

**CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 10, 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.

**APPROVE PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MOTHER LUCILLE DENNARD SHAZIER**

Commissioner Nance stated that Commissioners are proud to present a proclamation honoring Mother Lucille Shazier of celebrating 107 years; we also have a couple of letters from two senators that we want to read as well. Mr. Nance read the Proclamation Celebrating the Life of Mother Lucille Dennard Shazier; she has been a resident in Crisp County for decades, has lived through eighteen Presidents, and the Board of Commissioners publicly proclaim February 18, 2020 as Mother Lucille Dennard Shazier day. Commissioner Mathis read letters sending best wishes on her 107<sup>th</sup> birthday from Senators David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation Celebrating the Life of Mother Lucille Dennard Shazier 107 Years Old, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 11, 2020, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING - ROSE LAND, LP**

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a request from Rose Land, LP to rezone a parcel of property from GC (General Commercial) to HC (Heavy Commercial) for the purpose of a Construction Contractor with Machinery, Equipment and Storage. The property is located at 1179 GA Highway 280 W. Chairman Farrow opened the Public Hearing. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, advised that she would turn the floor over to Bill Goff, representing Rose Land. Mr. Goff advised that their office is located at the Rose Land property on Hwy. 280, which is adjacent to the five-acre parcel of property that Griffin Construction and Grading has purchased and would like to rezone. He advised that when they came to talk to Mrs. Youngblood about what they wanted to do on this property, this property is zoned General Commercial and the body shop on the other side of this property is zoned Heavy Commercial, so they decided to go ahead and rezone both of their parcels to Heavy Commercial. They would like to use this property to store their heavy machinery. He advised that at this time, they are not looking to build a building, but in the future, they probably will. He stated that there is a six-foot fence around the property now, and the zoning requires an eight-foot opaque fence, and they would like to be able to keep their six-foot fence and make either it opaque or use landscaping with trees and shrubbery around it. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone had any more questions, there were none. Administrator Harrell asked if anyone would like to speak in

opposition of the request, and there were none. Chairman Farrow closed the Public Hearing and advised that the decision will be made at the next regular meeting.

**SHERIFF HANCOCK'S REPORT  
APPROVE GRANT APPLICATION TO EMA HOMELAND SECURITY**

Sheriff Hancock reported that last month courts were busy, papers served were up as well as the jail count was up. He brought a check for \$113,000.00 for housing federal prisoners in the jail last month. He advised that they have sold a vehicle, provided a vehicle to EMS and recreation department and gave a truck to public works. He reported that regarding the flooding, they have identified the businesses and homes in the county that have taken on water and have damage, listed from minor to major. He said flooding has been around here a long time, we have just had a good amount of water in the last several months, and we are trying to mitigate some of the problem. A letter has been sent to EPD, they have talked with the Deputy Director of Operations for Georgia Emergency Management Agency. They have a flashing sign coming to put on Cannon Road and temporary pads put in where the road washed out; this will be for law enforcement and EMS vehicles to cross and make the connection to North Valhalla and Cannon Road. Also, Crisp County Fire Rescue will have a fire truck in that area. The Red Cross is furnishing bottled water in this area due to the water line that burst under Cannon Road and his department is handing them out to those citizens this morning, as those residents are still under a boil advisory. Sheriff Hancock advised that they had approval for a \$286,000 temporary bridge to be delivered to Crisp County for Cannon Road but after meeting with Johnny Floyd and others and with the Commissioners' leadership, we realized how quick we could get a permanent bridge in which will cost over \$500,000. The temporary bridge was stopped, and we get a permanent bridge instead. He advised that they are continuing to compile the numbers and hope to get a Declaration of Disaster so the county can get some financial assistance. He advised that in Crisp County, we had two businesses that he knows of that had water in the businesses, and there were about 42 homes with damage; he hopes to have the city numbers soon. Commissioners thanked the sheriff and sheriff's department and all county departments for the excellent work they did during the flooding. Sheriff Hancock asked for a request for his staff to make a grant application to Emergency Management Agency Homeland Security for funding to obtain equipment, it is a competitive grant and we are not guaranteed the allocation of funds. The grant has a possible match requirement and all financial obligations will be considered before the grant is accepted. If approved, the Chairman would have to sign the application, and he is not talking about any funding coming out of the general fund. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to allow Sheriff Hancock and his department to apply for a grant application to EMA Homeland Security, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC WORK'S REPORT**

Public Works Director Carl Gamble reported that there is not a road in Crisp County that did not have some damage to it, whether it was major or minor. He has seen water in places the last few days that he has never seen before. He stated he could not say enough of the support that his department has had from the commissioners and the administrator, and you do not know how fortunate you are in the employees to which you have. He advised that if commissioners did not have any questions, he needed to go to work. Commissioners thanked Mr. Gamble and his staff for what they have done over the last few days. Chairman Farrow ask Mr. Gamble to pass on to his employees that he has had several citizens' call him and said they appreciated them for what they do for the county.

## EMS REPORT

EMS Director David Edwards advised that he wanted to thank the sheriff's department, public works, and fire department employees especially during the flood, it is a team effort and Sheriff Hancock is an excellent leader. He reported that EMS had a busy month last month as the number of transports continue to rise. EMS employees are required to renew their license every two years and about half of their people are going through that process now, and the state EMS office has implemented a new system and they are going through a learning process with that. He also wanted everyone to know that their department and the hospital are being proactive regarding COVID-19; the message he wants to send out to the public is remain calm, do not panic, wash your hands, do not touch your face, and maintain space. This virus is not anything new but there is currently not a vaccine for this strain, which is spread through respiratory droplets. Also, over 80% of the people that test positive, do fine, it is the people with pre-existing health conditions and the elderly that suffer the most. Mr. Edwards advised that his personnel have the safety equipment they need to be safe.

### **APPROVE EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM ON AGRICULTURAL WASTE PRODUCTS**

Administrator Harrell reported that on October 8, 2019, commissioners heard information relating to a moratorium on agricultural waste products from Mrs. Youngblood; you did place a six-month moratorium on these products. He advised that they are still working on an updated ordinance and that work continues through Mrs. Youngblood and her office, and we would ask for six more months on this. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the extension of another six months moratorium on Agricultural Waste Products, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADOPT AGREEMENT FOR AUTOMATIC AID AND FIRST RESPONSE WITH CITY OF CORDELE**

Administrator Harrell reported that the City of Cordele has passed the Agreement for Automatic Aid with Crisp County regarding the fire departments. He would offer this agreement for consideration. Commissioner Mathis stated that he hates that the fire chief is sick and cannot be here as he has worked hard to get this agreement passed. Administrator Harrell reported that this has gone back and forth for a good many months between the former city attorney, new city attorney, our attorney, with Mr. Beach's office in the City and now our office. **Motion was made by Mr. Mathis to adopt the Agreement for Automatic Aid and First Response, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

### **CDBG-SELECTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTING SERVICES AND FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES**

Administrator Harrell reported that we have the Community Development Block Grant selection for the administrative consulting services and the engineering consulting services. He advised that Bob Roberson and Associates was the highest score for the administrative consulting services, and J.B. Faircloth/Lanier Engineering was the highest score on the engineering consulting services. **Commissioner Mathis moved, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, that based upon a review of the proposal received, the scoring of the criteria on the scoring worksheets and following discussion of the proposals, that the County hire Bob Roberson & Associates, Inc. as administrative consultants and J. B. Faircloth Land Surveyors/Lanier Engineering Joint Venture as engineering consultants, to design and to complete CDBG projects for the County as proposed. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioners each individually and collectively approved the vote.**

**APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF UGA/COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND CRISP COUNTY**

Administrator Harrell reported that he has a Memorandum of Understanding between the University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Crisp County. He advised that this is a standard authorization related to the employees at the Cooperative Extension Service. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia by and on the behalf of The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension and Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE PREVENTITIVE MAINTENANCE POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Administrator Harrell reported that we have for consideration the Crisp County Rural Public Transportation maintenance policy, and basically the same as in years past but with one small procedure change. This is a federal grant for the 5311 Transit Program. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the Crisp County Rural Public Transportation Vehicle Preventive Maintenance Policy and Procedures, seconded the by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the preliminary report on the major funds of the County as of February 29, 2020 shows the General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, brings net YTD revenues to \$13.1 million and expenditures to \$13.7 million leaving a negative 3% revenue shortfall of \$642,766. To date finance has received about 75% of the projected revenue from the 2019 Tax Digest. In the Water Fund, YTD net income was \$160,627, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.3 million. In the Landfill Fund, activity brings YTD accrued net income to \$285,557, and the GEFA Loans are current at \$1.9 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$11.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds, \$6.4 million in the proprietary funds and \$4.9 million in the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds giving a countywide total of \$23.2 million. February activity pushed expenditures under the 2011 SPLOST Issue up to just under \$22.6 million. Distribution No. 25 for the 2017 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$298,056 is down 10.5% from this time last year; actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$7.1 million. In the 2012 TSPLOST, we have collected almost \$5.4 million since January of 2013, combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue, we have expended and/or obligated over \$7.2 million in local road maintenance and capital projects through the TSPLOST Funds. The updated schedule on our LOST receipts is the same news as this month's distribution and is also down by just over 10.5% from this period last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund report, we ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million. The last report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report through February 2020. As of this report, all departments and divisions should be at 67% or below of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds slightly over at 68%, the Water Fund is under at 50% and the Landfill Fund is at 45%.

**RETURN COMER POOL PARK TO CITY OF CORDELE**

Administrator Harrell reported that the city has requested the return of Comer Pool Park. He advised that the county has not used the pool in several years, and back some time ago we filled in the pool; we are no longer using that facility for any recreational needs for the citizens of Crisp County. It is his

understanding that the Board would like to give this back to the city for their use and maintenance. Also, the city and their attorney and the county attorney are aware of this action; we just need to take oral action by the Board of Commissioners to give this back to the city. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to give the Comer Pool Park back to the City of Cordele, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **LETTER FROM CITY OF CORDELE REQUESTING TO ANNEX PROPERTIES**

Administrator Harrell reported that the City of Cordele has notified the county in writing requesting to annex a couple of different properties, which are all together. The first piece of property they requested annexation is for Rural Community Improvement Cooperation, Inc., all of Lots 1-7, Lot K and all of Lots 24-28, Lot J. This is in the Christian Homes Subdivision on West 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Also on West 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, all of Lots 8-22 in Christian Homes Subdivision, Southwest Georgia Empowerment Zone, Inc., owns this property. Pursuant to their notification that they want to annex this, I notified them in writing that the County Commissioners had no objection to the proposed annexation and that we were not aware of any public utilities or facilities in this area.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) he spoke to Rotary and Lions Club in February regarding census, flooding, elections, budget, legislative fish fry, taxes and various other matters; 2) he attended the ACCG Capitol Connections seminar where he taught the Public Safety Class to Commissioners around the state. Commissioners Dowdy and Felton also attended; 3) he was interviewed by WSST, Rich Smarr on the Midday Show about census, flooding and elections; 4) he worked closely with Carl Gamble, Sheriff Hancock and the BOC regarding flooding issues in February. With the help of EMA, Sheriff Hancock was able to secure excavator assistance from Norfolk Southern Railway to clean the area behind Cedar Lake Subdivision along the railroad right-of-way; 5) he worked with City Commissioner Wesley Rainey regarding city and county working together to help relieve flooding from stopped up ditches. Followed up with Mr. Gamble about the same; 6) he met with Department Heads about budget status, individually, 7) he spoke with several citizens about issues and concerns and turned over to the appropriate staff; and 8) on March 4/5 we had another flooding event in the county. Worked with EMA and the BOC to declare a State of Emergency. On just the paved roads, we have over \$1 million in damages. We had approximately 7.5 inches of rainfall on an already saturated area. Cannon Road failed in two places leaving residents trapped. Public Works also had a water main fail cutting off water to three subdivisions along the lake. We are working to replace the box culvert on Cannon with a bridge. Contract crews will be installing new sections of pipe, which burst as a result of the failure of the roadway. County crews have worked very long hours because of this storm. He stated that we are still under a State of Emergency, it means a lot to the Board of Commissioners from a funding standpoint; he cannot say enough of the Sheriff and other departments. Also, through the State of Emergency, which is forwarded up thru the GEMA channels, it made its way to Governor Kemp's desk and the Governor issued a State of Emergency for the county as well for a good many counties but thru the communications that Sheriff Hancock has had and the communications we have had, the folks in Atlanta know what is going on in this area and are trying to get us some help. They have met with Johnny Floyd, representative from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District for DOT, and he is hand delivering a needs list in regards to over \$1 million worth of damages we have here in the county on roads. He advised regarding the water line burst they had on Cannon Road, a contractor came in and helped us replace the 8" water main and water was restored last night. He also requested that we go ahead and get Southern Concrete involved to put us a free span bridge on this road; he is

looking at different avenues to pay for this. Administrator Harrell reported that GEMA and FEMA owes this county a little over \$549,000 from Hurricane Michael that has not been reimbursed. He and Mrs. Leverett spoke with GEMA yesterday by phone, and he has the appropriate people with FEMA to speak with as well. This money could help us in the emergency we have with the bridge. Representative Noel Williams has been out and looked at the damaged county roads as well. He spoke to Congressman Bishop's office yesterday regarding the flooding issues we have in Cedar Creek and Gum Creek, and he is trying to get in touch with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers so they can give us some proper direction here and get EPD involved as well.

#### **COMMISSIONER FELTON COMMENTS**

Commissioner Felton advised that he has talked about this for several years, and we have to get our pay scale up for the public works guys. We have a good many dedicated men at public works that have been there for many years. Commissioner Nance advised that he shares the sentiment with Mr. Felton as he has talked to some of the guys that have a lot of years in with the county and pushing close to retirement and kind of want to get their pay up so it will help with their retirement.

#### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

#### **APPOINT RAY ROLLINS TO CRISP COUNTY RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint Ray Rollins to the Crisp County Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Harry Fox ending 12/31/20, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVE CHANGE ORDER**

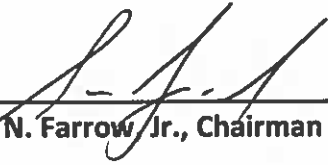
Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve a change order on the 2019 L.M.I.G. for resurfacing .4 mile on Amboy Road, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.

#### **ALLOW COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO AMEND POLICY TO ALLOW FIREMEN TO EARN THREE WEEKS VACATION**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to allow the Administrator to change the vacation to three weeks for county employees though out the board, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

  
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Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman

  
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Clark Harrell, County Administrator