

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2018**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman Sam Farrow Jr. called the meeting to order in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center. Commissioners present were A. James Nance, 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. 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 9, 2018, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**COMMENTS FROM AUDITOR**

Miller Edwards, CPA with Mauldin and Jenkins, reported that the county is in a good financial position with about \$82 million in assets, you have cash on hand and looks pretty good compared to other counties that they serve; the county has about \$20 million in liabilities giving a net position of about \$62 million and almost \$30 million of this is what it costs to run the county that the Board of Commissioners governs. The other component units that make up the difference are the power commission, Board of Health and health services. He advised that the county had a loss this year of about \$218,000 which included in this number is depreciation but this loss on a \$30 million operation is not bad at all. In the General Fund you have about \$9 million worth of cash and investments, fund balance of \$10.2 million, which means you have about seven months' worth of funding for the county, which is above average. In the General Fund operations, you took in about \$15 million of revenues and spent about \$17 million and your fund balance was a positive \$1.1 million. He stated revenues were a little bit higher than budgeted and the expenditures were less than budgeted, which was very good. Also, the water, landfill and health insurance funds are all doing pretty good with all positive numbers. He said the only finding they have is the same one with every government is internal control as you have limited amount of personnel.

**ADOPT PROCLAMATION OF CRISP COUNTY EXTENSION LIVING WELL MONTH AND AMERICA SAVES  
WEEK**

Rebecca Stackhouse, Extension Agent, advised that she has a proclamation for Living Well Month which is the same as last year and this year it also has America Saves Week in it which informs and educates people to commit to savings. Administrator Patton read the Proclamation of Crisp County Extension Living Well Month and America Saves Week proclaiming March 2018 as Living Well Month and proclaiming the week of February 26-March 3, 2018 as America Saves Week in Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation of Crisp County Extension Living Well Month and America Saves Week, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

## **SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that he has a request to make a grant application for Hazard Litigation. He advised that they had requested a new generator at the sheriff's office complex with our SPLOST money but last month they had some issues with the generator, and Georgia Emergency Management has opened up a grant for infrastructure; they would like to request the grant and hopefully they can get some grant money to help with the purchase of the generator. He also advised that they received 218 warrants, 217 civil papers and 165 subpoenas last month. They had about 54 hours of court in session; his office wrote 684 citations, with 34 citations going to City of Arabi, 23 to Superior Court, 626 went to the Probate Court. They also had 2 DUI's and 12 drug arrests, and worked 19 accidents. They turned in a check to the Finance Department for over \$87,000 this morning. They also transported 16 mental patients last month and they are trying to work on an agreement with a private ambulance service to carry those patients out of town. They had 55 services in the Animal Division, and the deputies traveled a total of 102,000 miles and the E-911 had a total 2,313 calls last month.

### **DISCUSS ALL SAFE DRIVING CLINIC**

Tony Hill with All Safe Driving Clinic, Judy Hill and the program coordinator director came before the commissioners. Mr. Hill advised that on October 16, 2010, his youngest son and another person died in a violate car accident in Atlanta; they did not have their seatbelts on. In 2011 they started the Malcolm Omari Hill Scholarship Fund, Inc. which is safe driving classes for kids, and they have done about 60 safe driving classes so far. They have come with the help of All State Driving Clinic to help facilitate the classes in Cordele, the classes are paid for by he and his wife; he just wants to share with them what they are doing and ask for support. He advised that are going to the high school today to sign up kids for the classes; in 2014 there were 1114 car accident fatalities in Georgia, in 2015 there were 1432, in 2016 there were 1561, and in 2017 there were 1549. Commissioners thanked them for bringing this to their attention and wished them good luck in getting the kids to sign up for the free safety classes.

### **NEW FLOOD MAP STUDY REQUESTED BY MR. LONG**

Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, stated that Kenneth Long came in September and asked the commissioners if the county would consider doing a new map study for the lake. She stated she has talked with a FEMA representative and their response was that we had a map study done in 2009; Crisp County is also in two different water sheds, and if we did a study, we would have to pay for both studies, one costing \$750,000 dollars and the other one costing \$500,000. She advised they said there are no monies available right now thru FEMA, and the next consideration would be in 2019 and because of the limited annual funding there is no guarantee that there would be any money available. Mr. Long came in late and advised that he wishes for the county to apply for a new map study, and Chairman Farrow advised him he could get with Mrs. Youngblood and she could give him the information she has found to date.

### **ADOPT SWIMMING POOL PERMIT FEE**

Mrs. Youngblood advised that beginning in July 2017, the state now requires that fences be provided for swimming pools in the county and if a back door is going to a swimming pool that door would have to have an alarm for safety reasons. She advised that most counties do have a pool ordinance but Crisp County does not. She has come up with an application that has to be signed and notarized by the pool

contractor and the homeowner prior to her office writing the permit; older pools will be grandfathered in. She stated that they already have a \$15 electrical permit fee for pools so she would like to have a \$50 pool permit fee along with the \$15 electrical permit fee to begin March 1, 2018. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the \$50 swimming pool permit fee along with the \$15 electrical permit fee including above and in ground pools beginning March 1, 2018, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **ASSISTANT FIRE CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Postell advised that Fire Chief Jonathan Windham had a little spell yesterday with his pacemaker but is home now resting well and will be back to work in the morning. Mr. Postell reported that they began a program with the primary school with firemen going out twice a week and reading to the children and that has worked really well. He also advised commissioners and Mr. Hill that they do have a Teen Maze coming up in October showing kids about what happens when they make some of the choices and the consequences that they will have. He also advised that their total run count for January was down.

### **PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT**

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that they are moving along steadily on some of their projects, but they are going to have to wait until the weather clears up to complete them. He got a notification last week from DOT that they are working on their low impact bridge programs and they sent him some information to fill out and get back to them for financial assistance on bridges. Also, they have repaired a good many pot holes in roads and putting down gravel on some roads.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page includes the preliminary report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds ending January 31, 2018. Combined monthly revenues of \$3.6 million exceeded combined monthly expenses of \$1.2 million, pushing YTD revenues above YTD expenditures for the first time this fiscal year by just over \$2 million. The Water Fund increased the Fiscal YTD net income up to \$119,993. Water consumption billed for the month was 7.4 million gallons to a total of 1,341 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenue of \$1,083,390 million and accrued YTD expenses of \$862,853 leaves this fund with a net gain of \$220,537 after the first seven months of this fiscal year. Total tonnage received for the month was 5168.8 tons, and the GEFA loans are current at \$2.9 million. The General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$13.1 million, the proprietary funds \$4.5 million and the SPLOST funds \$5.9 million, leaving a County Wide total of \$23.6 million. There are no changes to report over the last thirty days on the 2005 SPLOST Issue. All of those funds have been appropriated; it is just a matter of actually completing and paying for the projects remaining under this issue. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, the final distribution has been received bringing the total revenue to \$23,202,605. The distribution representing December's sales was down from 2016 by just under 1%. The total revenue received from this issue ended up -6% less than what was received over the six year period of the previous SPLOST. As of January 31<sup>st</sup>, estimated cost projections leave us with about a \$51,000 budget cushion to complete the remaining projects associated with this issue. On the updated spreadsheet for the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, this month's distribution of \$164,267 is also down by just under 1% from last January. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, our

total number of loans remains at nine with an overall outstanding balance of \$2,355,840. The last report included is 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. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are over budget at 65%, the Water Fund is at 42% and the Landfill is at 52%.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Patton reported that the Board of Regents consolidated some colleges; they combined Albany State with Darton College and enrollment is down so the Board of Regents hired a consulting firm to study the issue. He and Commissioners Felton and Dowdy attended a session and had an opportunity to let them know our ideas on the satellite campus here in Cordele. He stated that the consolidation is a done deal and now we have to figure out what we need to do at our campus to get the enrollment up and their ideas is maybe make it more like a learning center with multiple universities offering courses, a better range of degrees and bring back the nursing program here. One thing that did come out is they have not done a real good job of advertising that we have a campus here. They hope they can come up with some ideas and the Board of Regents adopts those ideas then maybe we can get something going. He also stated that last week the General Assembly dropped over 100 bills but some of the big issues that we would like see done is fix the TAVT Tax as it is not fair to the rural counties, he thinks the rural broadband initiative will pass to have funding to bring broadband in rural areas, and also they would like to see them address the GATE Tax. Those are the main issues for the county.

#### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss real estate, personnel and litigation, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, 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.**

#### **APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AND AGREEMENT FOR OPIOID LEGISLATION**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Resolution to enter into an Agreement for Opioid legislation, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 12:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

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Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

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Tom Patton, Administrator