

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 18, 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 A. 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 County Clerk Linda Finch. Herbert Gladdin 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 June 13, 2017 and the called meeting held on June 27, 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Colonel Denise Youngblood brought the sheriff's department statics report for the month of June along with several reimbursement checks from their department. She stated that on the new guns purchase they are looking at an approximate trade in amount of \$4,750 and an approximate sale of other weapons that they have of \$14,850, and she presented a check for \$11,140.55 coming out of the drug account for the purchase of the lights and holsters that go with the new weapons; total cost after everything to the commissioners will be about \$10,440. She reported that the sheriff's department has earned their storm ready certificate for June from Emergency Management, they have received this certificate in the past but it is basically a certificate recognizing them as a forward moving progressive county as we do things that makes us prepared and ready as best we can be for storms. She requested approval from commissioners to file a renewal on a hazardous mitigation planning grant application for them to work toward the next five-year plan; also she has a letter requesting permission for the sheriff's office to be able to apply for a new VOCA grant to hire a victims assistant advocate that works out of the agency. She advised that this is a 25% cash or in-kind match. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to grant the sheriff's department permission to apply for the hazardous mitigation grant, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Felton to grant the sheriff's department permission to apply for the VOCA grant, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE REQUEST FROM GAT/CCC, LCC FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Chairman Farrow opened the public hearing on a request from GAT/CCC, LLC for a Special Use Permit. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that she has received a request from GAT/CCC, LLC for a Special Use Permit to operate a Plant, Nursery, Lawn & Garden Supply business in an RR (Rural Residential) zone district. The property is located at 3126 Hwy. 280 East. She advised that the request is for a pine straw, twine business and looking thru the code this pretty much fits in the rural residential zone district as a special use; the heading was the plant, nursery, lawn & garden supply is basically what will be sold also. She read the Review Checklist standards for a Special Use Request. She stated that the

building inspector did go out and look at the building and the only thing he recommended was an emergency exit sign. Cody Collins, manager of the business, advised that the sign has already been installed along with a handicap bathroom. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone would like to speak for the request, there was none; he then asked if anyone would like to speak against the request, there was none. Mrs. Youngblood asked Mr. Collins if plans are to expand or anything in addition to what the use is to contact their office to make sure they are still compatible with the category. He advised that they don't have any plans to expand as the building is adequate for their needs. Chairman Farrow stated that he is glad to see a person born and raised in Crisp County move his business back to Crisp County. Chairman Farrow closed the public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Special Use Permit request from GAT/CCC, LLC to operate a Plant Nursery, Lawn & Garden Supply business in an RR zone district, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINT CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION BOARD VOTING MEMBERS

Chairman Farrow appointed himself, Larry Felton, and J. R. Dowdy, III to the Crisp County Power Commission as voting members from July 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

APPROVE PROBATION SERVICES AGREEMENT

Administrator Patton reported that the court system wants to change probation services. They have an agreement before them between the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc. and the Superior Court of Crisp County; the chief Superior Court Judge has already signed off on it. He recommends approval of the agreement. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the probation services agreement between Judicial Alternatives of Georgia, Inc. and the Superior Court of Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE CURRENT 2017 TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY FOR ADVERTISING

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is the first step in the ad valorem tax process for 2017. She will need approval of the proposed millage for advertising so she can make the advertising window so that we will be able to set the millage at next month's meeting. She reported that the digest is up slightly, about \$13 million, the exemptions are up, the gross M & O tax rate is down from 15.3 to 15.168 but the sales tax is less, so we end up with a proposed tax rate of 12.130. She advised that we have some large appeals out and a \$75,484 shortfall would be in the county-wide digest if the county lost at 100% on all those appeals, we don't anticipate that, but that is the worst case scenario. Also, the same calculations for the special service district would have a \$4,963 shortfall at the worst case scenario. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the net millage tax rate of 12.130 for advertising, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has a limited summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County as of June 30, 2017 as they still have several accruals to make both on the revenue and expenditure sides. She advised that preliminary numbers indicate that revenues and expenditures for most of the major funds will come in fairly close to projections. We will bring the final numbers to you just as soon as all of the year end activity has been posted. On the Cash report, we ended the fiscal year with \$9.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined \$4.1 million in the proprietary

funds and \$5.5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$19.6 million. Over \$6 million of that balance is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. There were no changes to report in the 2000 SPLOST Issue and numbers there remain the same as last month. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, to date we have total expenditures of \$24.3 million leaving \$457,000 to complete the unfinished projects included in this issue. Distribution No. 65, received in June representing May retail sales in the amount of \$313,145 for the 2011 SPLOST Issue is up slightly over June of 2016. To date we have collected \$20.9 million in revenue and expended or appropriated \$19.1 million. Total revenue projections based on the current averages still look like they are going to come in really close to the adjusted budgets for the projects included here. This month's distribution of \$150,304 on our L.O.S.T. distributions is up about 3.5% from June 2016. The last report is the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report and we still have nine outstanding loans for a total combined balance due of \$2.6 million.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that 1) they have had several meetings concerning the new health plan; 2) he and a couple of the commissioners met with DOT to get an update on the state road program; 3) they are moving on the communications system, they had a little hiccup on the tower on Hwy. 280, but that is resolved; 4) he and Mrs. Youngblood had a teleconference with National Flood Insurance to make sure they we are in line, we were and they commended us on our program; 5) he, the Turner County Manager and Commissioner Johnny Floyd met to discuss the possibility of the Transportation Commission having an annual meeting in Crisp County, hopefully we are working on getting them down here in the fall of 2018; 6) he accompanied Grant Buckley to Florida to meet with a prospect, we will continue working with them as this is a good company; and 7) he attended a ribbon cutting for some new apartments that have been renovated in downtown Cordele.

PUBLIC HEARING TO CLOSE OUT CDBG 2014

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:00 a.m. by Crisp County Board of Commission Chairman Sam Farrow. Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, explained that the public hearing was required to close out the CDBG 14 Project and its purpose is to inform citizens of the availability of the final quarterly report, to review project accomplishments and to receive citizen input. She gave a brief description of the project stating that it was a Sewer Systems Improvements project for the Cedar Lake/Southern Pines area that will benefit 127 residents for a total cost of \$452. Chairman Farrow then ask for citizen comment on the project. There was none. Chairman Farrow closed the Public Hearing.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REAPPOINTMENT TO THE CRISP COUNTY DFACS BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Gabrella Dimery to the Crisp County Department of Family Children Services Board for a 5 year term ending June 30, 2022, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINTMENT TO THE CORDELE TOURISM BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to reappoint Michael Pomirko to the Cordele Tourism Board to a 3 year term ending June 30, 2020, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator