

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2018**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr. called the meeting to order 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. 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 along with the new City of Cordele Chairman John Wiggins.

SAM FARROW, JR. RE-APPOINTED CHAIRMAN FOR 2018

Administrator Patton called for nominations for Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners for 2018. Commissioner Mathis nominated Sam Farrow, Jr. There were no other nominations; Commissioner Nance moved that the nominations be closed and Commissioner Dowdy seconded the motion. **Administrator Patton called for the vote and Commissioner Farrow was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners for 2018.** Chairman Farrow thanked the commissioners for their support and advised that he will do the best he can.

A. JAMES NANCE RE-APPOINTED AS VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2018

Chairman Farrow called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners for 2018. Commissioner Mathis nominated A. James Nance. There were no other nominations; Commissioner Dowdy moved that the nominations be closed and Commissioner Nance seconded the motion. **Chairman Farrow called for the vote and Commissioner Nance was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners for 2018.** Vice-Chairman Nance thanked the board for their vote and advised that he is looking forward to working with the Chairman and board for another year.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 12, 2017, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REMARKS AND REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that in 2017, 125 law enforcement officers lost their lives in the line of duty, and this year there has already been four deaths in the line of duty. He reported that they received a peace keeper vehicle that will allow them to travel up to a swat situation, it is an armored vehicle and is coming to them free of charge through Georgia Emergency Management; they will have to do a little painting and other minor things to it with money coming out of the drug account. He advised that they will have their mock certification next week and will be making their final step toward having a certified law enforcement agency; this will help them in lawsuits along with receiving grants and federal

money. On their Sheriff's December Stat Report, he advised that they served 137 warrants, 169 civil papers, 79 subpoenas and had 150 courts session hours. In the Traffic Division, they wrote 699 citations and 89 warnings, had 10 drug arrests and worked 30 accidents. In Inmate Housing the US Marshals Office was charged 2087 days, Cordele PD 199 and Bureau of Prisons 15, and he gave finance a check this morning for about \$95,000 for inmate housing and two additional checks with total revenue brought this morning of around \$130,000. He also pointed out that the total man hours for prisoner transports for 2017 was 3,651, and they have ten vehicles with over 150,000 miles on the road patrolling and another 16 that has over 110,000 miles. He also advised that the contract between the hospital and sheriff's office has been signed now for inmate medical.

ADOPT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CRISP COUNTY RECREATION DEPARTMENT 10-UNDER GRPA FOOTBALL ALL-STAR STATE CHAMPIONS

Eric Bozeman, Recreation Department Director, thanked the Commissioners for allowing them to bring this group of ballplayers and let them see how county government works. He stated that this is a special team as a good many of these boys were on the 2014 team when they won the state championship as well. This team had a perfect season this year winning all seven games and outscored their opponents 181-22. He read the resolution recognizing the Crisp County 10-Under as GRPA Football All-State Champions and declaring January 9, 2018 as Crisp County 10-Under Football All-Star Day in Crisp County and extending best wishes for all future endeavors to the coaches and players. They also recognized Cayden Daniels as the most valuable player. Commissioners thanked the coaches, players, staff and parents. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Recognizing Crisp County Recreation Department 10-Under GRPA Football All-Star State Champions, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that he hopes the weather in 2018 will be a better start than it was in 2017 as they are finally getting over all the cleanup from the several storms we had last year. Hopefully weather will cooperate and they can get the resurfacing contract going soon, they have a preliminary meeting concerning the new Community Development Block Grant tomorrow, and they are getting caught up on some things they have had on the back burner, including the fence at the recreation department.

REAPPOINT COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR 2018

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Rick Lawson as the county attorney for 2018, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT POWER COMMISSION VOTING MEMBERS FROM 1/1/18-6/30/18

Chairman Farrow appointed himself, A. James Nance, and Wallace Mathis to the Crisp County Power Commission as voting members from January 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2018.

ADOPT RESOLUTION FIXING AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF QUALIFICATION FEES PURSUANT TO O.C.G.A. SECTION 21-2-131

Mrs. Leverett reported that it is the duty of the county commissioners to set the qualifying fees for any county offices that are coming up in the 2018 election; we have two Board of Commission seats and two Board of Education seats that are up for re-election. She read the resolution setting the qualifying fees for District 1, Post 1 and District 2, Post 2 Board of Commissioners at \$360.00 each, and Arabi District and City of Cordele District Board of Education at \$150.00 each. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Fixing And Ordering The Publication Of Qualification Fees Pursuant To O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-131, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Leverett advised that qualification for all offices begins on March 5, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and ends on March 9, 2018 at noon.

ADOPT LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is a new regulation for our Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects; they are requiring adoption of a Language Access Plan and it will have to be updated every five years. She advised that they basically sent a templet providing what they wanted and you tweak it to fit your organization, and this is what she has done. She stated that we will need this approved in order to comply with the 2017 CDBG that we have already been awarded. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Language Access Plan for CDBG activities, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT FY 2019 BUDGET/2018 AD VALOREM TAX CALENDAR

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is the annual calendar to start the process for the FY 2019 Budget and the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax Digest process. We provide a calendar annually for everybody that is involved in this process to make note of the state deadlines that we are required to meet in each of those processes. Once approved, all the divisions and directors will get a copy of this. The first item on the list is to send out budget request forms and it will end with the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax collections. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the FY2019 Budget/2018 Ad Valorem Tax Calendar, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first section in this month's December 31, 2017 executive summary report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined year to date revenues of \$9.1 million and year to date expenditures of \$9.6 million leaves us about 6% behind the December 2016 numbers and still in a negative revenue over expenditure position of -3%. As of this report we have received about 55% of the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax revenue projections. In the Water Fund, year to date revenues of \$331,058 and expenditures of \$241,354 gives it a net income after the first six months of \$89,704. Water consumption billed for the month was 4,647,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1,375,469. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenue of \$922,608, year to date expenses of \$771,418 leaves a net gain of \$151,190; total tonnage received for the month of December was 3,938.91. The GEFA loans are current at \$2.9 million. In our cash report, the General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$11.3 million, the proprietary funds \$4.7 million and the SPLOST funds \$5.7 million, leaving a County Wide total of \$21.8 million. Of that amount \$12.7 million is reserved or restricted for

special uses and/or projects. In the SPLOST reports, December pushed total expenditures and obligations to date for the 2005 issue to \$24.7 million leaving us a negative \$24,000 balance. Final budget adjustments and pending grant reimbursements over the next couple of months should shore up that balance and prepare us to close out this SPLOST issue. For the 2011 SPLOST, our next to the last distribution in the amount of \$311,683 is up slightly, just under 2% from the December 2016 distribution and it does bring issue to date collections to \$22.8 million; we are not going to make the \$23.8 million dollar adjusted budget. Once that final distribution is received, we will be facing another round of budget adjustments to balance out this fund. Like the SPLOST, the Local Option Sales Tax distributions, this month's distribution of \$149,598 is up just under 2% from this time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we still have nine outstanding loans. The last report is a preliminary 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; all expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are running ahead of budget at 58%, the Water Fund at 37% and the Landfill Fund at 47%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that he attended a good many meetings and ribbons cuttings last month; all major industries are hiring; housing starts and sales are up, so this is all indicators that our economy is picking up; the state Department of Transportation is going to be resurfacing from Hwy. 280 from I-75 to State Road 215 in Wilcox County; and open registration for Spring Conference in Savannah is open so if you want to go please get with our office so we can get you registered.

10:00 PUBLIC HEARING CDBG 17 POST AWARD

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:00 a.m. by Crisp County Board of Commissioners Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr. Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett was called on to explain the project activities as approved by the Grant Award. She stated that the County had applied for and been awarded funding from the State's 2017 CDBG Grant program in support of a water facility project to expand the County's Water Distribution service into the Willow Lake Mobile Home Park for the benefit of 51 persons in the amount of \$243,891.00. Of that amount \$237,891 was allocated for water facilities and \$6,000 for property acquisition. An additional \$66,952 in County Funds would also be used bringing the total projected cost of the project to \$310,843; 100% of this funding will benefit low to moderate income families. She further stated that the public hearing had been properly advertised in the local media on December 27, 2017. The Chairman then opened the floor for citizen input both for and/or against the project. There being none, the Chairman closed the public hearing.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

DENY REQUEST FOR REFUND FROM GRASP INTERNATIONAL

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to take the recommendation of the Tax Assessor Board and deny the tax refund request from Grasp International, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

REAPPOINT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Farrow reappointed all commission committees the same as last year.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACT FOR TAX ASSESSORS

Sean Sammons, Chief Tax Assessor, met with commissioners to discuss a few question commissioners had. Mrs. Leverett asked if the dates were correct in the contract that work will begin in July 2018 and end in May 1, 2019. Mr. Sammons advised that was correct; Georgia Mass Appraisal Solutions (GMASS) wanted to begin in January initially but they have confirmed that they could still do the work in time to have the 2019 values since they would have to have the values by the time they send out the assessment notices in May, 2019; we will pay them over a 24 month pay schedule with no interest. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Tax Assessors Contract with GMASS for Reappraisal of Specified Real property within Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator