

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULARE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 9, 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. 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 in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 12, 2020, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2021 BUDGET**

Chairman Farrow opened the public hearing. Administrator Harrell advised that this hearing is for the presentation of the FY 2021 Budget. He asked that the Commissioners have a called meeting on June 29, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to adopt the budget. He stated that he is grateful for the department heads and Constitutional Officers and all that have worked together to balance this budget as best we could. There were some tough cuts in this budget. We are still about \$1 million out of balance and in getting the budget balanced, you are going to have to access your reserves; this is the third year in a row this has been done. The proposed budget is as follows: General Fund - \$17,173,739, Special Service District Fund - \$1,813,596, Special Revenue Funds - \$2,407,511, Special Local Option Sales Tax Funds - \$4,493,028, TSPLOST-Capital Projects Fund - \$186,692, Water Distribution Fund - \$696,950, Landfill Fund - \$2,359,400 making total budget of \$29,130,916. Chairman Farrow asked if there were any questions, and there being none the public hearing was closed.

**SHERIFF BILLY HANCOCK'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock brought the sheriff's department monthly report and reported that because of COVID-19, the warrants received were down but they served 121 warrants, 35 civil papers and 61 subpoenas. The calls for service are up and they are still housing between 235 and 240 inmates in the detention center. They have met with the US Marshals Service and have turned in a new contract, and if that goes through, they will be able to increase their profit. He advised that they have purchased some cars along with paying for some of the construction and remodeling of the E911 Center out of their Asset Forfeiture Account. He stated that their overtime is up as the last couple of weekends they have had additional manpower allocated in response to the chatter on Facebook. They are working with the City of Cordele closely in their patrols now as they have had three or four incidents in the city limits over the last couple of weeks.

## DISCUSS CEDAR LAKES ESTATES AND SURROUNDING AREAS

Tom Curles stated that Dorothy Rhodes had asked him to speak about the technical issues related to the flood damage they have been having since 1998. He showed a map of Cedar Lake Estates and the surrounding areas. They have had about six floods in the subdivision since 1998 and to his knowledge very little has been done to relieve the situation. He advised that after the last flood he measured the openings under the bridge and the trestle, there is an area of 544 square feet under the bridge and an area of 173 square feet under the trestle, so more water can get into Cedar Lake than can get out. This year seventeen homes were flooded and of that, at least eleven had major damage. He advised that there have been many new businesses around their subdivision, and the present system cannot handle the surges during periods like what we are having. They would like a solution to the problem. David Simmons read a signed letter from residents in and around Cedar Lakes Estates, expressing concern about the health and safety of their residents and ask the commissioners to take steps to correct the flooding problems. Chairman Farrow thanked Luke Raines as he has been working on this problem over twenty years and has documented these events through the years, which has been very useful; there have been many people working on this. Administrator Harrell reported that Sheriff Hancock, through his EMA hat, has done some amazing things to get some folks involved and after the flood in February of this year, that started the ball rolling. Sheriff Hancock reported that after the February flooding, he had conversations with GEMA Director and staff on potential ways to assist with Mitigation Funding for Cedar Lake Estates and they flew over all areas of Crisp County. The next day he had conversations with Norfolk Southern in reference to debris removal, along with continued conversations with GEMA Director and staff. The next day he received information from GEMA on potential funding through Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program, followed by him sending the initial letter and packet to NRCS. On February 17, Norfolk Southern cleared debris from the area, and on March 5, we had flash flooding. On March 6, they reassessed areas of flowing to incorporate additional pictures and video documentation of flooding, then second letter and pack was sent to NRCS. On May 12, they had the initial site visit with NRCS staff regarding down trees west of Cedar Lake Estates and on May 13, they sent the initial request for Norfolk Southern Right of Way mapping. On May 27, they received confirmation from NRCS that funding would be sought from funds related to Hurricane Michael but a project waiver would have to be requested since it was outside of the 90 day period and not found until heavy rains occurred. On June 3, they received Norfolk Southern Right of Way mapping. Sheriff Hancock advised that people are very much working on this project more than ever before. This funding will clean the debris left from Hurricane Michael and hopes to figure out a way to match what is coming in on the inflow with the outflow; we think we are getting there with some positive information. People from other subdivisions and areas commented that they are having flooding problems as well. Administrator Harrell reported that he has spoken with Norfolk Southern bridge supervisor, and he said they obviously do not have enough drainage there. They advised that they are working on it, but COVID-19 has slowed them down; they did tell him they were doing a drainage study and they are worried about losing the railroad with the flooding problems. Also, they said that if they have to put drain pipes under the bridge or have to put in a new bridge they would do what they need to do. Mr. Harrell also advised that if some representatives from the area want to meet with him and Sheriff Hancock at any time, they would be glad to sit down with them. Chairman Farrow stated that Commissioners appreciate their concerns, and we are not going to stop at Cedar Lakes, we will address all the drainage in the county.

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GDOT CONTRACT FOR CARES ACT FUNDING ASSOCIATED WITH CRISP  
COUNTY-CORDELE AIRPORT IN CORDELE, GEORGIA  
RESOLUTION 2020—011**

Administrator Harrell offered Resolution 2020-011, an authorization to accept Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) funding as a relief to eligible U.S. airports in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He read the resolution accepting the terms of the FAA's allocation, which complies with the CARES Act and other federal laws and requirements. It will be fully funded by Federal Funds. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution 2020-011, Authorization to Accept GDOT Contract for Cares Act Funding Associated with Crisp County-Cordele Airport in Cordele Georgia, seconded by Mr. Mathis, motion carried unanimously.**

**RESCIND RESOLUTION 2020-010 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN RDLEG/USDA**

Administrator Harrell asked the Commissioners to rescind Resolution 2020-010. This resolution was passed at the last commission meeting and they since found out the Board of Commissioners is not required to be on the RDLEG loan, that loan is between USDA and the Crisp County Power Commission and has nothing to do with this board. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to rescind Resolution 2020-010 Authorizing Application for Rural Economic Development Loan, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPOINTMENT OF CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION VOTING MEMBERS**

**Chairman Farrow appointed himself, Mr. Felton and Mr. Dowdy as voting members of the Crisp County Power Commission Board from July 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first report of the May financial packet shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds, combined these funds are reporting YTD revenues at \$17.4 million and YTD expenditures at \$18.4 million slipping us back into a negative 5% revenue over expenditure balance of -\$1,042,590. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures increase this YTD net income to \$201,451. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.3 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$1.8 million in accrued year to date revenue and \$1.5 million in accrued expenses leaving this fund with a net income of \$303,636. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.9 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$11.8 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$6.7 million in the proprietary funds and \$4.5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total \$23 million. In the 2011 SPLOST Issue report, we have appropriated \$22.8 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue leaving \$391,000 to finish the projects associated with this issue. Distribution No. 28 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue of \$298,288 and is down 16% from May of 2019. Expenditures and appropriations have reached \$8.3 million for this issue. Next is the 2012 TSPLOST report; May's distribution is down about 16%, and we have collected \$7.4 million since January 2013. L.O.S.T. distribution monthly report is also down 16% from last May at \$146,150. We ended the month of May with a total outstanding balance of \$2.3 million for all of the CDBG Revolving Loan accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department report. As of May numbers show the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are at 91%, the Water Fund is at 70% and the Landfill Fund is at 61%.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) he toured the landfill operations with Mr. Gamble; 2) he has requested a list of all county owned equipment that needs to be sold or traded in to enhance operations within the landfill and public works; 3) the work order program has been implemented. This will enhance county-wide operations within the maintenance and public works departments; 4) he attended a virtual Managers Meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce; 5) he met with Chief Judge Chasteen, Judge Fachini and Judge Hughes regarding their budget; 6) he met with Representative Noel Williams and Grant Buckley regarding the possible closing of the Cordele State Farmers Market; 7) he continues to have discussions with Eric Bozeman as to the proper time to re-open recreation facilities; 8) the current Consulting Services contract for the airport is expiring and we are working on a new RFQ for those services per FAA requirements. The contract is in conjunction with GDOT; 9) notification has been received from GDOT regarding funding for storms from March 2020. We are awaiting award of funding. Help was obtained from Mr. Johnny Floyd, GDOT Representative. This will be for the Cannon Road bridge and cross drain pipes; 10) he met with Advanced Disposal concerning their contract with Crisp County and pickup of yard trimming and debris; 11) he is working on getting debit card machines in Planning and Zoning, Finance (for business licenses), public works and water departments; and 12) the 2020 LMIG spring project, around \$700,000.00, will be going out for bid in the near future.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

  
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Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman

  
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Clark Harrell, Administrator