

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 14, 2018**

OPENING CEREMONIES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sam Farrow, Jr., 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 17, 2018, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSS DRUG COURT PROGRAM

Judge Robert Chasteen met with Commissioners and advised that the state gives grant money each year for the adult drug court, and they are expanding this program. He advised that the grant money is paid out of the drug abuse funds which are added to fines in court. There are matching funds from each of the counties, they are adding Ben Hill and Wilcox County this year, and what would be Crisp's obligation for those matching funds. He gave them a copy of the Ga. Code Section of what the drug abuse treatment and education funds can be used for and it states that those funds shall be expended by the governing authority of the county for which the fund is established solely and exclusively and drug abuse treatment and education programs relating to controlled substances, alcohol and marijuana, which would be the sheriff's DATE funds; these drug court funds can only be spent for these two programs. He advised that they are getting \$10,000 from Dooly County and Wilcox and Ben Hill Counties will be contributing another \$20,000. The total grant this year is \$220,888 and the counties match would be \$24,543, we can actually cover that with the other three counties but the matching funds cover things that we can't pay from the grant funds so that is why we need the matching grant funds. He stated that what has been happening in the past is once we send in the final report to the state and they approve it, then Crisp pays the matching funds. They have already spent the grant money last year, grant goes from July 1 thru June 30th of the following year, and we won't get the money from Crisp until the report comes back in and calculates what the percentage is. He is asking that Crisp County set an amount that you will be willing to pay out of the DATE funds and pay those funds either monthly or quarterly, which is what the other counties are doing. He advised that right now they are paying these funds out of their circuit judicial budget and then getting reimbursed. He would hope the commissioners decide how much the county will pay each year and then they could budget and know what else they could plan for outside of the grant funds to expand the program. Commissioner Nance asked why are we doing our funds that way, and Chairman Farrow advised that the grant goes through Crisp County and we administer it. Mrs. Leverett advised that the Commissioners have already approved up to \$15,000 in matching funds, which was done during the budget process. She advised that we could account for that match on a quarterly basis rather than wait until the end of the year, that way the drug court would get more funds and we would have our documentation as well. Also, any grant eligible expenses, the

county could run those through the county funds to keep them from having to wait to be reimbursed. Judge Chasteen advised that he would like a known amount for them as it doesn't matter to the state whether it matches that or not. Commissioner Felton stated that the Commissioners need to discuss this today in Executive Session and let the Judge know tomorrow; the drug court is something we need in Crisp County. Judge Chasteen advised that he appreciates the county's help in this program.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Major Joey Arzola advised that the sheriff is at a scene right now and asked him to come and give an update on the sheriff's department. He provided the Commissioners with the Sheriff's Department statistics report for last month and also brought a check for \$103,320 for housing inmates during the month of July. He advised that they have been working on a three year old homicide case along with the help of District Attorney Brad Rigby; they were able to get a confession and able to recover weapons that were used in that homicide case, it is still ongoing, and they want to thank the DA along with the GBI and the employees of the Crisp County Sheriff's office for their good work in this case. He thanked the Board for their support in helping them working on and securing several grants lately. He advised that they have two courts in session right now, they participated in several events, participating in the child safety seat class, and thanked the community and the Board for their continued support. Commissioners thanked him and the sheriff's office for the work they do.

DISCUSS MAIN STREET REQUEST

Monica Mitchell, Director of Main Street, advised that they are currently working on their fourth vibrant community grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Council for the Arts. They have completed three projects so far, two being murals and the other a permanent piece of public art that South Georgia Technical College did for them. They are wanting to paint another mural and would like to paint it on the side of the county building that the Board of Education is housed in; this will be visible when you are coming north on Hwy. 41 and they are thinking about several different things as they want to do a historic replica of landmarks. She advised that they would like permission from the Board to use the wall; the city provides the matching funds so it will not cost the county anything and Main Street will maintain the mural. Chairman Farrow asked if they had a drawing at this time, and Mrs. Mitchell replied no, they really needed permission first. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to tentatively approve Main Street to use the side of the school board building upon a rendering of the drawing, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Mitchell advised that the Industrial Development Authority has donated three storefronts to the Downtown Development Authority, which includes the Old Allied Building, the Flower Box Building, and the B.C. Moore building; they have sold the B.C. Moore building to Empire Dance Studio. Also, they are planning on having a haunted house downtown this year, The Whistle Stop Cafe and Pool Room are both open, Mrs. Phillips has renovated her building, the codes enforcement people are working on getting property owners to clean up their property, they are having a Murder Mystery Train in August, and they will have the first Rail Fan Festival will be on November 5th.

PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT

Public Works Director Carl Gamble reported that the bid opening on the Lakeshore Drive project will be August 30th, they are working with attorney Lawson on some quit claim deeds and other road closing projects, they are about 90% complete with the present resurfacing projects going on now, and they are

working on submitting a low impact bridge questionnaire on Brock Road bridge over Reedy Creek. Chairman Farrow asked Mr. Gamble when he had a chance to look into getting some chemical contracts to help maintain some of the roadways like the state is doing now.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Jonathan Windham reported that they had one structure fire, three vehicle fires, four motor vehicle accidents, one grass/woods fire, assisted in 43 medical calls, 15 alarms/other, and five special details/public safety with a total of 72 calls last month. He advised that they have been busy working with other agencies in training and classes; they have also picked up a rescue truck and a service truck.

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Extension Agent Joshua Grant provided a copy of their office minutes from last month as he and Becca Stackhouse wanted the Commissioners to have a copy and anyone else who wants copies of their office minutes can stop by the Extension Service. He advised that 4-H has been finishing up their summer activities, getting ready for going into the schools, getting ready for the banquet that will be at the end of this month, he has done a lot of scouting and helping producers in keeping up with the rain and the crops, and he is organizing some programming that will be coming up in the fall for the producers. Also they are working on the raised flower beds again at the Pre K School, they are conducting interviews to get an idea of what people's perspectives are about adopting solar energy in their household, and looking at starting honeybees for educational purposes. Ms. Stackhouse stated she has some CPR classes coming up for after schoolers, and a relationship smarts class teaching about healthy relationships for teens, and she will be attending several conferences in the next few months.

IDC UPDATE

Grant Buckley, IDC Director, reported that the economy continues to do well with the May unemployment numbers at 4%, the lowest in over 18 years, it did go up a little bit in June due to kids looking for jobs during the summer, and he has a visit today with a pretty significant company.

KENNETH LONG COMMENTS

Kenneth Long thanked Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, in keeping him up to date in all the information from the DNR in Atlanta. The last time he was here the gentlemen from DNR was going to provide us information so that the county could do a flood map update without going thru FEMA. He said the gentleman said he did not have a topo map but you can go on the internet and get free topo maps. If the gentleman is not going to supply the county what we need, he thinks the county needs to go ahead and get in line with FEMA for them to do a flood study at the lake. He believes if we have a new flood map based on the current power dam configuration there will be a lot of people that will not be in the flood plain; he thinks we need to pursue getting the updated information. Chairman Farrow advised that we are working toward eventually getting that done.

GRANT REQUEST FROM HERITAGE MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC.

Mrs. Youngblood reported that we had the public hearing last month to rezone property from OI (Office Institutional) to HC (Heavy Commercial) for the purpose of locating a trucking and courier service on property that is located on the northeast side of Greer Street and 8th Avenue and west of I-75. She read the review checklist for a rezoning request. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to grant the request from Heritage Management Group, Inc. to rezone property from OI (Office Institutional) to HC (Heavy Commercial), seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FROM RURAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORP., INC.

Chairman Farrow opened the public hearing. Mrs. Youngblood reported that Rural Community Improvement Corporation, Inc. has asked for a Special Use Permit for Multi-Family Dwelling Units in an RD (Two-Family (Duplex) Residential) zone district. The property is located on both sides of 25th Avenue West between Joe Wright Drive and 13th Street in Block A, B, J and K and known as Christian Homes Subdivision. She advised that in 2007 Rural Community went before the Zoning Board of Appeals to ask for variances on these lots because they were too small; they were granted variances and at that time they were going to build homes, mobile homes were also allowed there. Now they want to place multi-family duplex units. Joe Brown with Southwest Georgia United advised what they are doing in corporation with Rural Community Improvement Corp., Inc. is to take down the old trailer park, they have already constructed five houses in this area, and they want to construct six multi-family units, each one consisting of four separate independent units with a total of 24 units. They want the units to look like a house, they are working with their architect on this, and all of this will be contingent on receiving a grant from the USDA. There will be additional parking pads to handle the overflow and will construct one community building that will house the management. The lots that they will use or either vacant or the mobile home on the lot is vacant also, this will improve the area. Charlotte Dobbs, Asset Management Director, advised that they are proposing 4 one bedroom, one bath units, 12 two bedrooms, one and one-half bath units, and 8 three bedrooms, two and one-half bath units. Chairman asked for any comments for or against the request. Mrs. Youngblood advised that they have had one issue that came up about the mailboxes; Mr. Brown stated that early on they knew that they did not want 24 mailboxes in a line and their proposal from the beginning was to have cluster boxes. Mrs. Youngblood read the review checklist for a Special Use Request. There being no other comments, Chairman Farrow closed the public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to grant the Special Use Permit for Multi-Family Dwelling Units for the Rural Community Improvement Corporation, Inc., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY RENEWAL OF MOU BETWEEN CRISP COUNTY BOC AND CRISP COUNTY BOH

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has the Memorandum of Understanding between the Crisp County Board of Commissioners and the Crisp County Board of Health for use of the facilities in the event of a public health emergency. This is a standard agreement, it is already in place, it is time to renew it, and it basically allows the health department to use our recreation department facilities and the extension service building in the event that we have a public health emergency. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to ratify the renewal of the MOU between Crisp County Board of Commissioners and Crisp County Board of Health, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT 2018 TAX LEVY RESOLUTION

Mrs. Leverett reported that it is time to adopt the 2018 Tax Levy Resolution and approve the other required documents that will have to go with the digest. The rollback millage rate was a little bit less than last year's rate; last year's rate was 12.130, this year's rate will be 12.088 due to the inflationary growth rollback calculation. She advised that the Special Service District tax rate of .001147, if you live in the unincorporated area, is up slightly; the rate is set to meet the expenditures and those expenditures went up on the combined fire and garbage collection services. She read the 2018 Tax Levy Resolution with county millage rate, unincorporated area millage rate, and maintenance and operation of the School system for educational purposes rate being 17.388. She advised that the school board rolled their tax rate back also per the inflationary growth as well. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the 2018 Tax Levy Resolution and authorize the chairman to sign the necessary documents associated with the digest, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried.**

GDOT 5311 CONTRACT

Mrs. Leverett reported that she received the Georgia Department of Transportation 5311 Contract, the contract years began on July 1st and we received the contract yesterday. It is the standard contract with the total contract for operating expenses is \$459,432; 50% would be the local match at \$229,716 which will be paid by the TPO, Resource Management. It will not cost the county anything but some administrative time to continue the transit service for another year. There is also included a capital grant of \$3,200 with local match of \$320 for some computer equipment which Resource Management will pay as well. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the GDOT 5311 Transit Contract, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE CRISP COUNTY FINANCIAL SOFTWARE

Mrs. Leverett reported that they have been looking the last several months at replacing the accounting system software as we had received notification from IBM that the type machines we have will no longer be supported. The money is in SPLOST to pay for this. She sent out bid packages and received three bids and several references on each bidder; she received a good response on Edmunds & Associates, which is the one they liked as well. She advised that she and her staff did go to a couple of locations and were able to see this program live, and the bid does not include any hardware. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow the Finance Director to move forward with a contract with Edmunds and Associates for software cost for the accounting system of \$56,335, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first report is the financial summary report for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds; we are showing \$888,276 in YTD revenue for these funds. That combined with \$1.6 million in expenditures leaves a -4% shortfall of expenditures over revenues after the first thirty days of -\$677,391. Cash reserves are sufficient to carry us through until that gap begins to close. In the Water Fund we are reporting YTD numbers at \$61,269 for revenue and \$55,315 in expenses leaving this Fund with a preliminary net income of \$5,954. Customer usage billed for the month was 7,630,000 gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.3 million. The Landfill Fund is reporting \$164,652 in accrued year to date revenue; \$132,294 in expenses, leaving this fund with a preliminary net

income of \$32,358 at July 31, 2018. The total tonnage received for the month of July was 5,209.76. The GEFA Loans are current at \$2.7 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$11.3 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$4.9 million in the proprietary funds and \$5.3 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$21.7 million. Over \$15 million of that balance is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. In the 2005 SPLOST Issue, all of the funds have been obligated; we are just waiting for completion of the ongoing projects. In the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we have appropriated \$22.3 million of the \$23.8 million collected under this issue leaving us with \$1.5 million to complete projects associated with this issue. Distribution No. 6 in the amount of \$332,281 for the 2017 SPLOST Issue is down about -5% from the average collected for this time period under the previous issue. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$4.1 million for this issue with current revenue distributions totaling \$1.9 million. Next is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T. distributions; this month's distribution of \$162,792 actually shown an increase over this time last year of less than 1%, that is a bit misleading if you factor in our 1% gain at 1/1/18 on the distribution formula, the real number is down, like SPLOST, just over -5%. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund report, we currently have eight loans with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report. All departments and divisions should be at or below 8% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate all major funds at 8% as of the information reported and included in these reports.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Patton reported that the moving Vietnam Memorial Wall will be coming to Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park over the Labor Day weekend, he and Commissioner Mathis have been working on that as they are members of the Friends of the Park Board of Trustees. The wall will arrive on August 29th, Opening Ceremonies will be on August 31st at 10:00 a.m. and closing ceremony will be September 2nd at 2:00 p.m. Also, he participated in the interview on solar use on homes with the Extension Service, he participated in a ribbon cutting at Empire Dance Studio, and Albany State's enrollment is up as they have added back their nursing program and also added criminal justice classes.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Eric Bozeman, Recreation Department Director, reported that the RFP on Pickens Pool is pretty close to being finished to go out to bid but we can't do anything until the grant is awarded. When the grant is awarded in September then we can go forth with the RFP upon your approval, he knows that other things, such as the bath house, etc., have been discussed so at that time we will know what we can do. Commissioner Felton asked what the time frame would be when the grant was awarded. Mr. Bozeman advised that he has talked with three contractors and they tell us if we get everything in line by November that it can be completed in May, if weather permits. He also advised that they finished the registration for the fall activities and are picking teams this week and will begin practice schedules soon, opening day is September 15th for the football program and the week after will be opening day for the soccer program.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVE QUIT CLAIM DEED

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to give unused right-of-way at Hwy. 300 Extension east of Hwy. 90 back to the property owner, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Tom Patton, Administrator