

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 11, 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, Wallace Mathis, Larry Felton and J. R. Dowdy, III in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Linda Finch. Carl Gamble 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.

MINUTES APPROVED

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2020, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT
APPROVED APPLICATION FOR COPS GRANT
APPROVED APPLICATION FOR GRANT WITH GA. OFFICE OF HIGHWAY SAFETY**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that last month deputies served 146 warrants, 197 civil papers and 125 subpoenas, with 187 man-hours in court. They booked 179 prisoners and released 251, and he presented a check in the amount of \$108,744.62 for inmate housing. He advised he would like to ask for an approval of an application for a COPS Grant with no matching funds. He would also like to make an application for a grant from the Georgia Office of Highway Safety to help offset expenses with some equipment and their cars; there will be no matching funds on this one as well. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow the Sheriff's Department to make application for a COPS Grant, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow the Sheriff's Department to make a grant application to the Georgia Office of Highway Safety, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Sheriff Hancock passed out photos of some of the rain damage and trees down in the county from last week. He advised that to the right of the railroad track behind Cedar Lake Estates there are trees down on the side of the railroad and this has prevented on the overflow releases for some of that water. Sheriff Hancock stated that they talked with the railroad yesterday, and they have agreed to come in as soon possible and try to clean up their right-of-way so that the overflow will open up. He talked with GA. Emergency Management yesterday, at Administrator Harrell's request, to try to find out if we can get some funding to help with flooding. He advised that he got a call from Mr. Upshaw with the Department of Agriculture; he has laid out some things that we could possibly do to try to get some assistance in trying to clean up our waterways. He advised that the reason the county is flooding more often is because of Hurricane Michael; they flew over the county after the last flooding and they saw a good amount of trees and limbs down that are in the tributaries and streams. Also, if we could get this winter storm declared a state emergency, we would be eligible for 75% of some of the funding from USDA.

PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT

Public Works Director Carl Gamble reported that he would like to call upon the citizens and ask them not to put their yard trimmings, limbs, and trash in the mouth of the road pipes as the water cannot flow through the pipes as quickly. His department is working on trying to fill in potholes and it is difficult when we do not have anything very dry to put in these places. He did receive notification last week that our 2020 L.M.I.G. was approved and the check has already been sent to the county; roads included are 1.3 miles of Cork Ferry Road, .41 miles of 13th Street, 1.4 miles of Landfill Road, and 1.55 miles of Ferry Landing Road. He advised that they are almost finished with the 2019 L.M.I.G. project, all that is left is work at the Health Department, and they are also working on the upcoming CDBG project.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Michael Postell reported that they received 54 calls during the month of January. They also resumed the "Reading with a Firefighter" program at Crisp County Primary School. Sumter County Fire provided automatic aid assistance to their department on a structure fire at Georgia Veterans Memorial State Park. Personnel attended a quarterly "Child Abduction Response Team" meeting comprised of various personnel from all local public safety agencies in Crisp County and City of Cordele, and personnel attended a quarterly Traffic Incident Management meeting comprised of various personnel from County and City public safety agencies, local wrecker service operators and GA. Department of Transportation.

EMS REPORT

EMS Director David Edwards reported that in February they were extremely busy with 557 calls, 369 transports and 185 no transports as they do continue to see an increase in their call volume, which in the last ten years it up about a 47% increase. They also attended the Traffic Incident Management along with the Fire Department Personnel, and their agencies appreciate the CHAMPS Program. Commissioner Mathis agreed as he advised that program began around the Atlanta area, worked its way across the state as they offer assistance on the highways. Mr. Edwards reported that CHAMPS is a contract service with D.O.T. and they provide roadside assistance to anybody that needs help.

IDC REPORT

Industrial Development Director Grant Buckley reported that the economy is doing well, our last unemployment numbers in December were 3.4 and 3.1 in November, which is the lowest it has even been on record. He advised that all of our existing industries seem to be doing pretty well; Norbord laid off about 30-40 people last year as their product and prices were really depressed but it looks like those prices bottomed out in October and are beginning to come back. He stated that at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet, Norbord's plant manager commented on the state of this community, saying it is the best community he has ever been in as far as a place to do business. Mr. Buckley advised that an EPA Grant for \$600,000 for four communities, including ours, was awarded; it is being coordinated through the River Valley Regional Commission. He advised that the three other counties are Macon, Dooly and Sumter, and the purpose of those funds is to help redevelopment of industrial and commercial properties that we might see that may have some environmental issues and be able to do some Phase I environmental assessments with the owner's permission. He will be the coordinator for our county and citizens have the opportunity to give him suggestions of properties that would lend themselves to redevelopment and maybe some environmental issues; it will be a two to three year program. Also, he advised that during

the restructure of the lease at Cordele Intermodal Services, both The Development Authority (IDA) and the company that owns Cordele Intermodal agreed for IDA to sell that property for a fair price; the IDA will retain the rail spur ownership that goes along the side of that property.

APPROVAL OF REQUEST FROM CADDY SHACK CONCESSIONS

Administrator Harrell reported that he has a request of a change in the Concessions Operator Agreement between Crisp County Recreation Department and Crisp County Board of Commissioners and the Caddy Shack. He advised that he received an email from Missy Hughes doing business as Caddy Shack requesting to lower the concession rate that was contracted with the Board of Commissioners in August of 2017 from 12.5% to 9% of gross sales; the contract was actually signed in 2017 at 12%. He advised that in the last six months there has been approximately \$465.00 of concession revenue paid to the Board of Commissioners, so we are not talking about a considerable amount of money. He has prepared an amendment to this agreement that would offer for consideration of their request going from 12.5% to 9% of gross sales. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the proposed amendment to the Concessions Operator Agreement with Caddy Shack lowering the percentage of gross sales from 12.5% to 9%, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE LIVING WELL MONTH AND AMERICA SAVES WEEK PROCLAMATION

Administrator Harrell read the Living Well Month and America Saves Week Proclamation, which is a tribute to the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences professionals and local staff who provide education that is critical to the quality of life of adults, youth and families. It also proclaims March 2020 as Living Well Month and proclaims the week of February 24-29, 2020 as America Saves Week in Crisp County. **By common consent, Commissioners approved the Proclamation of Crisp County Extension Living Well Month and America Saves week.** Rebecca Stackhouse, Crisp County FACS Agent, stated that there will be newspaper articles written during March, and they will also have some programs at the Library.

DISCUSS U. S. CENSUS FAIR COUNT/COMPLETE COUNT

Administrator Harrell reported that Connie Youngblood is leading the Census Count for Crisp County and Mr. Giavonte Riggins, U.S. Census Fair Count/Count Organizer, is here to discuss the census. Mr. Riggins reported that they are a non-profit organization working to insure that we get a full count for the upcoming census. He advised that the census is taken every ten years to insure that we get the proper representation along with how Congress decides how they disburse almost \$1 trillion dollars in funding; having a complete count is a way to secure our future and make sure we receive all the resources we can. He advised that every person that is not counted represents about \$1339 per year so that is millions of dollars that we could use for infrastructure, roads, schools and everything that we use on a daily basis. He advised that it is very important that we start getting the word out and educating people why it is so important to be counted as there are times when people do not participate because they do not know about it. He stated that if you can get trusted voices around the community to spread this knowledge and make sure your citizens know why they are doing the census, we would have a better turnout as far as the completion of the census. The census will be online for the first time this year, it is not the only option as you can still report by phone or paper, but with the online services they try to do internet installs so people will have a place to complete the census online as well as apply for census jobs, as they are hiring. Mrs. Youngblood stated that the committee has also partnered with the City of Cordele and Town of Arabi

trying to get the information out to all of our citizens. She advised that WSST is going to air some spots on the Mid-Day Show along with ads in "The Cordele Dispatch" as the main thing is to get the information out to the citizens of the county. Mrs. Dexter, a member of the Crisp County Census Committee, stated that since we have some Hispanic people living in the area, they are going to need volunteers that can speak bi-lingual, so if they know anyone that will be willing to help with the census, ask them to please get in touch with a committee member. She advised that their theme is "Stand Up And Be Counted". Mr. Riggins stated that there will be no citizenship question on the census and that all information is confidential. Mrs. Youngblood advised that the forms are short and she has a copy of the English and Spanish forms in her office if anyone wants to come and look at them. Also, if anyone gets something in the mail that they are not sure if it is legitimate, they can call or come by the office and she will help them.

FATHERHOOD CONVERSATION FORUM

Marvin Broadwater reported that he is here to solicit attendance and assistance with the Fatherhood Conversation Forum event this evening at the Cordele Community Clubhouse from 6-7 p.m. They are an organization that believes in community outreach and involvement. He stated that he has observed a vicious cycle for many of our fathers as it relates to child support; for this reason his organization has partnered with the Georgia Department of Human Services Fatherhood Program to conduct fatherhood conversations for those fathers who are unaware of the services and benefits this program affords. He advised that the goals of the Fatherhood Conversation are to inform the community of the numerous services offered to non-custodial parents, especially fathers. Some of the topics they discuss are driver's license reinstatement, child support services, GED enrollment, job training, job search as well as job placement, and child support order modification, where applicable. He stated that this program is not for the deadbeat dad, it is for the individual that might be a little down, might have lost his job or driver's license but wants to be a part of his child's life. He stated their ultimate goal is to have a father in every child's life.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds shows YTD expenses continue to exceed revenues by about 15%, leaving an expenditure over revenue shortfall of just over \$3 million at the end of January. The Water Fund's year to date net income was up to \$144,275; water consumption billed was 6.2 million gallons and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.3 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues less expenses left this fund with a net gain of \$258,333. Total tonnage received for the month was 5,855.23 tons and the last payment on GEFA Loan 99-L06-SW in the original amount of \$1,508,342 (cells 4-5) has been paid in full and we are in possession of the note cancellation documents. In the Cash report, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$9.5 million, the proprietary funds at \$6.4 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$4.1 million, leaving a County Wide total of just over \$20 million. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures and appropriations to date remained at \$22.6. The 2017 SPLOST Issue Distribution #24 is up almost 10% from this time last year. It also brings issue to date collections to just under \$8 million while expenditures and current obligations have reached \$6.9 million. Also included is an issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues; we have collected over \$5.3 million since January of 2013. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue, we have expended and/or obligated over \$6.6 million in local road maintenance and projects through the TSPLOST Funds. Also, this month's distribution of \$183,250 for the Local Option Sales Tax is also up by 9.7% over last January. In the Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we still have nine loans with an overall

outstanding balance of \$2.3 million. The last report is a 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; expenditures should be at 58% or below. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are 61%; the Water Fund is at 45% and the Landfill is at 40%.

AUDIT REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that Mr. Edwards with Mauldin & Jenkins could not be here today or next month so they decided that we would present the report to you today. Commissioners should find their copies of the FY 19 Audited Financial Statements and the Auditor's Discussion and Analysis on their desktop. She advised that they can read the AD&A for more detailed information, but in summary, the General Fund ended the year with a slight decrease in Fund Balance of about \$73,000. At June 30th we maintained cash and investments sufficient to cover about eight months of General Fund operations (\$1,410,000), however, this balance has dropped down to just under six months as of today due primarily to the delay in the 2019 Tax Digest. Fund Balance for the Special Service District Fund increased by about \$99,000 up to \$566,640, which equates to just over three months of operational cost for this fund (\$153,575 per month). The net position in both the Water Fund and Landfill Fund increased during FY 19 by \$380,618 and \$546,819 respectively. She stated that the Audited Financial report along with the Single Audit report and certification of E911 Expenditures has been filed timely and accepted by the Department of Audits and Accounts. The Landfill Financial Assurance Reports have been filed with the Department of Natural Resources EPD. Also, she would like to mention that a link to view or print a copy of the report for any citizens that might be interested has been posted to the County's website.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that during the election for the Senate District 13 Special Election, the county only had 1702 to vote in this election, which is 14% of the registered voters. He reminded citizens to vote, and the Senate District 13 Runoff will be March 3rd and we will have a Presidential Primary on March 24th. Also 1) he attended several events during the month of January; 2) he met with several citizens regarding various issues including illegal dumping, water issues and road issues; 3) he met with River Valley Regional Commission-GIS Department concerning data for various county departments; 4) he met with David Edwards and Steven Gautney, Administrator for Crisp Regional Hospital, concerning the need for additional EMS staff; 5) he will be speaking to Rotary and Lions Clubs in February; 6) he will be teaching a class at the ACCG Capitol Connection seminar later this month; 7) work continues on the transition to the new E911 Center, EMS substation and coroner's office; and 8) we will begin work very soon on Picken's Poolhouse, pavilion and parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m., seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, County Administrator