

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2020**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Sam N. 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, Larry Felton and J. R. Dowdy, III in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Linda Finch. Commissioner Nance gave the invocation and Administrator Harrell led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Farrow welcomed all in attendance as well as our new County Administrator Mr. Harrell and advised that Commissioner Mathis is in Washington D. C. on behalf of ACCG and Crisp County to witness the President sign the China Trade Deal.

APPOINTMENT OF SAM N. FARROW, JR. AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2020

Administrator Harrell called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Sam N. Farrow, Jr. as Chairman. Commissioner Nance moved that the nominations be closed. Administrator Harrell called for the vote and Commissioner Farrow was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2020.**

APPOINTMENT OF A. JAMES NANCE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2020

Chairman Farrow called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to reappoint A. James Nance as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Felton moved that the nominations be closed. Chairman Farrow called for the vote and Commissioner Nance was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2020.**

APPOINTMENT OF RICK LAWSON AS COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR 2020

Administrator Harrell recommended Rick Lawson and his firm be reappointed as County Attorney for 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Rick Lawson as County Attorney for 2020, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT OF LINDA FINCH AS COUNTY CLERK FOR 2020

Administrator Harrell recommended Linda Finch be reappointed as County Clerk for 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Linda Finch as County Clerk for 2020, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 10, 2019, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 2019 CRISP COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL COUGAR FOOTBALL TEAM
RESOLUTION 2020-003**

Commissioner Nance stated that we are delighted to have the superintendent, coaches, and student athletes here today. The Commissioners would like to congratulate you for working so hard to accomplish what you have done and recognize you for your success and continued success. Commissioner Nance read the resolution recognizing the 2019 Cougar Football Team for finishing the season with an 11-4 record, won their 4th Region 1 AAA championship in a row, and finished second as state runner-up, first time in school history. They also posted the most successful Crisp County High School Football single season record in school history, and it is with highest commendation that the Commissioners honor and extend congratulations to the 2019 Cougar Football Team along with Head Coach Brad Haber and his staff for their outstanding season of play, recognize and remember them as true Champions. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt A Resolution Recognizing the 2019 Crisp County High School Cougar Football Team, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Coach Haber stated that on behalf of all the players, coaches, and all involved in the program, we really appreciate this honor.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT
APPROVE HAZARD MITIGATION PRE-APPLICATION
APPROVE 2020 MUTUAL AIR AGREEMENT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock brought a check for \$104,000 for inmate housing. He advised that their office ask permission to apply for a pre-application Hazardous Mitigation Grant as they are trying to find ways to help with the infrastructure in the county and this would be an opportunity to apply for some money for the radio tower on Hwy. 280. He stated that most Mitigation Grants are paid at 100%. Also, he left a packet for signatures for the statewide Mutual Aid Agreement; we have to have this in place as part of the Emergency Management so if we do have a disaster, we can get that help. In his monthly report, he advised that during the month of December, they served 175 warrants, 149 civil papers and 291 subpoenas, had 166 court man-hours and wrote 339 citations. In Inmate Housing, they had a combined 2542 total days housed for US Marshals and Cordele PD. Deputies patrolled 91,657 miles at .19 a mile. They had 78 animal assistance calls in the Animal Control Report. Also, at the Detention Center, they booked 145 prisoners and released 154, and the E911 Reports shows they received 3,027 service calls and 670 traffic calls last month. He welcomed the Administrator and advised that he has enjoyed working with him the last couple of weeks. Administrator Harrell reported that he has spent some time with Sheriff Hancock and the Sheriff has run an absolute first class operation with the age of the detention center building. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Hazard Mitigation pre-application, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the 2020 Mutual Aid Agreement and give the chairman authority to sign the necessary paperwork, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT

Public Works Director reported that CSX Railroad has a mega team here; they are working on some railroad crossings in the county. He stated that that they are almost finished with the 2018 resurfacing projects as they are down to one last item on those projects, his department is helping with work at the health department. Also, weather permitting they are working on getting roads patched and potholes filled in. He has enjoyed meeting, getting to know and working with Administrator Harrell.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Michael Postell reported that during the month of December they received 70 calls, their department received a \$200 donation from Marvair, which will be used to purchase firefighting equipment. Their personnel attended a Thermal Oil Emergencies class, hosted by Norboard. Also, personnel participated in the 2019 Lions Club Christmas Parade and assisted volunteers with distributing toys for the Adopt an Angel program. He advised that he has enjoyed getting to know and talking with Administrator Harrell these last few weeks.

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

Chief Ranger Marty Fore of the Georgia Forestry Commission brought his annual report. He advised that Hurricane Michael was in the fiscal year of this report; their rangers were sent to Miller County to help the citizens there, and we had people from north Georgia helping assist in our area. He has met the new Administrator and he knows just about everyone that he works with. Their office has done a good bit of restoration work where they go out and help individuals clear their firebreaks and they had a strike team that went to Dougherty County for about two months helping clear the plantations. Also, they had 13 wildfires in Crisp County in 2019, and they have a good working relationship with Crisp-Fire Rescue. He advised that they are here to help this community to be safe from wildfires and they are available 24 hours a day every day.

RATIFY CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Administrator Harrell advised that the Franchise Agreement with the Crisp County Power Commission needs to be ratified by the County Commissioners. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify the Crisp County Power Commission Franchise Agreement for a period of six months from January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2024, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINT COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Administrator Harrell advised that they need approval of the 2020 County Commission committee appointments. The 2019 Commission appointments are in your packet and include Landfill, Water System, Public Safety, Public Works Committees, Crisp County Community Council, Crisp County Planning Committee, Finance and Stormwater Mitigation Advisory Committees. He stated that based on the commissioners on each committee, he would recommend the same committee members for 2020 as 2019 and replace Tom Patton with the Clark Harrell on the Crisp County Community Council. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint the 2020 County Commission Committee appointments the same as 2019 and appoint Clark Harrell on the Crisp County Community Council, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINT VOTING MEMBERS TO CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION BOARD FOR 6 MONTHS

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to appoint Commissioners Farrow, Nance and Mathis to the Crisp County Power Commission Board as voting members from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPT RESOLUTION CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS APPOINTMENT OF ACCG
COUNTY LEGISLATIVE COORDINATOR (CLC)
RESOLUTION 2020-001**

Administrator Harrell reported that we a Resolution to appoint the ACCG County Legislative Coordinator. He read the resolution designating Administrator Clark Harrell to serve as the CLC for Crisp County until further notice. He stated that in years past, the appointment was made year by year, but this resolution is from this this day forward until Commissioners appoint someone else. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the Resolution Crisp County Board of Commissioners Appointment of ACCG County Legislative Coordinator, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION FIXING AND ORDERING THE PUBLICATION OF QUALIFICATION FEES PURSUANT
TO O.C.G.A. SECTION 21-1-131
RESOLUTION 2020-002**

Administrator Harrell reported that this is a Resolution setting the Qualification Fees for the General Primary Election to be held on May 19, 2020. He read the resolution to include the qualification fees for the following seats: Board of Commissioners (two districts), Sheriff, Clerk of Superior Court, Judge of Probate Court, Chief Magistrate, Tax Commissioner, Coroner, Board of Education (two districts) and Land Surveyor. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution Fixing and Ordering the Publication of Qualification Fees Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 21-1-131, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE PROPOSED BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FY 2021

Administrator Harrell reported that in their packet is the proposed Budget Calendar for FY 2021, the budget packets will go out to department heads and Elected Officials on or before February 2nd and will end with a December 20, 2020 tax payment deadline. Finance Director Sherrie Leverett recommended these dates. He recommends support of the Budget Calendar. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the FY 2021 Budget Calendar, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION – CHECK SIGNING AUTHORIZATION-CRISP COUNTY CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT BANK
ACCOUNTS
RESOLUTION 2020-004**

Administrator Harrell reported that he has one additional resolution that was brought to our attention this morning. This is a resolution for check signing authorization for bank accounts for the new Crisp County Clerk of Superior Court. He read the resolution stating Tara Hayslip is authorized to sign checks of the county on Crisp County Clerk of Superior Court Bank Accounts. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Resolution – Check Signing Authorization-Crisp County Clerk of Superior Court Bank Accounts, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of her report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures as of 12/31/19 for the County’s General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, these funds are reporting year to date revenues of \$6.4 million and year to date expenditures of \$10.4 million

leaving a negative revenue over expenditure position of almost \$4 million. The 2019 tax notices have been mailed out and we should see this gap begin to close; we will continue to rely on reserves to bridge that deficit. In the Water Fund, net income is at \$122,696, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.3 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued revenues and expenses leave this fund with an YTD net income of \$181,869. The GEFA loans are current at just over \$2 million. In the cash report, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$8.7 million, the Proprietary Funds \$6.4 million and the SPLOST Funds \$3.9 million, leaving a county wide total of \$19.2 million. Of that amount, \$10.4 million is reserved or restricted for special uses and/or projects. The 2011 SPLOST Issue report shows total expenditures and appropriations of \$22.6 million. Distribution no. 23 of the current 2017 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$334,034 is up, about 3% from this time last year. It brings issue to date collections to \$7.6 million while expenditures and current obligations have now reached \$6.7 million. Also included is an issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues, with both capital and operating projects supported by those funds, we have collected over \$5.2 million since January of 2013. Like SPLOST, this month's Local Option Sales Tax Distributions of \$163,686 is up about 3% from this time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we still have nine loans outstanding. The last report included is a preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund; all expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 52%, the Water Fund at 40% and the Landfill fund at 36%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that that 1) he continues to have meetings with staff and department heads getting to know county employees; 2) he has met with Constitutional Officers, toured Sheriff's Office, Jail, 911 center and new EMS quarters; 3) he will have regular meetings each month with county department heads; 4) with the unfortunate death of Senator Greg Kirk, Crisp County along with other counties in the senate district will have a called election to fill the unexpired term. The election will be held on February 4th; 5) elections will have to expend unbudgeted funds to facilitate the new voting machines, which include a cargo trailer, security cages, folding tables and general accessories. Reimbursement on the expenses will be available at a rate of 50% for security and 75% for consumables; 6) he spoke to the Cordele Kiwanis Club; 7) he has met with State Representative Noel Williams; 8) he attended a ribbon cutting in Mitchell County with Grant Buckley and spoke with State Representative Gerald Greene, newly elected Representative Bill Yeara and Senator Freddie Powell Simms; and 9) he appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the community and looks forward to meeting as many people as he can. He stated he will have an open door policy to not only the Board and employees, but citizenry as well.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with all agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried with all agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator