

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING HELD ON JULY 17, 2018**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr. called the meeting to order with Commissioners A. James Nance, Wallace Mathis and J. R. Dowdy, III in attendance. Commissioner Larry Felton was absent. 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. Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of the June 12, 2018 meeting, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that his office served 144 warrants, 212 civil papers, 68 subpoenas, and transported 169 prisoners last month; he also brought a check in the amount of \$111,000 for housing. Deputies wrote 368 citations and worked 25 accidents. Also, they housed 2469 US Marshals and 247 Cordele Police Department days for inmates. The animal control officer had 63 total animal assistance calls, and E-911 received 5,748 incoming calls for the month. He advised that they have approval from GEMA to erect a lightning detector at Georgia Veterans State Park, which will be paid for by the Georgia Emergency Management, Friends of the State Park and the sheriff's department drug account. They were fortunate to get two new positions under a VOCA Grant, and this will be for two people to work inside their office to work with people that are victims of crime and also follow up with the court system; also the grant provided a couple of automobiles for transportation. The county paid around \$7,600 out of the drug fund with the state paying the rest of the balance. He also stated that they have applied for three USDA grants and are hoping to allow the county to purchase some vehicles with about 15% paid by USDA. Also they want to expand the contract with the school board as the school wants another resource officer at the elementary school and have approved it in their budget, it will be the same type of agreement we now have.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT'S REPORT**

Fire Chief Jonathan Windham reported that last month they worked two structure fires, three vehicle fires, four motor vehicle accidents, 9 grass/woods fires, 40 medical calls, 6 alarms/other, and 6 special details/public safety making a total of 81 calls. He advised that they had two inter agency drills with Dooly County to help comply with our ISO, they stood by at the state park both days when the balloons went up, they participated in the Watermelon Parade, and they gave MDA for their boot drive a check in the amount of \$2,402.00.

## **DISCUSS VIETNAM MOVING WALL**

Michael Verdock, Resource Manager for Georgia Veterans State Park, advised that Labor Day weekend the Vietnam Moving Wall will be coming to the park. It will be set up on August 30<sup>th</sup>, and his plan is to meet the truck on I-75 and provide an escort of military vehicles and motorcycles to the park. August 31<sup>st</sup> they will have the Opening Ceremony, a retired Sergeant Major that served 1 ½ years in the Vietnam War will be speaking, they are trying to get other officials to speak as well; they will have some military exhibits and equipment for people to look at. The closing program will be on September 1<sup>st</sup>. He encouraged all the community to get involved and they will need volunteers as well to help present this to the community. Administrator Patton stated that this wall is moving experiences to people that have never seen it and it is a way to honor the Vietnam veterans. Mr. Verdock advised that the reason for the moving wall is to try to heal wounds and remember those veterans; if anyone has any items from this war and want to display them at this time; they would love to have them. He also advised they want the National Guard in Cordele to participate in this as they will be deploying to Afghanistan in December. Willie Mae Dexter, whose brother was killed in the Vietnam War, stated that the wall holds a special place in her heart because of her brother; she did visit the display when it came to Ashburn a few years ago and it was very moving. She stated that all of the veterans in Ashburn and the surrounding counties were also on a separate display; however her brother's name was misspelled on that display. Commissioner Mathis showed the new name display for Mrs. Dexter's brother with the correct spelling of his name; she thanked Commissioner Mathis. Commissioner Mathis stated that we have a shadow box we are going to display next to the Veteran's Office in the government building, this name change was all that we lack in finishing it up, so now we will have it complete.

## **PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT**

Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that the CDBG project is on schedule as Attorney Lawson is working on the easements, and they hope to get the advertisement ready for bid in the next week; they are trying to keep up as best they can to get the roadways mowed, the potholes patched and scrapping roads but it has been hard with the afternoon showers; they had a major leak a couple of weekends ago in Sumter County that they repaired; and they are working with the citizen that came to the last meeting regarding the alley behind his house.

## **PUBLIC HEARING – HERITAGE MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.**

Chairman Farrow opened the Public Hearing. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that she has a request from Heritage Management Group, Inc., with the property owner's authorization, to rezone a parcel of property from OI (Office Institutional) to HC (Heavy Commercial) for the purpose of locating a Trucking and Courier Service (Specialized Freight Trucking Company). Property is located on the northeast side of Greer Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and West of I-75. She advised that the business will be on 12.894 acres and will be about 1,000 feet from the nearest residence, Smoakies Bar B Que and the recreation complex is across the road. IDC Director Grant Buckley, spokesman for the company as the owners were not able to be at the meeting, stated that this company is a sister company of the user of this project; he thinks it is a good fit for this community. The ultimate end user is a trucking company, Indian River Transport, who is one of the country's most well thought of carriers of beverages; they transport milk and various fruit juices and the trailers are insulated so well they don't have to be refrigerated. They would like to place a terminal in Cordele that will have some wash out facilities and to wash and sanitize the trucks. He advised that the site has to have access to wastewater sewer and they wanted interstate visibility; this property has both.

He stated that they will have an asphalt drive and parking area and will put about a 10,000 square foot building that will have an office up front, dispatch, driver lounges, and then about five or six bays in the back with the wash out facilities. The rest of the land will be temporary storage for the tankers until they are ready for the next load. There will only be about twenty trucks a day, the property will be fenced and lit at night. Mr. Buckley advised that the reason this project is important to them is that they have committed to create 125 jobs within the first two years, with most of the jobs to be truck drivers; he has talked to three of the adjoining land owners and all of them did not express any opposition to this business. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone wanted to speak in favor of the request, there were none. He asked if anyone wanted to speak against the request, there were none. Chairman Farrow closed the public hearing and advised that no vote will be taken at this meeting, it will be voted on at the next regular meeting in August.

#### **APPOINT VOTING MEMBERS TO CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION BOARD**

**Chairman Farrow appointed himself, Larry Felton, and J. R. Dowdy, III as voting members of the Crisp County Power Commission Board from July 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2018.**

#### **RATIFY MOU BETWEEN CCSO AND GEMA FOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION SYSTEM**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the sheriff's department has obtained funding to purchase a lightning protection system to be placed at the Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park that Sheriff Hancock had alluded to earlier; it just needs to be ratified as 100% of the initial cost will come from the grant. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to ratify the MOU between Crisp County Sheriff's Office and GEMA for a Lightning Protection System, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **RATIFY DRUG COURT GRANT FOR FY 2019**

Mrs. Leverett reported that this is our annual Adult Felony Drug Court Grant that had to be processed by the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, so we got the chairman to sign the paperwork and sent it in; we will need to ratify it. She stated that there is a county match, however according to the chairman and Mr. Patton, we have notified them that the county's match cannot exceed 10% of the grant or \$15,000; total grant amount is \$174,888. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify the Adult Felony Drug Court Grant, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE FY 2019 SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FOR DRUG COURT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the grant award for the annual allotment for the Drug Court Grant was actually submitted for more than the \$174,888, but it was denied and part of the reason for that increase in the original request was to add some additional personnel to the drug court staff. She stated that since the original amount was awarded Mr. Metz, Drug Court Coordinator, sent in a supplemental request and they granted a part of that in the amount of \$46,000; this will help them add some part-time personnel. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the supplemental grant award of \$46,000 for the Adult Felony Drug Court, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

## **APPROVE LAW ENFORCEMENT VWAP GRANT AWARD**

Mrs. Leverett reported that we have the VWAP or the VOCA Grant that the sheriff spoke about earlier to provide two vehicles for the VOCA employees, total grant is \$43,360 with matching funds of \$10,840 brings the total to \$54,200. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Law Enforcement VWAP Grant, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

## **RENEW LEASE WITH MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE**

Mrs. Leverett reported that it is time to renew the lease on the Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care, which is the mental health building, as the five year lease has expired; it is the same lease just the dates have changed. This will be for an additional five years with one year increments with automatic renewal unless notification from either parties to terminate. The rent is \$29,736 per year or \$2,478 per month. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to renew the lease with Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

## **APPROVE 2018 AD VALOREM TAX FIVE YEAR HISTORY FOR ADVERTISING**

Mrs. Leverett reported that they are having a little bit of difficulty balancing the numbers between what the Tax Assessors Office is loading into the Win gap program and what the Tax Commissioner is downloading; it is not a big number but the numbers she has presented today are not final. She advised that during the budget process we talked about setting the tax millage at the roll back rate with no tax increase; they will not be adopting the rate today. She is asking them to approve the current 2018 Digest and Five Year History for advertising purposes and to give her the liberty to tweak those numbers to whatever the calculated roll back rate will be so that we can make the window of advertising and hopefully adopt the millage rate at the August meeting. She stated that if the numbers change significantly when she gets the final numbers from the Tax Commissioner, she will not proceed and we will have to have a called meeting. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the 2018 Ad Valorem Tax Five Year History for advertising based on the roll back rate as calculated on the final numbers and set the date to adopt the digest on August 14, 2018, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's report includes a preliminary summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County as of June 30, 2017. The General and three major Special Revenue Funds are reporting YTD revenues at \$18.5 million and YTD expenditures at \$17.3 million providing a positive 7% revenue over expenditure balance of \$1.2 million. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures increased preliminary YTD net income to \$190,537. Customer usage billed for the month was 6,562,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.4 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$1.9 million in accrued YTD revenue; \$1.5 million in YTD expenses increasing the Landfill's YTD net income to \$424,449. The total tonnage received for the month of June was 5,344.54, and the GEFA Loans are current at \$2.7 million. In the Cash report, we ended the fiscal year with just over \$12 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$4.8 million in the proprietary funds and just over \$5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$21.8 million at June 30<sup>th</sup>. Approximately \$14.7 million of that is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. The 2005 SPLOST Issue is getting close to closing this issue out. All of the funds have been obligated; we are just waiting for completion of the ongoing projects. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we have appropriated \$22.3 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this

issue leaving us with \$1.5 million to complete projects associated with this issue. Distribution No. 5 of the 2011 SPLOST Issue was \$306,338, which is back down about 5% from this same time last year. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$4.1 million for this issue. We expended \$1,210,837 from all SPLOST funds last month. Following that is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions, and just like SPLOST, this month's receipt of \$150,097.68 is down slightly. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we have eight outstanding loans for a total combined balance due of \$2.3 million. The final report included is a preliminary summary report on the revenues by fund and expenditures by department. As of June 30<sup>th</sup>, all departments and divisions should be at or below 100% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers at this time indicate the General and Special Revenue Funds at 98%, the Water Fund at 74% and the Landfill Fund at 91%.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Patton reported that yesterday he received the preliminaries on the phase of the improvement plan for the airport and it looks like between state and federal funding we will get about \$250,000 which means our match will be about \$40,000 but that all depends on the bids; the ACCG Legislative Leadership Conference will be in October, where they work on the counties agenda that we would like the General Assembly to work on for their next legislative session, he went over the sessions that will be discussed at the conference; he ask citizens to help do their part in reporting any vandalism at our county parks as we are having a good many vandalisms in the restrooms recently at our parks; they are progressing on Pickens Pool, they can't put this out for bids until the grant has been approved; and also he ask citizens to not litter on the roads.

### **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, motion carried with all Commissioners present 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. Mathis, motion carried with all Commissioners present agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**

### **APPROVE ELECTION FEE INCREASE FOR CERTIFIED POLE WORKERS**

**Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy, to increase the fee for board members and workers certified for election testing and processing to \$100 a day, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

### **REAPPOINT BOARD MEMBERS TO DFACS BOARD**

**Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to reappoint Melinda Whidden and Betty Baker to the Crisp County Department of Family and Children Services Board and thank them for their services, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

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**Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman**

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**Tom Patton, Administrator**