

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 12, 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. Other Commissioners present were A. James Nance, Wallace Mathis 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. Commissioner Dowdy 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.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 14, 2017, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that last month they received 714 citations, 194 warrants, 176 civil papers, 248 subpoenas, and spent over 150 hours in court. He brought a check in the amount of \$109,000 for last month's housing of federal prisoners. Deputies traveled over 7,600 miles in the jail and 259 man hours to make transports. Animal control had 57 calls for assistance and they picked up 31. They patrolled 89,839 miles last month at a cost of .21 a mile. He stated that they had asked for permission to apply for a Voca Grant, and they have been awarded that grant. Also they have an agreement worked out between the sheriff's department and the hospital and they will be creating a hospital division within 30 days to handle all the law enforcement inside Crisp Regional on a 24 hour basis, and the hospital in turn will handle the medical in the jail; it will be an added expense for their department.

FIRE CHIEF WINDHAM'S COMMENTS

Fire Chief Jonathan Windham reported that last month they had four structure fires, seven vehicle fires, 4 motor vehicle accidents they worked, 11 grass and woods fires, 12 medical, and 10 alarm calls for 48 calls during the month of November. They did a lot of work in conjunction with other departments and had several training meetings during the month and also a tour at Helena Chemical. He advised that they picked up their new truck over the weekend, and the firefighter of the year went to Willie Jackson this year as he is an outstanding employee and firefighter.

TABLE DECISION FOR GRASP INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Jason Hamlin with Grasp International, Inc. reported that they are requesting a property tax exemption for 2017 on the property they purchased in 2017. They met with the Tax Assessors last week, and they granted them a tax exemption for 2018 forward, but they advised him that he would have to talk to the county commissioners for a 2017 exemption. He advised that when they bought the property they already had their non-profit status and were already working as a non-profit organization. He stated that since they have bought the property they have had about 219 families come through and stay for a day or so which included pastors and their families. They were also part of the hurricane relief in Texas and Florida. Mr. Hamlin reported that since they were here a few months ago they have started pushing dirt to make the roadway and waiting for some of the permits to come back, and they have raised funds for two cabins and had a third cabin given to them. Chairman Farrow thanked Mr. Hamlin for coming and advised that the Commissioners will take it under advisement and get a recommendation from the Tax Assessor Board.

APPROVE FARMER'S MARKET ROAD RESOLUTION

Public Works Director Carl Gamble reported that this is some housekeeping we need to do and as they know Farmer's Market Road was built for a farm to market road, therefore we need this resolution to spread in our minutes so that the trucks can legally travel this road to and from the north end of the county. He read the Farmer's Market Road Resolution designating 3.21 miles of County #361 (from U.S. 41 State Route 7 to Ga. Highway 257) as a Local Trucking Route. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Farmer's Market Road Resolution Authorizing a Designated Local Truck Route; Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Code Section 32-6-26 As Amended By H.B. 817; Repealing All Prior Ordinances/Resolutions in Conflict Herewith: And For Other Purposes, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CDBG 17 WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she, Mr. Gamble, and the grant writer along with the engineering firm have been working on the engineering contract for the CDBG 17 water improvement project; because it is over \$25,000, they need the board's approval. She advised that it has been reviewed to make sure everything is in compliance with the CDBG and DCA regulations and that we are in budget; total amount of county's contribution is \$25,951.80 with additional services being billed up to \$4,500.00 which is all within the budget that was awarded. Some of this will be the county's match but it is within the budget. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the Agreement for Engineering Services for the CDBG 17 Water Improvements Project, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, they are reporting YTD revenues received of \$5.3 million and YTD expenditures at \$7.8 million leaving a -15% net shortfall after the first five months of the fiscal year of just over \$2.5 million. We continue to rely on reserves to handle our daily cash flow until this gap begins to shrink. The 2017 Ad Valorem Tax payments have started to come in, which will certainly help our cash flow; to date we have received about 15% of those revenue projections. The Water Fund is showing a net profit of \$81,836 and is also running behind where it was this time last year by just under -\$25,000. Water consumption billed for the month was 5,600,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues less expenses leave this fund slightly ahead of where it was twelve months ago; it ended the period with a net income of \$144,279, which is up almost \$25,000 from 11/30/16. The total tonnage received for the month of November was 4,361.53. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$2.9 million. Next is your Cash Report for November 30, 2017. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$9.4 million, the proprietary funds at \$4.6 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds at \$5.9 million, bringing our County wide total to just over \$20 million. Also there is a final summary statement of revenues and expenses for Fiscal Year End 6/30/17. This statement shows the percentages of county wide revenue sources and expenditures along with our liability commitments and delinquent ad valorem tax totals. As you can see, at 36%, charges for services provides the largest amount of our county wide revenue, followed by property taxes at 27% and sales taxes at 21%. The largest county wide costs belong to public safety at 30% with public works following next at 21%. For the 2005 SPLOST Issue, we have \$406,000 available for remaining items included in the issue and just under \$2 million in the 2011 SPLOST Issue. Distribution no. 70 of the 2011 Issue in the amount of \$303,048 brings to date collections to \$22.5 million. Expenditures and current obligations totaled \$21.9 million at month end. This month's distribution of \$145,458 in LOST was not quite as good as SPLOST from the November 2016 distribution. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we remain at nine outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$2.6 million. The last report included is the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Expenditures should be below 42%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds combined are at 47%, the Water Fund and Landfill Fund are both at 31% and 39% respectively.

ADOPT RESOLUTION OF 2017 SPLOST ISSUE BANK ACCOUNT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she needs to add an item to the agenda as she has talked with all the local banks and she is making a recommendation that we place the new 2017 SPLOST Issue with Ameris Bank. She has a resolution for approval so she can get account numbers assigned and get it up to the Department of Revenue; it will be automatic deposits. She read the resolution. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution of the 2017 SPLOST Issue**

Bank Account and placing the account with Ameris Bank, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that Judge Holloway is in the hospital in Macon and we want to send our best wishes to her for a speedy recovery; we will be getting a 3.13 reduction in our workers compensation premiums for next year; we had a meeting with the state transportation commissioner, it went very well as we had representatives from Crisp, Sumter, and Dooly counties; and he attended a good many meetings and ribbon cuttings.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVE BOARD APPOINTMENTS ON THE HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Wayne Martin and appoint Rann Folsom to the Hospital Authority for five year terms ending December 31, 2022, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINT BOARD MEMBER TO THE REGION 6 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Catherine McGill to the Region 6 Mental Health Board for a three year term ending December 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINT BOARD MEMBERS TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Harry Fox and Mark Crenshaw to the Recreation Advisory Board for three year terms ending December 31, 2020, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE REFUND FOR BILL DAVIS

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve a tax refund for Bill Davis and authorize Administrator Patton to sign the paperwork, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATOR TO WORK WITH TAX ASSESSORS' BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to authorize the county administrator to pursue dialog with the Tax Assessors' Board for the re-evaluation for the coming year, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator