

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CRISP COUNTY
MAY 14, 2002**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman J. R. Dowdy, Jr. called the meeting to order. Commissioners James D. Harris, Wallace Mathis, Joyce C. Pheil, Willie J. Patrick, County Administrator John S. Pate, Jr., County Attorney Guy D. Pfeiffer and secretary Linda Finch in attendance. Mr. Harris gave the invocation.

WELCOME WILLIE PATRICK TO THE BOARD

Chairman Dowdy and other Commissioners welcomed Mr. Patrick to the Board of Commissioners to take the place of Mr. Nance.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, approving minutes of April 9, 2002.

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE REQUEST FOR BOBBY ADKINS

Ms. Connie Sangster, Assistant Planning Director, reported that Bobby Adkins is requesting a guesthouse at 385 Cork Ferry Road, which is in the RS2 zone district, and a guesthouse is approved by a Special Use Request. Mr. Adkins reported that he has a residence on the property and he wants to put a weekend type guesthouse which will be about 1000 sq. ft., as you can only go ½ the size of the main residence. Mrs. Pheil asked if he lived in the main house and he replied no, it is rental property, and he will use the proposed house on the weekends. Ms. Sangster stated that a guesthouse couldn't be used for a permanent residence. Mrs. Pheil stated that she heard from a good many citizens at the river yesterday and their only problem was as being a guesthouse if it was going to be rented out basically there would be two tenants on the same property. Mr. Adkins advised that he has approximately 22 acres where the guesthouse will be sitting, and you cannot see any other residences from the proposed house, but that he does not have enough road frontages to separate into two parcels. Chairman Dowdy asked for any other comments from Commissioners and citizens and there were none.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried closing the public hearing. Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried with Mrs. Pheil opposing, allowing Bobby Adkins a Special Use Request for a guest house.

SHORT TERM WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Chairman Dowdy reported that the Commissioners need to adopt the Short Term Work Program Update, which was favorably approved by Gerald Mixon. Mrs. Sangster stated that we need to approve this and get back to Middles Flint RDC so they can send it to the state for approval.

Motion made by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried adopting the Short Term Work

Program Update.

PUBLIC HEARING – CLOSING PORTION OF HAMILTON LOOP ROAD

Mr. Gamble, Public Works Director, reported that we have advertised in the paper, posted a notice on the property, notified all the property owners adjacent to Hamilton Loop Road about the closing of part of the road, and Mrs. Ann Hamilton requested that the additional 300 – 400 ft. where the road turns in front of her house, that portion instead of being closed to the west property line, be closed to the east property line which makes the road straight. Chairman Dowdy asked for any comments. Mrs. Pheil stated that she had one person opposed to the road closing because of public safety as they may not be able to get an ambulance or fire truck to them but she has spoken with the Ambulance Department and Fire Department, and they have assured her that they would get to them if they needed them. Mr. Gamble stated that they also wanted to change the name, and they have come up with Hamilton Lane, which suits all the property owners. Randy King, adjacent landowner, stated that he is in favor of closing the road.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried closing public hearing. Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried agreeing to allow Chairman Dowdy to execute abandonment and approving closing of portion of Hamilton Loop Road from the south right-of-way of Arabi Warwick Road to the east property line of Ann Hamilton subject to approval of Mr. King and Mrs. Hamilton and change the name to Hamilton Lane.

SPLOST REQUEST – 3 MAINTENANCE TRUCKS

Mike Coleman reported that they have an opportunity to purchase a good, used bucket truck from the Power Commission and the bucket truck that they have now is pretty well worn out. He advised that the Power Commission's truck has a 13' longer reach than theirs and it will definitely aid them in the Courthouse and Jail work and the Power Commission will sell it to the County for \$12,000.00. He also advised that his service trucks presently have extremely high mileage and they are beginning to run into more and more costly repairs, and he would like to take bids on two service body trucks and maybe we may get a better price. Commissioners discussed that we need to conserve and save money and maybe look at money in budget requests for one of the vehicles.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, agreeing to purchase bucket truck from the Power Commission at \$12,000.00, and also agreeing to take bids on one service truck for the maintenance department.

REPLACE LOCKS ON THE COURTROOM DOOR APPROVED

Mr. Pate reported that he has talked to the Judges and it will cost about \$5,000 to put in glass doors and security locks on the Courtroom entrance. We can put the locks on the doors that are already there for about \$2,500.00, as there is no strong opinion by the Judges to put glass doors in the entry. He recommends that we do not put the glass doors in at this time and that we can take the locks out and put them on the new doors when they are replaced.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Patrick and motion carried approving security locks on the Courtroom doors so people can exit here instead of going to the 13th Avenue exit.

SPLOST REQUEST TRUCK FOR PUBLIC WORKS APPROVED

Mr. Gamble reported that he would like to purchase a ¾ ton work truck, as they have some that are 15-16 years old with many miles on them and he wants to replace one truck in the shop.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, allowing Mr. Gamble to get bids on a work truck for the shop and bring back to the next regular meeting.

DISCUSS ELBERT ROAD

Mr. Gamble reported that on Elbert Road, right off of Sheppard Drive, where Mr. McCloud put in his subdivision, there is a good bit of traffic, and when it rains people can't get through, Mrs. Pheil gets regular complaints also, and they would like to put "crush and run" on the first part of this road for about 900 feet to help alleviate the problem.

Motion made by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Mathis and motion carried, allowing Mr. Gamble to buy the "crush and run" and put what is needed on Elbert Road and then stockpile the rest until he needs it.

DISCUSS FINDLEY ROAD CLOSING

Chairman Dowdy stated that Findley Road goes up to the Star Gas Company and since Marshall Brown has moved his business, Mrs. Alice Nutt has requested that we close the road.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, agreeing to advertise to close Findley Road per the homeowner's request.

NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK PROCLAMATION

Wayne Martin and Sylvia Koontz met with the Commissioners to ask them to sign a Proclamation proclaiming the week of May 12-18, 2002 as National Hospital Week. Mr. Mathis read the proclamation.

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Mathis and motion carried, adopting the National Hospital Week Proclamation and proclaiming the week of May 12-18, 2002, as National Hospital Week.

NEWTOWN SEWER SYSTEM – PHASE II BID APPROVED

Chairman Dowdy reported that Mike Harrison Co. is the low bidder on the Newtown Sewer System Phase II, he was also the contractor on Phase I, and Mr. Newberry and Mr. tenBensel recommend his company for the Phase II Project.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Patrick and motion carried, approving the low bid from Mike Harrison Company in the amount of \$390,811.50.

LYNETTE ROSS COMMENTS

Mrs. Lynette Ross asked Commissioners if they are getting the complete system in Newtown, and Chairman Dowdy advised that Phase II is suppose to take care of all of Newtown. She also wanted to know that since they have just resurfaced Turner Street, how they are going to run the lines, and Mr. Pate replied that they have worked out a deal with the property owners and the right-of-way will be in the ditch and not tear up the newly resurfaced street. Mrs. Ross stated that they have a problem with water drainage on Joe Wright Drive as the pipes are filled up with dirt and the water stands and there is nowhere for the water to run. Mr. Mathis advised that he did see where there was grass and mounds of dirt on the end of some of the pipes, maybe public works can clean those out, and Mr. Gamble stated that he will get out there and get what needs to be done to get those pipes open. Mr. Patrick advised that he will go with Mr. Gamble to look at the problem. Mrs. Ross advised that they have a problem with dead animals on the streets, and she would like for Commissioners to pass an Ordinance to pick up dead animals. Mr. Gamble advised that they try not to pick up too many, but if the animal does not belong to anyone, his office will pick it up.

WATERMELON DAYS REQUEST

Monica Simmons, Patti Deal, Elaine Worley, and Renee Fraser met with Commissioners, and Mrs. Deal stated that they are there on behalf of the Watermelon Days Festival Committee to ask for \$3,500.00 to be included in next year's budget to help in the purchase of new banners to go along 16th Avenue and 7th Street. She advised that the ones they have now have gone about two years longer than expected, and they think this is a good way to advertise the festival. She stated that the total cost will be between \$10,000.00 and \$11,000.00 for the banners and brackets, and they will be asking the City of Cordele and Tourism for money, and they have commitments from the Watermelon Festival and Main Street already.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, approving request from the Watermelon Days Festival Committee and fund \$3,500.00 in next year's budget for watermelon banners and brackets.

HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM DISCUSSED

Amy Streetman, Program Manager for Healthy Families and Lisa Fowler, Coordinator for First Steps met with Commissioners concerning the Healthy Families Program. Ms. Streetman advised that their program is a non profit program that is a part of Healthy Families of Georgia, which serve pre-natal and first time parents who are referred by doctors and Crisp Regional Hospital, and neighboring hospitals (first time parents who live in Crisp County who give birth outside the county). First Steps serves all parents of newborns who give birth at Crisp Regional, and 76% of the parents serviced by Healthy Families are teen parents. They give the parents materials to help them learn parenting skills to cope with the stress of being a first time parent, and the Healthy Families Program is a home visitation program up to three months, and can service up to three years of age or higher, if needed. She advised that their program, which is funded by the Childrens Trust Fund, has been cut almost \$34,000.00 and the First Steps Program has been cut almost \$3,000.00, and they are asking Commissioners to budget \$10,000.00 or whatever they can to help fund the education materials needed in next year's budget for their programs. Mr. Mathis asked if they are going to approach the City of Cordele, and Ms. Streetman stated that they could. Mr. Patrick asked if they had talked with United Way, and she replied that they contribute to First Steps but they had cut them by about \$1,000.00. Ms. Streetman introduced the family workers, Sarah Henderson and Anita Smith, who actually go into the home and help educate the parents.

Chairman Dowdy thanked them for coming in and advised that Commissioners will take this under advisement and see if they can work in some money for them in the upcoming budget.

DISCUSS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Bruce Drennan reported that in their IDC meeting in April, he presented a proposal to bring in a company that has done some work in several counties to do a community assessment and help with putting together a strategic plan for economic development in this county. He stated that they will meet with the City and County Boards, and different Authority Boards in the community to put together a community assessment as far as our strong and weak points are and where they think we should improve, and in some cases, stay the same, to improve our ability to attract businesses in Cordele and Crisp County. He advised that the total cost will run about \$14,000.00 and will take about seven weeks to complete the study, and at the same time, the IDC is going to start a committee looking at a strategic plan that will parallel their study and when that study is complete, it will incorporate what they think we need to do to improve our economic development strategy. He advised that this will culminate around the October, November time frame when the IDC retreat is planned so they can put together their strategic plan for the next three to five years. He also stated that in addition to the strategic plan, they want to have a marketing plan in place to implement the strategic plan, and they also believe the County and City can use this study as well to update their comprehensive plans; they will ask all six banks to contribute, along with The Development Authority of Crisp County, City of Cordele, Crisp County, Industrial Development Authority, Power Commission, IDC, and the City of Arabi. He advised that they have not had a strategy in place since 1995, and they are asking for \$2,500.00 from the County. Chairman Dowdy replied that the IDC looked favorable on this request.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris, and motion carried, approving \$2,500.00 to participate in the Community Assessment Study.

APPROVE E-911 RESOLUTION

Mr. Pfeiffer reported that you are required to take a look at the funds that are collected and determine whether or not those funds are over funding the E-911, and in our case it is no where close to funding it, so this Resolution simply recognizes the necessity to continue to impose the \$1.50 charge on the telephones.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Mathis and motion carried, approving E-911 Resolution.

CELL PHONE UPDATE

Mr. Pate reported that there is a provision to collect on cell phones and it has to do with identifying the origin of the caller, it will cost around \$150,000.00 to purchase the equipment and we would collect about \$125,000.00 the first year, and we may want to look at implementing this in the future. Mr. Mathis thinks it will be more expensive than people think, plus people are already paying for landlines, and he doesn't know how effective this service will be. Chairman Dowdy stated that we

have talked about this for several years, and we never have found a way that we could implement it. Mr. Pate advised that he would like to study this more, and Commissioners agreed.

DISCUSS E-911 CONTRACT WITH THE CITY OF CORDELE

Chairman Dowdy appointed Joyce Pheil and Willie Patrick as Commission members to work with two City Commissioners to work out details on our E-911 Contract with the City as the present contract runs out June 30, 2002, and bring back to the Board.

SAFETY & RETURN TO WORK POLICIES APPROVED

Ray Lunsford, Fire Chief, reported that he was appointed the County Safety Coordinator, and advised that we have our workers compensation and our liability insurance with the Association County Commissioners of Georgia, and if we follow certain guidelines, we get a discount in premiums. He advised that we need to adopt a Safety Policy and a Return To Work Policy and put in place that is designed to help the employees as one of the items on the list we now have to do to receive the discount.

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, adopting Safety Policy Statement and Return to Work Policy.

SPLOST REQUEST - FIRE TRUCK

Mr. Lunsford stated that on the timeline they adopted for the SPLOST money, June was the time set aside to ask for money for a new fire truck, and it takes about ninety days to get the truck, so he would like approval so he can go ahead and start the process of taking bids on the truck. He advised that the truck will cost about \$175,500.00.

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Pheil and motion carried, approving Mr. Lunsford's request to purchase a fire truck with funds coming out of SPLOST funds. The truck will replace Engine No. 21 on Dorrough Road, which is fifteen years old.

SPLOST REQUEST - CITY OF ARABI APPROVED

Chairman Dowdy reported that Commissioners have received a letter from the City of Arabi requesting \$35,000.00 for a new backhoe from their SPLOST funds.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, approving City of Arabi's request for \$35,000.00 for a backhoe coming out of their SPLOST funds.

DENISE HULSEY'S REQUEST

Denise Hulsey advised that the Commissioners purchased her grandmother's house at 207 Oak Avenue East built in 1914, and she wanted to know if the house was going to be demolished, and if the intent was to demolish the house, she would like to move it off the property, but her first intent

would be to buy the house and property back, or if feasible to move the house, and if not feasible, just to remove portions of the interior of the house. Chairman Dowdy advised that we bought the house as it was for sale and adjacent to the Recreation Department property. Mr. Mathis ask what the procedure would be if we wanted to sell the house, and Mr. Pfeiffer stated that he would look into this. Ms. Hulsey asked for a first right of refusal on this house if Commissioners decided to sell or get rid of the house.

GEORGIA DUCTILE REQUEST

Charlie Dukes, Controller at Georgia Ductile, stated that prior to them getting into the stage that they are at now, there was a meeting with Mr. Dowdy, Pat McKnight, Frank McKinney, Robert Bridges and Dole Ledbetter, and in this conversation there was some discussion regarding the landfill fees, currently their fees are \$25.50 a ton, and there was a discussion according to their President that would take these fees down to \$12.00 a ton. He stated he is here to follow up on their side based on the auditing of their invoices, and request that we try to follow through with that conversation or come up with an amicable solution to help them with their fees. Chairman Dowdy stated that he does not remember the \$12.00 fee, but he remembers that they would try to work to see if they could find a use for the sand on the roads or somewhere. Mr. Pate replied that he has spoken to E.P.D. and they do consider this industrial waste, Georgia Ductile says they have documentation that this is environmentally safe, and there are two options; 1) to put it in another type landfill, or 2) to try and find a use for it, and it is giving them a fit at the landfill because it is so fine. Mr. Duke advised that it costs about \$33,000 a month for landfill fees, and the majority of their waste is the sand. Mr. Mathis asked if they had talked with Folsom Construction. He replied no but they have tried to start a dialog with Douglas Asphalt. Mr. Mathis advised that it costs a certain amount of dollars for the landfill space and we have to recoup the money because we have to pay for the landfill space and the labor it takes to run it. Mr. Dukes reported that any avenues the Commissioners can help would be greatly appreciated; also, he will get Commissioners a copy of the assessment and what the sand consists of.

DISCUSS LANDFILL ATTORNEY

Chairman Dowdy appointed Mr. Harris and Mr. Mathis to talk with the two attorneys that have sent in proposals for County Landfill Attorney, and bring back a recommendation to the Commissioners.

PURCHASE TARVER BUILDING

Mr. Pfeiffer reported that if the Commissioners still want to purchase the old Tarver Building, we will have to accept the bid proposal from Perlis of \$80,000, less half the cost of removing the asbestos and the flashing on the back; Mike Coleman got these bids on the asbestos removal and Superior Work, Inc. was the low bid of \$7,823.75, which brings the cost to \$75,880.18, with the taxes, etc. included.

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, agreeing to purchase the old Tarver Building at a cost of \$75,880.18, which is less the asbestos cost plus the taxes, etc.

Motion by Mr. Patrick, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, accepting the bid for removing

the asbestos at a price of \$7,823.75.

Motion made by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, amending the motion to purchase the Tarver Building for \$75,880.18 out of SPLOST funds.

Mr. Pate asked if Mr. Pope could come up with a plan to utilize the Tarver Building and Chairman Dowdy stated that it determines how you are going to use that building and maybe Mr. Pope can come down and give us some suggestions without drawing up plans just yet and maybe he can come to the next meeting and give us whatever alternatives we have and tell us what our options are.

GA VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK MONUMENT DISCUSSED

Chairman Dowdy reported that the GA Veterans Memorial Park Committee would like the Commissioners to purchase a brick for \$500.00. Mr. Pfeiffer was instructed to research this request and see if the Commissioners can legally give to this Committee and bring his findings back to the next regular meeting.

VA OFFICE REQUEST

Mr. Mathis reported that Carol Phagan in the Veterans Administration Office does not have an email address in her office and he was wondering if, to be of service to our veterans, we could front her an email account.

By common consent, Commissioners agreed to let Mrs. Phagan make a written request for an email account.

DOCKWEILER ROAD LIGHT APPROVED

Motion by Mrs. Pheil, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried approving a security light on Dockweiler Road and instructing Mr. Pate to advise the Power Commission to place the light to get the best use of the intersection and Tremont Clubhouse.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT AIRPORT GRANT FROM FAA

Chairman Dowdy reported that the FAA grant at the Airport is \$165,000.00 and it will cost the County 5%, State pays 5%, and they pay the rest. Mr. Pfeiffer reported that this is authorization to make application for runway 1028 lights and if the project costs as much as it is estimated and the State puts in their money, it will actually cost the County a little more than 5% or \$10,750. He advised that the Resolution authorizes Crisp County to make application for \$165,000 from the FAA and approves that the County will fund up to an amount not to exceed \$10,750 for the project and it authorizes the Chairman or Vice Chairman to execute and deliver any paperwork needed to apply for the grant.

Motion made by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Harris and motion carried, adopting the Resolution to make application to apply for a \$165,000.00 grant from the FAA.

PURCHASE 5 VOTING MACHINES

Chairman Dowdy stated that Belinda Griffin advised that she is going to need five more voting machines than the State is going to give her and each machine will cost about \$3500.00 each. Mrs. Pheil stated that the State has mandated the new machines, and Judge Griffin advised that if we get them now we can get them at a certain price and that if we don't take advantage of that price now, they are going to be higher.

Motion by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Patrick and motion carried, approving the purchase of five voting machines to be ordered now and charged in next year's budget.

DEPARTMENT OF AIR FORCE REQUEST

Mr. Pfeiffer advised that he did not see any way that the Commissioners could participate in the Department of Air Force's request for money.

MIDDLE FLINT RDC BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS

Motion by Mr. Mathis, seconded by Mr. Patrick and motion carried reappointing Jeff Couturier and James Harris to the Middle Flint RDC Board beginning July 1, 2002 and ending June 30, 2003.

BUDGET WORKSHOP DISCUSSED

By common consent, Commissioners instructed Mr. Pate and Mrs. Finch to set up budget workshops and let the Commissioners know.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Martha Hendley, Financial Director, stated that our expenditures were about \$300,000 more than the revenue during the month, but for the year revenues are over expenditures by about one million; and we have collected about 93% of the taxes. She advised that the revenues are under the expenditures in the SPLOST fund to date, and we still have about \$1,045,000 that we can draw on our lease. Commissioners had no questions after looking over the financial statements. Mrs. Hendley advised that the City of Cordele needs to send documentation before we give them any SPLOST funds. Mr. Pate will write a letter to the City of Cordele advising them that we need documentation before we can pay their SPLOST requests.

CANNON ROAD REQUEST

By common consent, Commissioners instructed Mr. Pate to write a letter to DOT stating that the County supports the widening of Cannon Road, if the State will take over the road and maintain it.

GABSY 34 DISCUSSED

By common consent, Commissioners advised Mrs. Hendley to do what she wants to do on the evaluation of fixed assets to comply with GABSY 34.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Pate reported that he has a solution to the ball fields at the airport. He wants to open up 2 holes they were going to use for the old plan and the only wrinkle in this is if we can get approval from the EPD for the wetlands to make sure they are not encroached. He advised that it would take about \$800 - \$900 for wetlands study and if this is approved that will give them 17 additional acres for the ball fields by closing the 1st and 2nd holes. He advised that by changing the 2 holes, it will make a better course as it will be more challenging, and there is also the acres just west of the building they can use, and the FAA has agreed to this, somewhat reluctantly, as long as we stay out of the flight zone and turn our lights to the southeast. Mr. Mathis still thinks the other area close to 2nd Street would be better for the fields as businesses coming to the airport can see that we are taking care of our kids.

Motion made by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Patrick and motion carried authorizing \$900.00 for a wetlands study only at this time.

ADJOURN

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting.

J. R. Dowdy, Jr., Chairman

John S. Pate, Jr., County Administrator