

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

**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 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. Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 9, 2018 and the called meeting minutes of October 23, 2018, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

**ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT**

Marty Fore, Chief Ranger III with Crisp Dooly Forestry, brought his annual forestry report for Commissioners, and advised that they try to educate the public as much as possible about the burning and the burn system they have in place. He advised that they had only 17 wild fires last year that burned 29.14 acres; he attributes the low number due to a wet season we had. He reported that the public could call 1-877-652-2876 to get a permit before they burn, as it is a state law that they get this permit. The permit is only good for natural habitat materials and no fabricated materials can be burned; there is no cost to get a burn permit. Mr. Fore thanked Crisp County Fire Rescue for the work they do as they work well with the forestry department.

**ADOPT DINE IN WITH US LOCAL GOVERNMENT JOINT PROCLAMATION**

Administrator Patton read the Dine In With Us: Tasty Success Proclamation, which is promoting families to build healthy relationships through meals together and proclaims Monday December 3, 2018 as Family & Consumer Sciences "Dining In" Day. Rebecca Stackhouse, Crisp County Extension Service Agent, reported that they will be at the Library on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to try to get people to think about dining in and being at the table together without technology; the public is invited to attend. The City Commissioners signed this resolution last week. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Dine In With Us: Tasty Success Local Government Joint Proclamation and authorizing the Chairman to sign the proclamation, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**FAMILY CONNECTIONS UPDATE**

Sherrie Evans, Director of Family Connections, reminded the Commissioners of the Crisp County Chair awards, their annual event, which is a time to raise awareness for family connections and the Community Council for what they do for the children. She asked them to come to help celebrate their partners that service families and children, and they will recognize people for their volunteering service.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Assistant Fire Chief Michael Postell reported they had several calls pertaining to Hurricane Michel including extrication of a citizen from a residence, tree removal from roadways, assisting with a missing person and storm damage assessment. He gave a lot of credit to Sheriff Hancock in planning before the hurricane and all the work that was done behind the scene. He stated that they conducted the required yearly hose testing, they taught Fire Safety Education programs to approximately 1600 students, they attended the Lions Club Fair to interact with and convey fire safety information, and they participated in Trunk or Treat serving about 1500 students. He also thanked Commissioners for getting the generators in before the storm.

## **PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Public Works Director Carl Gamble reported that he is glad that Hurricane Michael is gone, but they will be cleaning up many weeks from now as their first issue was to get the roads cleared and now they will begin the process of cleaning up. They do have some Army Core contractors in to help in this process. He asked the public for their patience in the process of getting the debris cleared up. He advised that he would be bringing the LMIG contract next month. Mr. Gamble also reported that there would be three cleanup rounds to pick up limbs and trees in the county, and they have extended the hours at the landfill for the contractors.

## **COUNTY EXTENSION UPDATE**

Josh Grant, County Extension Ag Agent reported that they are on the back end of assessments now on the damaged crops. UGA has their official estimate numbers for pre harvesting for the total damage on county and state levels for all the major commodities such as pecans, peanuts and cotton. They are trying to figure out how the cotton is going to grade out and what the overall pecan year is going to look like; they think it will take at least fifteen years for the pecan crop to recover completely from tree and limb loss. He stated that he has done some assessments in the county on what the cotton loss was just from lint flying out of the boles and it is anywhere from 15% to upwards to 60-80% loss. Handpicking from whatever was on the ground until what was still on the limbs is looking at 40-50% loss up front, which is not accounting for any of the loss that they will have when the harvesters go through and pick the cotton. In addition, FEMA had been here for several days helping the farmers and if anyone has any other questions, they can call the extension department.

## **UPDATE FTA PROCUREMENT MANUAL FOR 5311 TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

Mrs. Leverett reported that we adopted a purchasing policy specifically for FTA grant programs in May 2018; she already has an update to that policy. They are two changes that they are making, one is the update on FTA micro purchase threshold from \$3,000 to \$10,000 or less, and the other is on the small purchase threshold will change go to \$10,000 to \$250,000. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to update the FTA Procurement Manual for 5311 Transportation Program as suggested and authorize the chairman to sign, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FY 2020 APPLICATION TO GDOT FOR FUNDING OF 5311 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has the annual Resolution authorizing the county to apply for the grant in support of our 5311 Public Transportation Program for FY 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Resolution Authorizing the FY 2020 application to GDOT for funding of the 5311 Public Transportation Program and authorizing the chairman to sign on the county's behalf, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE AMENDMENT TO FY 2019 TPO CONTRACT FOR 5311 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Mrs. Leverett reported that she has an amendment to the FY 2019 Third Party Operator (TPO) Contract; we still do not have our FY 2019 TPO Contract in place because they have been some discrepancies between DOT and our TPO's on some of the wording in those contracts. She thinks they have finally reach a resolution on that and this amendment to the contract allows them to move forward with the FY 19 Contract. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve Amendment #1 to the FY 2019 5311 TPO Contract between the county and Resource Management for 5311 public transportation services and authorize the chairman to sign the paperwork, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**RATIFY VOCO PROGRAM GRANT FOR DA'S OFFICE**

Mrs. Leverett reported that Commissioners need to ratify the VOCO Grant that comes through the District Attorney's office; total federal funds for the first allocation are \$195,870 with matching funds of \$48,968, and total federal funds for the second allocation are \$70,200 with matching funds of \$17,550. She advised that the District Attorney's office take care of the match, which is a flow-through grant and comes through the county to the DA's office in support of their Victims' Advocate program. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify the VOCO Program Grant for the District Attorney's Office, seconded by Mr. Felton motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION UPDATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR FLEX ACCOUNT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that Monica Irwin, Human Services Director, would be the new administrator for the Flex Account; she will need to be added as an authorized signer for this account. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to authorize the Resolution updating the signatures for the County Commissioners Flex Account, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE FY 2018 FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Mrs. Leverett reported that we have the annual budget adjustments for FY 2018. The countywide original budget was \$23,300,099 and the final budget after adjustments are \$28,983,927; most of the increase is in SPLOST, TSPLOST, General and Landfill funds. She advised that it aligns our budget with the actual expenditures and is normal business for the county. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to approve the FY 2018 final budget adjustments, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the financial report today is a preliminary report for the period of July through October 2018. In the report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, these funds are reporting YTD revenues received of just under \$4 million and YTD expenditures at \$5.8 million. This leaves a -10% revenue over expenditure shortfall of -\$1.8 million. The Water Fund ended the same period with a net profit of \$59,978. The USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.3 million. In the Landfill Fund, YTD revenues of \$669,628 and expenses of \$533,180 leave this fund with a year to date profit of 136,448. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$2.5 million. In the cash report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined ended the month with \$11.1 million, the proprietary funds with \$5 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds with \$3.6 million, bringing the Countywide total to \$19.7 million. As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, we have spent or appropriated \$24.8 million on projects approved under the 2005 SPLOST Issue and \$22.4 million from the 2011 SPLOST Issue. Once again, the monthly distribution for the 2017 SPLOST Issue is down 9% from the average collected for this time period under the previous issue. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$4.7 million for this issue with current revenue distributions totaling \$2.8 million. Next is the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, with nothing new as this month's distribution of \$135,840 is also down by just over 11% from this time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund report, we remain at eight outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$2.2 million. We hope to close the WorthFab Loan (\$470,000) that was approved at the call meeting within the next week or so. The last report is the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report, which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each department and the total for each fund. Expenditures should be below 33%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined were at 30%, the Water Fund is 27%, and the Landfill Fund is at 31%.

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

Administrator Patton went over the highlights of his report: 1) that they had the annual joint pension board meeting in Stone Mountain and the county's pension statement will go down a little over \$100,000, they also looked at having another moratorium on the death benefit premium that is paid; 2) Last Thursday a joint forum was held at the Community Clubhouse and it went pretty good, he thought; 3) Friday they had the Chamber retreat where they set the agenda for next year, and the biggest issue from the forum and at the chamber retreat was trash, 4) the Veterans Ceremony was held last Saturday at the Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park, it was well attended and they laid about forty bricks.

#### **COMMISSIONER FELTON'S COMMENTS**

Commissioner Felton advised that we still have not begun any work at Pickens's Pool and it is November and school will be out in May; we need to have the pool and pool house ready when the kids get out of school. Administrator Patton stated that they have the RFP ready to go and we can go ahead and issue that and see what happens. Commissioner Mathis advised that if they could get him the project number and the people they have talked with, he would contact some people on the state and federal level and see what he can find out about the grant. Also, Chairman Farrow asked the administrator could contact some of the people that would like to bid on the pool and see if they can give us a time schedule and a completion date. Commissioner Felton also had some concerns with how many kids the county is taking to games for the all-star teams.

#### **PAST COMMISSIONER AND CHAIRMAN CLARK HENDERSON PASSED AWAY**

Administrator Patton reported that we received word this morning that past Commissioner and past Chairman Clark Henderson passed away early this morning and all Commissioners offered condolences to Mr. Henderson's family.

**GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and property, 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.

**PECAN STREET EASEMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to donate county owned land on Pecan Street to the City of Cordele for the sidewalk project, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

**REAPPOINT TWO HOSPITAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS**

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Gene Ford and Dr. Bill Pannell to the Hospital Authority Board per the Hospital Authority's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

**REAPPOINT TWO ZONING BOARD MEMBERS**

Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to reappoint Ray Cromer and Wayne Taylor to the Crisp County Zoning Board, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

**ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF IDC BOARD MEMBER & APPOINT MEMBER**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to accept the letter of resignation from Ritch McCutchen on the Cordele-Crisp IDC Board and also appoint Bob Evans to replace Mr. McCutchen on this Board, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

By common consent, Chairman Farrow adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

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Sam Farrow, Jr., Chairman

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Tom Patton, Administrator