

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR
MEETING HELD ON JUNE 13, 2017**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr. called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center, with Commissioners Authur James Nance, 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. Rev. David Grantham, pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church, 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 of May 9, 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION COMMENDING CAYDEN DANIELS AS 2017 GRPA STATE CHAMPION IN 100M AND
200M DASH**

Administrator Patton read a Resolution commending Cayden Daniels for taking top honors in the 100 Meter and 200 Meter events in the GRPA State Track Meet with times of 13.90 and 29.34, Cayden won the 2017 GRPA State Titles for 100 Meter and 200 Meter Dash and brought those honors back to Crisp County. Eric Bozeman, Recreation Director, stated that what makes Cayden so unique from most of the athletes that participated is that he has only been running track for about three months prior to this, and he went out and did something extraordinary that all the kids in the state would have loved to do.

ADOPT RESOLUTION COMMENDING RICKY JOHNSON AS 2017 GRPA STATE CHAMPION LONG JUMP

Administrator Patton read a Resolution commending Ricky Johnson for taking top honors in the Long Jump event in the GRPA State Track Meet with a distance of 14 feet 2 inches; Ricky brought those honors back to Crisp County. Coach Morgan stated that he saw a lot of potential in the team this year and he was overwhelmed at Cayden, Ricky and all the team for the hard work the whole team did, especially Cayden since he had just began running track.

CHARLES HARDEMAN'S COMMENT REGARDING LANDFILL FEES

Charles Hardeman stated that when curbside garbage was created a few years ago, the commissioners said that the citizens would be able to go to the landfill without paying a tipping fee, a lot of people are on fixed income and they can't afford to pay the fee and they have starting throwing trash all over the county. He asked if the commissioners couldn't give the citizens one day a month to take garbage for free. Chairman Farrow thanked Mr. Hardeman for bringing this to the board's attention but the government cannot stop littering; the people are going to have to start at home. He advised that they have looked at doing

something like this but one of the problems they have is EPD regulations, they will look into it and take it into consideration. Administrator Patton stated that the county did have a dumpster at the landfill gate for a few months but were inundated with garbage from this county and other counties and it would take the employees a while to get it cleaned up on Monday mornings before they could even get trucks into the landfill. Mr. Nance stated that he knows we have a contract with Advanced Disposal but he thinks we should consider this and see what could be done.

PUBLIC HEARING – APPROVE SPECIAL USE REQUEST FROM GRASP INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Chairman Farrow opened the Public Hearing for a request from Grasp International, Inc. for a Special Use Permit. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that this is a request from Grasp International, Inc. for a Special Use Permit to operate a Church/Place of Worship/Religious Organization in an RR (Rural Residential) zone district. The property is located at 215 Oak Road, Arabi, Ga. Jason Hamlin, president of Grasp International, stated that they are an international ministry and work with churches in the states to do missions overseas. They purchased this property in February and he and his family have moved here; they want to build five to six cabins, ranging from 500 to 800 square feet each, on the back side of the property for pastors and their families to come and relax and spend time with their family. They believe if a pastor and his family are strong it will make the church stronger. This would be their headquarters to raise funds for their trips overseas. They started Grasp in 2012, they are a non-profit organization, and they want to give back to the community. He stated that they are 100% donations based and right now they have funds for two smaller cabins and as money comes in they will continue building; their donor base is 500-600 families, churches, and businesses. Last year they built a hospital in Kenya, orphanages, and churches overseas. Chairman Farrow reminded all in attendance that this is not a zoning change request, it is a special use and the decision can be made at this meeting today. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the request. David Grantham, pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church, stated that he has known Jason for about six or seven years as he is on the Grasp International's Board and one thing he has known about Jason is that he is very giving, everything he gets in life he is giving it to someone else; that is the way he feels about this location and he wants to invest in the local pastors around the United States that can come here free of charge and they can get rest that they desperately need. He highly recommends this as Jason is a man of character and integrity. Frank McGarr stated that Jason is a stand-up gentlemen, he is going to do everything with emphasis on the Lord and the community. He thinks this idea is wonderful, and if the community embraces this he thinks it would be a blessing for Cordele. Mike Dorrough, pastor of Riverbend Baptist in Gainesville and a native of Cordele, stated he had the privilege to be Jason's youth pastor in Warner Robins and he also served in Brazil with Jason; this would be a treasure for Cordele and something for our city to be known for so the pastors can come and have rest. He appreciates the commissioners' consideration of this and hopes they will grant favor on it. Clint Brannen stated that he knows all of these individuals and they are the cream of the crop, they are Christians that put their money where their mouth is, they work for the Lord. He thinks this is a God send blessing, and he knows that Donnie Haralson, former owner of property, is happy. Gail Johnson asked if they get a Special Use Permit is it going to be tax free land and will it fall on the other tax payers in Crisp County. Chairman Farrow advised that will have to apply and go the Tax Assessor's later for that answer. Chairman Farrow asked if there were any more comments for or against the request. Darlene Moore advised that she went on the website and it showed that they had recruitments, and she wanted to know if they are going to recruit people to come over here; she doesn't understand why it says that if the Grasp is a part of that. She

has talked to some other pastors around and they have never heard of this organization, and if people are going on a mission trip they feel in their heart from God to do it, not to be recruited. Mr. Hamlin stated that on their website it states that their organization will work together with someone or if they want the organization to help work with them to raise funds, get involved with churches, and find people to go on mission trips. Mrs. Youngblood read the Review Checklist Standards for a Special Use Request. Chairman Farrow closed the Public Hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Special Use Permit for Grasp International, Inc. to operate a Church/Place of Worship/Religious Organization with the following conditions: newly constructed roadway to be approved by emergency personnel prior to construction, and access code for emergency personnel if gates are to be installed, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

THANK COMMISSIONERS FOR SLADE BRIDGE

Greg Slade stated that he wanted to thank the Commissioners for the support and construction of Slade Bridge on Slade Bridge Road.

APPROVE REVISIONS TO 2017 SPLOST INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has the revised Intergovernmental Agreements regarding the 2017 proposed SPLOST referendum between the county, City of Cordele, and the Town of Arabi. The one that commissioners approved last month was not approved by the city, and the revision is the same except it includes any proceeds over the \$20,100,000 budget would be split according to the population. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the 2017 SPOST Intergovernmental Agreements, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF REVISED 2017 SPLOST INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Leverett advised that when we revised the agreements we also have to approve a revised resolution authorizing the chairman to sign the Intergovernmental Agreements. She read the Resolution authorizing the imposition of a one percent county special purpose local option sales and use tax and giving the chairman to execute the Intergovernmental Agreements. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve A 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 RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE 2017 SPLOST

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is the final resolution that we will need to adopt concerning getting the 2017 SPLOST on the referendum, once this is approved we will forward a copy to the Elections Supervisor and she will take steps necessary to have it put on the November ballot. She read part of the resolution imposing one percent sales and use tax for the purpose of financing roads, streets, bridges, and certain capital outlay projects. The SPLOST shall be reimposed in the County for six years beginning January 1, 2018 to raise an estimated \$20,100,000 for the purpose of funding, pursuant to the Intergovernmental

Agreement previously entered into between the County, the City of Cordele, and the Town of Arabi including the acquisition, construction, equipping and installation of certain capital outlay projects. She stated that Section 1 outlines the community wide projects, total of \$5,632,820; Section 2 summaries the Crisp County part, total \$9,049,225; Section 3 summaries the City of Cordele projects, total of \$5,168,955; and Section 4 summaries the Town of Arabi projects, total of \$249,000, and the tax will be imposed for a period of 24 consecutive calendar quarters. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve A Resolution Of The Board Of Commissioners Of Crisp County Imposing A One Percent Sales And Use Tax As Authorized By Article 3 Of Chapter 8 Of Title 48 Of The Official Code Of Georgia Annotated; Specifying The Purposes For Which The Proceeds Of Such Tax Are To Be Used; Specifying The Maximum Period Of Time For Which Such Tax May Be Imposed; Specifying The Estimated Cost Of The Facilities To Be Funded From The Proceeds Of Such Tax; Requesting The Election Superintendent To Call An Election Of The Voters Of Crisp County To Approve The Imposition Of Said Tax; Approving The Form Of Ballot To Be Used In Such Election; And For Other Purposes, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 18 PROPOSED BUDGET

Chairman Farrow opened the Public Hearing for the FY 18 Proposed Budget. Mrs. Leverett reported that there is a public hearing and it has been advertised as required. She stated that everything is balanced in the proposal: General Fund balanced at \$14,548,662, Law Library at \$40,000, Jail Maintenance Fund at \$215,150, D.A.T.E. Fund at \$43,000, E911 at \$956,594, TSPLOST Special Revenue Fund at \$728,000, CDBG 17 at \$50,952, Special Service District at \$1,657,800, Hotel/Motel Tax Fund at \$40,000, Asset Forfeiture Fund at \$75,000, 2000 SPLOST Fund at \$100,000, 2005 SPLOST Fund at \$210,000, 2011 SPLOST Fund at \$1,805,814, TSPLOST at \$220,000, Water Fund at \$647,400, Landfill Fund at \$1,646,187, CDBG RLF at \$17,100, Self Insurance Health Benefit Fund at \$100,500, making a total proposed budget of \$22,403,293. She advised that the CDBG 17 Grant has not been approved yet but we are anticipating that it will be approved for the Willow Lake water improvements so the local match had to be included as part of the transfers in the Water Fund. Also we are closing the Self Insurance Health Benefit Fund out at June 30th but we will have some activity that will have to be wrapped up and posted in 2018 budget. She stated there is no action today on the numbers; it is just a public hearing. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone would like to comment on the proposed budget. Mrs. Leverett stated that if these numbers hold, we don't anticipate a tax increase and there is one fee increase in the day camp at the Recreation Department which will go up \$10.00 per week because the day camp is not paying for itself. There were no other comments, so Chairman Farrow closed the public hearing.

SET JUNE 27TH AT 1:00 P.M. TO ADOPT THE FY 18 FINAL BUDGET

Mrs. Leverett reported that commissioners need to set a time for the adoption of the budget. The legal window of the time would be sometime between June 26th and June 30th. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to set June 27th at 1:00 p.m. to adopt the FY 18 Final Budget, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**RATIFY CONTRACT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND THE GA. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND
ALLOW CHAIRMAN TO SIGN GRANT APPLICATION LETTER FOR COPS**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that he would like the commissioners to ratify a contract they have with the Georgia Department of Agriculture for the market expenses; the current contract has increased by \$8,000 as they gave \$30,000 for the market security plus they also purchased a computer and will pay for Wi-Fi to operate the computer three months so the officer working at the market can stay at the market and do his reports there. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to ratify the Contract Agreement between Crisp County and the Georgia Department of Agriculture, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Also the Sheriff stated that they have received a \$10,000 GEMA Grant award, a non-cash match, through the Homeland Security to enhance their operations center; they will be able to take the items that are on an analog computer and move them up to digital. They hope if a disaster happens in this area, this center will become a full office for both the Georgia Sheriff's Office and Georgia Department of Transportation. They were able to obtain this grant on a 2015 Homeland Security Grant that was not expended. Sheriff Hancock also stated that he would like to request a letter to be signed by the chairman for a grant application on the COPS Hiring program from the U.S. Department of Justice for funding to hire three additional officers with all approved expenditures, and it will be paid through Crisp County Finance Office. He stated that there would be a cash match of 25% for the salaries. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow the chairman to sign the grant application letter for COPS Hiring Grant program, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.** Commissioner Mathis congratulated Sheriff Hancock on being appointed to the Rural 911 Board. Sheriff Hancock also gave the Sheriff's monthly report, and brought a check this month for inmate housing for a little over \$65,000.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page in the financial report shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds combined; YTD revenues at \$16.3 million and YTD expenditures at \$14.6 million providing a positive 10% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1.7 million as of this report at May 31, 2017. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures bring YTD totals to \$632,123 and \$414,878 leaving the Water Fund with a net income of \$217,245. Customer usage billed for the month was up slightly over last year at 6,791,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, she is reporting \$1.6 million in accrued year to date revenue and \$1.3 million in accrued expenses leaving this fund with a net income of \$284,614. The total tonnage received for month of May was 4775.96. The GEFA Loans are current at \$3.2 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$10.8 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$4.4 million in the proprietary funds and \$5.5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$20.7 million; \$6.2 million of that amount is reserved or restricted for special uses or projects. For the 2000 SPLOST Issue, there is no change to report from the previous month; in the 2005 SPLOST Issue, we have now expended or obligated all but \$480,707 on projects associated with this issue. With a difference of only \$184, Distribution no. 64 of the 2011 SPLOST Issue, received in May representing April retail sales, in the amount of \$311,164 is virtually even with the distribution received in May of 2016. Projections based on the current monthly averages continue to leave us barely within budget to complete projects under this issue. As of May 31st, we have collected a total of \$20.6 million in special local option tax dollars under this issue and expended over \$19.0 million on associated projects. Just like SPLOST, the L.O.S.T. distribution is the same. This month's receipt of \$149,352 is virtually even to May of 2016, a difference of only \$91.00. In the

CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report we ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$2.7 million for all these accounts. The final report included is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the period of July 2016 through May 2017. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of May 31st, all departments and divisions should actually be at or below 92% of their annual allowances. Overall, as of this report, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are at 88%, the Water Fund is at 67% and the Landfill Fund is at 77%.

SET JULY MEETING DATE OF JULY 18, 2017

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to move the regular meeting in July to July 18th as there is a conflict with the MEAG Conference, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE TAX REFUND AS APPROVED BY TAX COMMISSIONER FOR STACEY WHITMAN

Administrator Patton reported that he has received a request for waiver of refund on taxes on a mobile home that was in Meadow Park from 2003 to 2014 from Stacey Whitman but the mobile home was not there. The law only allows the county to go back three years, so the county cannot give her a refund from 2003 to 2014; his recommendation is to let the Tax Commissioner's Office calculate any taxes that may be due her for the last three years. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to authorize the Tax Commissioner to calculate any taxes due to Stacey Whitman on this mobile home, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE GRANT AWARD FOR STATE OF GEORGIA ACCOUNTABILITY COURT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she just received a grant award for the State of Georgia Accountability Court for the period of July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018 with total federal funds of \$145,889, matching funds would be \$16,210, with total funds of \$162,899. Since she just received this, she may have to tweak the numbers in the budget to match this number; she anticipated the grant but she didn't have a copy of it when she did the budget. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to authorize the chairman to sign the State of Georgia Accountability Court Grant for the period of July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that they are hoping to finish up soon most of the cleanup of the last tornado that came thru, they are still working with FEMA on the January tornado numbers, and they are running behind on the mowing in the county because of the storms. Also, the paving projects have come to a close, they are waiting on some decisions from the state on some other L.M.I.G. that was requested, they are waiting to hear back on Watson Bridge, and they are almost finished with their work on the soccer field.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton stated that commissioners have his report in the packet and a good bit of his time this month was getting the SPLOST ironed out and working on the FY 18 budget, he commended all the departments, especially the road crews, for the hard work during the tornado, and we will be receiving a dividend of \$28,291 back on our insurance program.

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. Felton to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

COMMISSIONERS APPROVED JULY 3RD AND JULY 4th, 2017 AS DAYS OFF FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve extending the holiday weekend to include giving the county employees July 3rd and July 4th, 2017 as approved days off, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator