. Water consumption billed for the month was 7.2 million gallons and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenue of \$557,941 and YTD expenses at \$483,239 leaves this fund with a net income of \$74,701. The total tonnage received for the month of October was 4099.31. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$3.4 million. In the Cash Report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined ended the month with \$8.7 million, the proprietary funds with \$3.6 million and the SPLOST funds at just over \$7.4 million bringing the County wide total to \$19.8 million. As of October 31, 2016 we have now spent just over \$18 million on projects associated with the 2000 SPLOST Issue and almost \$22 million on projects approved under the 2005 SPLOST Issue. Distribution no. 57 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$284,047 is down 3% from the distribution received in October of 2015. It brings issue to date collections to \$18.4 million and drops our monthly average down to \$324,303, -\$35,750 per month short of what is needed to meet the revised budget. To date, we have expended or appropriated just under \$18.3 million. We spent \$298,186 in SPLOST during the month and projects benefiting were County Buildings, the Cordele-Crisp County Airport, Recreation, County Roads, Courts, EMS, Darton College and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. This month's distribution of LOST funds of \$136,333 is also down -3% from this same period last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report we remain at nine outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$2,339,420. Also, in the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund, expenditures should be below 33%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are at 35%, the Water Fund is at 27% and the Landfill finished the period at 32%.

CRISP COUNTY COUGARS IN PLAYOFFS

Commissioner Nance stated that the Crisp County Cougars have done a phenomenal job with Coach Shelton Felton, undefeated, and he thinks it has been about thirty years since a team from Crisp County has been undefeated. He asked everyone to come out and support the cougars, and what he likes about

Coach Felton in he is always working on trying to get his players scholarships, they have all taken SAT's, and they are very prepared as he is really involved in the players. Commissioner Larry Felton said they have had a great season, and the fans have really supported the team this year.

SYMPATHY FOR WILLIE PICKEN'S FAMILY

Commissioner Farrow expressed his sympathy to the Willie Picken's family as Mr. Pickens was a great ambassador for this county, advocate for both sides, well respected, and a great guy and meant a lot to this community. Commissioner Nance stated that he was tough but well respected. Commissioner Felton agreed with other commissioners.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that they did have the Pension Plan Board of Trustees meeting last week and we are still exceeding our benchmark even with the economy like it is, our pension fund is invested across the spectrum. There are a couple of GASB rules that have been passed and the federal government is redoing the mortality tables; they are not through with the tables yet but the indicators show that public sector is not living as long as private sector; that will affect how much we will have to put into the pension plan. Also, he has received a report from Moody's, who issue our ratings, and this year's report stated that Crisp County has a solid credit position, the county has a very strong financial position, and the economy and tax base of the county are satisfactory but are slightly weak. He advised that they have the rest of his report in their packet.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, seconded by Mr. Farrow, 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.

CREATE ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR POSITIONS

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to create the Assistant Fire Chief's position and also create the Assistant Public Works Director's position, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Clark Henderson, Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator

