

**CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES HELD ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2017**

OPENING CEREMONIES

In the absence of Chairman Sam Farrow, Vice-Chairman Authur James Nance called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center. Commissioners present were Wallace Mathis, Larry Felton, and J. R. Dowdy, III. Others present were County Administrator Tom Patton, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett, and County Clerk Linda Finch. Rev. J. C. Clark gave the invocation and Administrator Patton led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Vice-Chairman Nance welcomed all in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 8, 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE NATIONAL SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST DAY PROCLAMATION

Administrator Patton read the National Surgical Technologist Day Proclamation recognizing National Surgical Technologist Day and proclaims September 21, 2017 as National Surgical Technologist Day. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the National Surgical Technologist Day Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that they have most of the roads open with at least one lane open on all roads and ask the public to please be careful in driving the roads in the next few days. Because of the storm, they are assisting Crisp County Power as well getting up the trees and debris off the power lines. They have had numerous calls from people wanting to know about the clean up debris, Crisp County does not run a curb side service; we will be cleaning up our right-of-ways as they go by one time and they do not know when they will be getting down each road but they will get to it as soon as they can. He stated that they will only pick up from the homeowners and if you are a contractor you will have to carry debris to the landfill. Commissioner Mathis, on behalf of the board, thanked public works, fire department, sheriff's department, Cities of Cordele and Arabi, as all pulled together to help during the storm yesterday. Commissioner Felton also thanked all that helped with the shelter that was open in the county; they housed about two hundred people over the weekend and there are still about seventy-five there today. He also thanked First Methodist Church for serving the food along with the Red Cross and volunteers from the county.

TABLE REQUEST TO CONSIDER ABANDONMENT OF AN UNDEVELOPED PUBLIC ROAD

Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that she has received a request from adjacent property owners to consider the abandonment of an undeveloped public road on lots 9, 10, 11, and 12 as shown on plat of survey of said subdivision East Lincolmpinch. The public road was never built, the county does not own the property, never used it and has no use for the property, and there are no utilities on the

road. She advised that there may be a discrepancy with the adjacent property owner as far as the lot line on the 1945 plat and when the subdivision was re-developed and additional lots added. On the 1945 plat shows on the east/west side that the original lot line was a 30' easement, and from all our research, it was an easement granted by the original property owner. She and attorney Rick Lawson met with the Ellis' and their surveyor, as the Ellis' have built a new road on the property, and before the county accepted any road that would access to the lots we have to quit claim this part and accept the new road to be used by them and emergency personnel. It was agreed upon at this meeting that their surveyor will re-survey to show that the previous owner had deeded this part the county will quit claim to the Mann's. Vice-Chairman Nance asked if there was anyone that that wanted to speak for or against this request. Jerry Carney stated that as far as the remnants of the public road that exists that adjoins the Mann's property; it has no bearing on him at all, which is the north/south section. He is speaking to the easement that adjoins his property and was granted as an easement for the Mann's to get into their property; it was never a public road. He said the real issue is the easement issue attached to his property, and he requests the entire easement be granted back to him on a quit claim basis. He stated that he has tried to negotiate a splitting of the easement and been unsuccessful, and when the lot was platted that would belong to Folsom Construction Group and at no time did anyone else own any part of that property. He thinks that his legal rights are being trampled upon because that he cannot get an agreement on it and there is a constant push in order to remove that property from him to the adjoining landowner. He will put whatever financial means to obtain this 30' x 100' piece of property as he is the dominant landowner. He stated that the Commissioners can approve his request for a quit claim deed on that property, or the commission could divide this property as an adjoining property 50/50, or leave the property alone, or if Commissioners grant that easement property to the adjoining property owner he will have to take legal action and the county would be included. Ben Wright, adjacent land owner and speaking on behalf of the other adjacent land owners, stated that the issue that was just argued is not even an issue the county has to decide, the issue is on the north/south portion, and the sole issue this board has to decide today is who are the adjacent land owners. The Mann's own the land in question and has been deeded to them by Folsom Construction. In the 1945 plat the angle of lot 20 of the proposed road is at a different angle than the angle of the new plat diagram; that is the question of who owns that. They can tender the deed of that showing ownership in favor of the Mann's. The law says and past history of this commission as witness by April 4, 2005 resolution will show that the adjoining land owners are the ones that are deeded a quit claim deed. County Attorney Lawson asked Mr. Carney to show him where he granted the easement to Mr. Folsom. Mr. Carney stated that is was a handshake agreement. Mr. Wright, on behalf of all the adjoining property owners, ask that the county interests be quit claimed to the adjoining land owners. After a short recess, **motion was made by Mr. Felton to table the decision until the Commissioners can get all the information and get a better understanding of the property lines and also give Chairman Farrow a chance to be a part of it, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Nance stated that they would either take this up at the next meeting or the chairman may have a called meeting but the adjacent property owners would be notified.

RATIFY A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A SECOND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Administrator Patton reported that between the meetings he received a recommendation from Jean Rogers, Clerk of Court, to request an annual Resolution to Establish a Second Board of Equalization to hear appeals from property owners. The commissioners did approve and sign the resolution and we need to ratify it so we can lay it upon the minutes. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify the**

Resolution to Establish a Second Board of Equalization, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF FY 2017 CRISP COUNTY PAVING PROJECTS

Mr. Gamble reported that this is part of our L.M.I.G. program and part of Off-System Safety projects put in the package together, and the project has been advertised according to the law. He and Mr. Patton opened the bids on September 7th for the following bid package: patch, resurface and widen part of Drayton Road from Coney to McCay Roads, and resurface and stripe shoulders on Raines Station, Cork Ferry, Eastwood Lake, Lake Park, Wildwood Drive and Abbey Roads, along with various patches and replace pipes from the FEMA project in January. The low bid of \$1,570,705.00 was from Reeves Construction Company. The L.M.I.G. money from the state and the money from the Off-System Safety project is \$623,162.68 leaving the county's portion a little over \$500,000.00 to complete these projects. He advised that Drayton Road has to be started before December 31, 2017, and the other roads should be completed by April 30, 2018. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to accept the bid for the FY 2017 paving projects from Reeves Construction Company of \$1,570,705.00, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING E911 CHARGES OF LANDLINE, WIRELESS AND VOIP TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS

Mrs. Leverett reported that the approval of the E911 charges is an annual action that we take reaffirming the E911 charges that are applied on the monthly phone bills and the revenue is used in support of E911 services. This resolution is reaffirming E911 charges of landline, wireless and VOIP telecommunication connections and this charge will stay at \$1.50 per month. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of E911 Charges of Landline, Wireless and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) Telecommunication Connections within Crisp County Georgia, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING E911 CHARGES OF PREPAID WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATION CONNECTIONS

Mrs. Leverett reported that this resolution is on the E911 prepaid wireless telecommunication connections and the rate is .75 per transaction. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the Resolution Reaffirming the Necessity of E911 Charges of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunication Connections within Crisp County Georgia, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

PRE-APPROVAL OF E-CONTRACT ON FAA/DOT AIRPORT PROJECT

Mrs. Leverett reported that we have a new airport project coming up, Phase I and Phase II Airfield Drainage Rehab. They have a description of the summary of the construction of that project; the project was properly advertised and the bids have been opened. The successful bidder will be Peed Brothers and the project was bid out as a Phase I and a Phase II and then an overall to do both because at the time we took the bids we weren't sure about the availability of funding from the FAA and DOT. Since we opened the bids, FAA and DOT has contacted us and are willing to go ahead and allow the money to complete both phases, and we then went with the total overall best bid. She advised that the total cost of the entire project is \$1,480,767.14, federal funds will be \$174,674.94, state funds of \$973,835.33

leaves the county's portion of \$332,256.87, which will be paid out of Airport SPLOST. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to accept the DOT contract and the contract with Peed Brothers of \$1,480,767.14, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Leverett also stated that Robert and Company will be the construction engineers and we have a contract with them, which is already included in the \$1,480,767.14 number. If they will give permission to Administrator Patton to sign the contract with the construction engineer, then the engineer's will prepare the Peed Brothers contract once Mr. Patton signs this contract. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to authorize Administrator Patton to enter into the engineer's contract with Robert and Company for the Airfield Drainage Rehab project, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF UPDATE DAILY MEALS AND INCIDENTALS SECTION OF OFFICIAL TRAVEL POLICY

Mrs. Leverett reported that they are requesting and making a recommendation to change the per diem for travel which has not been updated since 2004. She stated that we already have our mileage set at the GSA rate, which the federal government updates on an annual basis, and she would like to use this same table for the per diem for meals and incidentals; it will be updated yearly and is set by area. The per diem's are up to the stated rates and employees will still have to provide receipts. She advised that most of the counties in Georgia are going to this. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the update to the financial policy as stated regarding the daily meals and incidentals, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that in today's packet is a preliminary report for the first two months of FY 18. For the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined these funds are reporting YTD revenues of \$954,986 and YTD expenditures at \$2.7 million leaving a -11% net shortfall of just under \$1.8 million. We received notification from the Department of Revenue that our 2017 tax digest packet was found to be in proper form along with authorization granted to the Tax Commissioner to proceed with the 2017 Ad Valorem Tax Billing process. The Water Fund ended the month with \$118,208 in YTD revenue and \$86,981 in YTD expenses and ended the period with a net income of \$31,227. Water consumption billed for the month was 7.7 million gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1,389,327 million. In the Landfill Fund, we had accrued YTD revenue of \$323,966 and YTD expenses at \$245,388 leaving this fund with a net income of \$78,578. The total tonnage received for the month of August was 5,968.25. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$3,092,415. In the cash report, the General Fund and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$8.9 million, the proprietary funds with \$4.5 million and the SPLOST funds at \$5.8 million bringing our County wide total to \$19.3 million at 8/31/17. Of that amount over \$13 million is reserved or restricted for special uses or projects. The 2000 SPLOST Issue has been expended and we will be making final budget adjustments there to formally close out that issue and bringing them to you next month. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, we have total expenditures of \$24.3 million leaving us with \$474,642 to complete the projects as budgeted under this issue. This month's 2011 SPLOST Issue receipt of \$329,568 and LOST distribution of \$158,186 are both actually up slightly over last year, by 1%. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we currently have nine loans with a total outstanding balance of \$2.6 million. The last report is the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. All expenditures should be below 17%. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 17%; the Water Fund is at 13% and the Landfill Fund is at 15%.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Jonathan Windham, Fire Chief, reported that that they have had a pretty busy month and a busy last couple of days. He complimented the EMS, Sheriff's Department, Public Works, and Fire Department for the excellent work they have done in the last few days. He advised that in the month of August, they ran 53 calls, and he stated that they are now 100% compliant with Firefighter II status as this will help considerably on their grants. ACCG was here a couple of weeks ago, and all of the firefighters went through the simulated driver class and that should help in getting the discount on our insurance. They have also been working with the city public works gas department on training classes for both of them. Also, the new fire truck will be here sometime in October, and their fire safety supplies have been ordered and they are gearing up for fire safety next month as they will be going to all schools and home schoolers in the county during the month. Commissioners thanked him and his department for the work they do.

ADMINISTRATOR PATTON'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that the county departments have been working very hard the last few days and they all did an outstanding job; the transportation company that has been looking for an investment here was up last month and they showed them several sites. This company will have about 125 employees and all above average salaries; he attended several meetings; a veteran's organization wants to have an event this fall at the park; and he advised that they will have the bid opening on the soccer fields and water park on September 27th. Commissioner Felton had some concerns about putting the water park in the bid for the soccer fields.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation and personnel, seconded by Mr. Dowdy 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 with all commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

APPOINT SAM FARROW, JR. TO CRISP/DOOLY JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to appoint Sam Farrow, Jr. to the Crisp/Dooly Joint Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of John Woodard, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator