

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EMERGENCY  
CALLED MEETING HELD ON MARCH 20, 2020**

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Sam N. Farrow, Jr. called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.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, and County Clerk Linda Finch. Rick Smarr gave the invocation, and Chairman Farrow welcomed all in attendance.

**ADOPT LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY RESOLUTION  
RESOLUTION 2020-0005**


Administrator Harrell advised that the we do not have a confirmed case of Coronavirus in Crisp County; however, we anticipate that it is just a matter of time, as this is an unprecedented time that we are facing. We hope our action will prevent the further spread of this virus. His recommendation is that the Board of Commissioners stand together in support of a Local State of Emergency, and we do that with the City of Cordele and the Town of Arabi united as one body. He then read Resolution 2020-005 An Ordinance for the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency Related to COVID-19; and for Other Purposes. Sheriff Billy Hancock advised that they have worked on this for several days, have met a minimum of twice a day with Crisp Regional, and have looked at all the information given to them from Georgia Emergency Management, the Governor's Office, and the Department of Public Health. The numbers in the state of Georgia have risen to 420 confirmed COVID-19 cases with 13 deaths, and we think this resolution is imperative to help our resources in this community when and if these positive tests begin to come back as that will be a strain on our health resources and equipment. They are not trying to kill anybody's business that is the reason we are allowing some leeway. This Resolution allows them to ramp up if they need to if people are not obeying this as they see people that still do not understand how serious this virus is. He stated that we have three bodies of government sitting in this room today making this unified decision; that should tell somebody how serious we are about this. Steven Gautney, President of Crisp Regional Hospital, advised that this is a very serious situation, and this declaration underlines the seriousness of the situation. They have over 860 employees at Crisp Regional, and they have a limited amount of equipment to take care of patients when the positive cases begin to come in. We still do not have a positive result here at present, they have tested about 25 people and he expects some of those to come back positive. The testing timeline is running about 7-8 days, so they will start to get some of those results back soon. If we can slow down or stop some of these cases, we will not overwhelm the health care resources on our community or state. He stated their staff is constantly preparing, looking at the supplies and medications they have. He advised that they have people that are volunteering and working with them to sew surgical masks, Tyson Plant in Vienna has donated gowns, and a cotton gin has donated masks; they appreciate the community thinking about them as health professionals and law enforcement people are the ones we have to keep safe to be able to help people when needed. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution 2020-005 - An Ordinance for the Declaration of a Local State of Emergency Related to COVID-19; and for Other purposes, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously. City of Cordele Chairman John Wiggins and Mayor of Arabi Craig Huckaby in unity signed Local State of Emergency Resolution 2020-005 as well.**

**ADOPT RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR THE OPERATION OF CRISP COUNTY DURING THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF THE CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC  
RESOLUTION 2020-0006**

Administrator Harrell reported that he has another Resolution 2020-0006 that provides for the operation of the county during the public health emergency of COVID-19 and for other purposes. He read the resolution. Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution 2020-006 - A Resolution to Provide for the Operation of Crisp County During the Public Health Emergency of the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Global Pandemic; to Provide for an Effective Date; and Other Purposes, and authorize the Commission Chairman and County Clerk to sign, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.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