

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR
MEETING HELD ON MAY 9, 2017**

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center with Commissioners Wallace Mathis, Larry Felton, and J. R. Dowdy, III in attendance. 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 Farrow welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on April 11, 2017 and the called meeting held on April 25, 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT PROCLAMATION FOR FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. Patton read the Proclamation For Food Allergy Awareness Week promoting food allergy awareness and proclaiming May 14-20, 2017 as Food Allergy Awareness Week in Crisp County and encourage the residents of Crisp County to increase their understanding and awareness of food allergies. Rebecca Stackhouse, Family Consumer Science Agent, stated that they have distributed flyers in the school system and she will have an article in the paper this Saturday talking about food allergies. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the Proclamation For Food Allergy Awareness Week, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

UPDATE ON SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Denise Youngblood, Chief Deputy, stated that commissioners have a copy of their stat report from last month, and she gave a check to the finance director for \$65,946.00 for last month. She advised that this morning they are working on getting the emergency siren up and in place in the Tremont community, and they did have two illegal dumping cases from the weekend that were committed by the same person and they have made an arrest in those cases. Also, they are actively pursuing these illegal dumping issues that are going on in the county.

**APPROVE TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE UNIFIED LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE FOR THE PURPOSE OF
CREATING A NEW PRINCIPAL USE DEFINED AS SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM**

Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that about six months ago the commissioners placed a moratorium on solar fields in the county. We held a public hearing last month and today they will need to approve a Text Amendment to the Unified Land Development Code that creates a new principal use defined as Solar Energy System. She read the review checklist Standards. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Text Amendment to the Unified Land Development Code for the purpose of creating a new principal use defined as Solar Energy System, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT THE ORDINANCE IN REGARD TO SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS

Mrs. Youngblood advised that the public hearing was held last month in regard to Solar Energy Systems. She asked if the Commissioners wanted to change anything on the draft copy that was presented at the public hearing, and there were no changes from the Commissioners. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the Ordinance in regard to Solar Energy Systems, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion was carried unanimously.**

APPROVE TAX REFUND REQUEST FROM RODGER FIELDS

Administrator Patton reported that Rodger Fields had a request regarding his property tax and requesting a refund for prior years; it has been reviewed by Chief Tax Assessor Sean Sammons and he advised that there were some errors on his taxes and Administrator Patton advised that he recommends that commissioners approve a tax refund for Mr. Fields as calculated by the Tax Commissioner's office. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve a tax refund for Rodger Fields as calculated by the Tax Commissioner's office, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE TAX REFUND REQUEST FROM FULTZ BROTHERS, INC.

Administrator Patton reported that Fultz Brothers, Inc. had a request regarding their property tax and also requested a refund for prior years taxes; it has been reviewed by Chief Tax Assessor Sean Sammons and he advised that there were some errors on his taxes and their calculations were incorrect and recommends that the commissioners approve a tax refund for Fultz Brothers, Inc. as calculated by the Tax Commissioner's office. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve a tax refund for Fultz Brothers, Inc. as calculated by the Tax Commissioner's office, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF FY 2018 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mrs. Leverett reported she has the preliminary worksheet on the FY 2018 Budget. She stated that once all the requests were received we started out with a county-wide deficit of \$2.4 million, \$1.7 million of that was in the General Fund. She advised that we should be able to make the window as required to have the budget ready for approval before June 30th; the finance committee does have some more meetings scheduled this week and we will continue to try to bring it in balance as required by Georgia Law. There is no action required today, this is just a matter of information and to show you where we are, and hopefully we will have a balanced budget at the June meeting. She stated that she does need action today to set a date for the budget public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to set the Budget Public Hearing for Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS ON 2017 SPLOST

Mrs. Leverett reported that they have been working on the 2017 proposed continuation of the Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) that the county and cities of Cordele and Arabi have been working on. The paperwork today is the Intergovernmental Agreement between us and those cities. The last page of the Intergovernmental Agreement has the proposed final numbers for each entity with total amount projected of \$20,100,000; of that amount, they are proposing that \$5,632,820 or 28% will go to county-wide community projects, \$9,049,225 or 45% to county projects, \$5,168,955 or 26% to the City of Cordele projects, and \$249,000 or 1% to the City of Arabi projects. The Intergovernmental Agreements have been

prepared by her and Attorney Lawson in accordance with state regulation, draft copies have been sent to the cities along with the request for them to present for approval at their next meeting. She advised today, to meet our window set by the state regulations, we need to first approve the Intergovernmental Agreement, and then we will ask for a resolution authorizing the chairman to sign. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement Between Crisp County And The City of Cordele And The Town Of Arabi For The Use And Distribution Of Proceeds From The 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax For Capital Outlaw Projects, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS ON 2017 SPLOST

Mrs. Leverett read the Resolution approving the 2017 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement and authorizing the chairman to execute the agreement on behalf of the county. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the Resolution By The Crisp County Board Of Commissioners Approving The 2017 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement And Authorizing The Chairman To Execute The Agreement On Behalf Of The County, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE THE MENTAL HEALTH MONTH PROCLAMATION 2017

Sherry Evans stated that on behalf of the mental health strategy team, which is one of Family Connections teams addressing the needs of family and children they are thanking the commissioners for acknowledging May as Mental Health Month as their team works to assess and address and identify the state of mental health services in Crisp County; they appreciate the county's partnership. She introduced their team that was present which included Sylvia Koontz, Mary Beal, and Karla Woodall. Administrator Patton read the Mental Health Month Proclamation 2017 proclaiming the month of May 2017 as Mental Health Month in Crisp County and calls upon all to increase awareness and understanding of mental illnesses, to fight stigma and discrimination, and to promote appropriate and accessible services for all people living with mental illnesses. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the Mental Health Month Proclamation 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

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 \$15,122,568 and YTD expenditures at \$13,201,414 providing a positive 10% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1,732,402 at the end of April. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures brought YTD totals to a net income of \$199,053. Customer usage billed for the month was 6,449,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$1,449,942 in accrued YTD revenue, \$1,192,114 in YTD expenses leaving a net income of \$257,827. The total tonnage received during the month was 4,668.62, and the GEFA Loans are current at \$3.2 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$10.7 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$4.2 million in the proprietary funds and \$6.1 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total at 04/30/17 of just over \$21 million. Of that amount almost \$15 million is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. In the 2000 SPLOST Issue, we have spent \$18.2 million leaving \$101,000 to complete these projects. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, we have total expenditures and appropriations of \$24.5 million leaving just over \$257,000 to complete the projects included in this issue. This month's distribution of \$330,714 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue is actually up over last year by about 3% but still short of what it was in

the first three years of this issue. To date we have collected \$20.3 million in revenue and expended or appropriated \$18.7 million. Just like SPLOST, this month's L.O.S.T. receipt came in around 3% more than April of 2015. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund, we ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$2.6 million for all these accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the ten-month period which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each department and total for each fund. All departments and divisions should be at or below 83% of their annual allowances; preliminary numbers show General and Special Revenue Funds at 81%, the Water Fund at 60% and the Landfill Fund at 69%.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that the CDBG 14 Project, the sewer project in the south part of Cordele, is winding down and the contractor is patching the roads and all the connections have been made and turned over to the City of Cordele; Slade Bridge is open; the large resurfacing project that they have on going in several subdivisions is also winding down as there is a little pavement painting and grassing to complete; they are still working on FEMA road projects; and they are working on getting their job at the ball complex complete.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that besides his report in the packet, they have been working on projects for FEMA, he has been working on SPLOST and budget a good bit of the time last month, and their economic presentation team met with a prospect at the spec building and showed them this property, which is the second time they have met with them but they are also looking at a couple of other counties as well; they should know in a week if they choose our county.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator