

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

OPENING CERMONIES

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 and Larry Felton present. Present by telephone were Commissioners Wallace Mathis, J. R. Dowdy, III and County Attorney Rick Lawson. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Linda Finch. Rick Smarr 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.

ADOPT NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK PROCLAMATION

Administrator Harrell read the proclamation for National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2020. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 19-25, 2020 Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 75TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. JOHNNIE BELL

Commissioner Nance read the proclamation recognizing the birthday of Mrs. Johnnie Bell. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation Recognizing the 75th Birthday of Mrs. Johnnie (Pickens) Bell, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 10, 2020 and the called emergency meeting minutes of March 20, 2020, March 30, 2020 and April 3, 2020, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF BILLY HANCOCK'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported that this week is National Telecommunications Week and they will be doing some special recognition of their dispatchers this week. They have changed the way they do things each day now, they have reassigned the resource officers to the hospital and have moved the traffic division to keep them from having contact with anyone on the interstate. They had to ask some parties to separate over the weekend but overall, it was a quiet weekend. This week they are setting up a virtual court in the small courtroom in the detention center so they can communicate with the courthouse staff and judges.

APPROVE REZONING REQUEST FROM ROSE LAND, LP FROM GC TO HC

Administrator Harrell reported that we had a request last month from Rose Land, LP to rezone a parcel of property (approximately 9 acres) from GC (General Commercial) to HC (Heavy Commercial) for the purpose of a Construction Contractor with Machinery, Equipment and Storage. Property is located at 1179 Ga. Hwy. 280 West. The public hearing on this matter was held on March 10, 2020, our last regular meeting. Administrator Harrell advised that it is consistent with the stated purpose of the zoning district,

the proposed use is suitable, it does not adversely affect the existing use, it would be compatible with the Comprehensive Plan, there is no substantial reasons why the property should not be used for this zoning, there is no burdensome or excessive use with this, and would ask you to support the rezoning from General Commercial to Heavy Commercial for Rose Land, LP. Mr. Nance advised that in light of the fact we had a public hearing, we have had the opportunity to review the Rezoning Request Checklist and it meets all the specifications, he offered a motion that we approve the rezoning request of Rose Land, LP from GC to HC, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's report includes an executive summary on the major funds of the County as of March 31, 2020. In the General and three major Special Revenue Funds combined, these funds bring year-to-date totals to \$15.2 million in revenues and \$15.1 million in expenditures providing the first positive revenue over expenditure balance for this fiscal year of just over 1%. As of March 31, the 2019 Ad Valorem Tax collections remitted to the Finance Department reached 92% of fiscal projections. March activity brings the YTD revenue total to \$548,195 in the Water Fund and YTD expenditures to \$374,776 increasing this fund's net income to \$173,420. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1,274,383. In the Landfill Fund, accrued revenue of \$1.6 million and expenditures of \$1.3 million leave this fund with a net operating income of \$300,777. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.2 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$12.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds, \$6.4 million in the proprietary funds and \$4.8 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a countywide total of \$24.2 million; \$14.3 million is restricted or reserved for special purposes or investments. In the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we have appropriated \$22.6 million of the \$23.2 million collected. Distribution No. 26 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue is down about 8% from last year. Expenditures and appropriations have reached \$7.2 million. Next is a report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues; we have collected almost \$5.4 million since January of 2013 and combined with LMIG and GDOT Revenue, we have expended and/or obligated over \$7.3 million in local road maintenance and capital projects through the TSPLOST Funds. The L.O.S.T. distribution is down just under 8% also from March of 2019 as well. We ended the month with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million in the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department report; all departments and divisions should be at 75% of their annual allowances. Overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds are at 75%, the Water Fund at 56% and the Landfill Fund at 50%. She advised that she has received all the departmental requests for the 2020/2021 budget and have more requests than revenue right now. She and Administrator Harrell will begin to work on these in the next few weeks.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) the bridge on Cannon Road is finished and open to the public; total cost is \$594,000. Crisp County will not receive a Public Assistance Declaration by the federal government due to the amount of damages not meeting the federal minimum damage guidelines of \$15 million. Georgia reported \$9 million in damages due to the flooding event March 4-6th; we are still working with GDOT on a funding resolution and are working to insure all the necessary paperwork is submitted to the Assistant State Maintenance Engineer. EMA is taking the lead on this measure and local roads do not qualify for funding under the guidelines; 2) yesterday's storm brought several trees down in various locations around the county. Public Works crews worked during the storm to remove the downed trees; 3) he had been attending, since the onset of COVID, daily briefings held by Sheriff Hancock. The daily conference calls give updates, needs and the status of the pandemic in Crisp County. Community leaders

attend this with representation from Sheriff Hancock, EMA, EMS, Crisp Regional Hospital, Department of Public Health, Crisp County School System, the city and county; 4) as a reminder, the Georgia Primary election has been moved to June 9th. Early voting will begin May 18th; 5) the County Government Center continues to operate daily with a scaled down staff. Each office remains open for business, though we are encouraging citizens to conduct business by phone, email and fax, when practical. This action is imperative due to Governor Kemp's Executive Order; and 6) he and Mrs. Leverett are working on the budget and they hope to try to have Commissioners a balanced budget in the next several weeks for their consideration.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVE EXTREME CONDITIONS PAY & INCREASE PAY FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND LANDFILL

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to allow for extreme conditions pay for public safety and designated county employees and also supplement an increase of \$1.00 per hour for public works and landfill employees, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURMENT

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator