

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2021**

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, Larry Felton, J. R. Dowdy, III, and Mark Crenshaw 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.

APPOINTMENT OF SAM N. FARROW, JR. AS CHAIRMAN FOR 2021

Administrator Harrell called for nominations for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2021. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to reappoint Sam N. Farrow, Jr. as Chairman, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw. Commissioner Nance moved that the nominations be closed. Administrator Harrell called for the vote and Commissioner Farrow was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2021.**

APPOINTMENT OF A. JAMES NANCE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR 2021

Chairman Farrow called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2021. **Motion was made by Mr. Farrow to reappoint A. James Nance as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Felton. Commissioner Felton moved that the nominations be closed. Chairman Farrow called for the vote and Commissioner Nance was unanimously elected as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 2021.**

APPOINTMENT OF RICK LAWSON AS COUNTY ATTORNEY FOR 2021

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Rick Lawson as County Attorney for 2021, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF LINDA FINCH AS COUNTY CLERK FOR 2021

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Linda Finch as County Clerk for 2021, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Hancock brought a check for \$117,851 for December inmate housing. He advised that traffic citations were down last month, and they had 133 hours of prisoner transports to and from court last month. He stated that he is about five employees short in the detention center, also two deputies have retired along with an investigator moving to north Georgia. He stated that deputies patrolled 85,000 miles and recorded 47 animal assistance calls last month. The E911 Center received 6,970 calls last month with 3,797 calls generated a dispatch. In regards to Covid-19, they are seeing a spike in the number of positive cases in our community, and he applauds the commissioners for cancelling some of the events that were scheduled at the end of this month. He reported that they are no longer a part of the tri-county drug squad, Tifton and Turner County had pulled out, and they have decided that it is more prudent to work in their own counties with the resources they have. He advised that some of this came about because of the creation of the Albany Drug Squad, as funds and manpower the state were providing has gone there. He also had a meeting with Police Chief Green and the city manager, and they talked about maybe adding personnel to the city to the county drug squad.

DISCUSS CANNON BRANCH ROAD

Administrator Harrell reported that John Merritt, resident of Cannon Branch, asked to speak to the board regarding Cannon Branch Road and repairing of that road. In the commission packet is a petition signed by residents in Cannon Branch Subdivision along with pictures of the road. Mr. Merritt advised that he lives on Cannon Branch Road and stated that there are numerous potholes and uneven construction on this road. He read the letter from the residents requesting the board to pave Cannon Branch Road, which is about 1.25 miles long and was initially paved in 1996. Bill McWilliams, Roy Johnson, and Michelle Hughes reiterated the need to consider paving the road. Chairman Farrow advised Commissioners appreciate them coming, we look at roads every year but only have limited funding for these projects. He stated that resurfacing is almost \$200,000 a mile now; we understand your concerns and will address the situation.

PUBLIC HEARING – CARLOS PEREZ

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a public hearing request from Carlos Perez to rezone property from GC (General Commercial) to RD (duplex two family residential) for the purpose of locating one mobile home on the property. The property is located at the intersection of Hwy. 41 N. and Drayton Lane. The decision cannot be made today. Chairman Farrow opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Perez was not at the hearing. Connie Youngblood, Planning Director, reported that Mr. Perez wanted to put two mobile homes on the property as he thought the city furnished water and sewer in the area, but they do not, so by having the well and septic tank on the land you can only have one mobile home for 1 ¾ acre lot. She advised that there has been no commercial development in that area in 15 to 20 years and as for the best use for this property right now would be what Mr. Perez is asking to do. There being no further questions or discussion, Chairman Farrow closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC HEARING – CEDAR POINT PROPERTY OWNERS POOL ASSOCIATION

Administrator Harrell reported that the next public hearing request is from Cedar Point Property Owners Pool Association for a Special Use Permit for the following use: Community Recreation Facility (swimming pool/pool house). The property is zoned PRD (Planned Residential Development) and is located at 109

Harbor Lane. The decision can be made today. Chairman Farrow opened the hearing. Brad Wilson, president of the Cedar Point Property Owners Association, advised that in July of last year the association voted to allow a group of members in the community to build a pool house and pool on a recreation lot that the property owners association owned. We are asking for a Special Use Permit to build a pool house and pool. Mrs. Youngblood went over the Special Use Review Checklist and advised that the use is not permitted by right but as a special use it would be permitted, and the only thing I would like to bring up is the narrow 10' strip as to not allow any cars parking on the side of the roadway just in case an emergency vehicle had to get on the property. Chairman Farrow asked for any comments for or against the Special Use Permit, there were none; he closed the hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve a Special Use Permit for Cedar Property Owners Pool Association for a swimming pool/pool house, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – BENJAMIN SMITH

Administrator Harrell reported that this public hearing request is from Benjamin Smith for a Special Use Permit for a Contractor/Construction Office (no machinery, equipment or use storage). The property is located in an RR (Rural Residential) zone district and is located at 1215 Old Hatley Road. Chairman Farrow opened the hearing. Mr. Smith was not present so Mrs. Youngblood reported that the area is zoned rural residential and the use Mr. Smith wants to do is consistent with the RR zone district; it is an existing home and will only be used as an office. She advised that as far as the location and character of the Comprehensive Plan shows the area as rural, and one of the primary land uses is shown as select commercial, so in issuing the special use permit it would be consistent with the area. There are no other issues as far as the streets, access in and out of the property or hours of operation. The only variance he is asking for, other than the special use, is the code requires that the sign be no more than 5' x 6'; he is requesting a 5' x 8' sign. Chairman Farrow asked if there were any comments for or against the Special Use permit, there were none; he closed the public hearing. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the Special Use Permit for Benjamin Smith including the allowance of a 5' x 8' sign, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDER ADOPTION OF A LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Administrator Harrell reported that this public hearing is to consider the adoption of a Land Development Code, which includes the policies and procedures which govern calling and conducting hearings required by Code, such as amendments to the Code, zoning changes, special use approvals, and various types of appeals, as well as the standards to be considered for each type of action, in accordance with the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law, O.C.G.A.Sec.36-66-1 et al. The decision cannot be made today. The consultant is here today to go through this with the board, if you so choose. Chairman Farrow opened the hearing and advised that this "public hearing includes consideration of the policies and procedures for calling and conducting hearings required by Code." Are there any comments or questions regarding the procedures? There were no comments. Chairman Farrow advised that this "public hearing includes consideration of the standards for each type of action." He asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the standards; there were none. Chairman Farrow advised that this "public hearing includes consideration of adoption of the Land Development Code, which replaces the current Crisp County Unified Land Development Code". He asked if there were any comments or questions regarding the consideration of adoption of the Land Development Code, which replaces the current Crisp County Unified Land Development Code." There were none, so he closed the public hearing. He advised that no action will be

taken at this meeting, and the next meeting in February only one motion is required to adopt the entire ordinance.

APPROVE 2021 LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Administrator Harrell reported that at the last commission meeting, we presented the 2021 LMIG paving list for resurfacing. We have almost finalized the 2020 LMIG and are a little displeased with the work Scruggs, did as several of the rumble strips on different roads are coming up; we are addressing that. It is now time for the 2021 LMIG. The DOT monies that have been presented to the county is based on a mileage formula based on how many center line miles we have in the county, and the LMIG for this year is \$560,595.27. Since we have a TSPLOST in place we only have to match this with 10%. We are looking to resurface 4.27 miles, which includes Brock Road from Hawpond Road to Amboy Road, Ferry Landing Road from the bridge to Scenic Route, Lakeshore Way from Antioch Road to Lakeshore Drive, and Pateville Road from 13th Street to the joint in paving at the curve. He advised that total cost of these roads will be \$616,690.80 in monies that we have. With the formula we are looking at a total cost of \$818,100.00, so the difference is going to have to be made up with TSPLOST and SPLOST monies, which would be \$201,409.20. He is asking for approval of the proposed 2021 LMIG project. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the 2021 LMIG paving list, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE MOTOROLA ADVANCED PLUS SERVICE CONTRACT

Administrator Harrell reported we have a Motorola Advanced Service Contract in place, and Motorola is asking that we adopt an amendment to this agreement for an additional three years. He advised the reason for this amendment is to lock in the monies that they are proposing to charge for the county, and if we do not do this, the amounts are going up exponentially. It is his recommendation that the board adopt an amendment to the Motorola agreement that is already in place; this will carry the agreement through 2028. The board does have the option of getting out of the contract and not owe this money, however if we continue to stay in, the money will go up every year. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to extend the Advanced Plus Service Agreement for an additional three years, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE APPLICATION FOR A BEVERAGE LICENSE FOR FARMERS LIQUORS

Administrator Harrell reported that we have an application from Farmers Liquors to sell beer, wine and liquor; the store is located at 2002 U.S. 41 N. They have met all the requirements by the county and the application is in order for your approval. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the application for Beverage License for Farmers Liquors, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

2021 COUNTY COMMISSION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Administrator Harrell reported that he has the 2021 County Commission Committee appointments that he would like to present to the board, he is taking Commissioner Crenshaw's name and plugging it in the committees that Commissioner Mathis was on and leaving the others the same. His recommended committees are as follows: Landfill will be Commissioners Felton and Farrow, Water System will be Commissioners Nance and Crenshaw, Public Safety will be Commissioners Felton and Crenshaw, Public Works will be Commissioners Felton and Dowdy, Crisp County Community Council will be Administrator Harrell, Planning will be Commissioners Farrow and Nance and Administrator Harrell, Finance Committee will be Commissioners Farrow and Dowdy, Administrator Harrell and Finance Director Leverett, and

Stormwater Mitigation Advisory will be Commissioner Farrow and Administrator Harrell. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adopt the 2021 County Commission Committee appointments recommended by Mr. Harrell, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

CRISP COUNTY POWER COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to appoint Chairman Farrow and Commissioners Nance and Crenshaw to six-month terms ending June 30, 2021 on the Crisp County Power Commission, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE FY 2021 BUDGET/AD VALOREM TAX CALENDAR

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the FY 2021 Budget/Ad Valorem Tax Calendar, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that this month's executive summary report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures as of 12/31/2020 for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, these funds are reporting year to date revenues of \$11.2 million and expenditures of \$8.6 million leaving a positive revenue over expenditure position of \$2.5 million. To date, we have received about 79% of the ad valorem tax revenue projections for this fiscal year. December activity increased the Water Fund net income to \$188,426 for the year, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. In the Landfill Fund, accrued revenues and expenses leave this fund with an YTD net income of \$258,227, and the GEFA loans are current at \$1.6 Million. In the cash report, the General and Special Revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$13.7 million, the proprietary funds \$7.1 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds \$4.5 million, leaving a County Wide total of \$25.4 million. Of that amount \$13.9 million is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, total expenditures and appropriations to date have now exceeded \$23 million. Distribution no. 35 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue in the amount of \$357,186 is up, about 7% over last year. It brings issue to date collections to just over \$12 million and appropriations are being reported at \$9,015,000. For the 2012 TSPLOST Issue, collections are just under \$6.2 million, combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have appropriated over \$7.9 million in local road projects through the TSPLOST Funds. Like SPLOST, this month's distribution of the Local Option Sales Tax is also up 6.92% over this time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, the principle balance of all the outstanding loans is \$2,222,955. The last report included is a preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report, which shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each department and the total for each fund. All expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are at 43%, the Water Fund is at 28% and the Landfill fund ended the month at 29%.

RATIFY U.S. DOT & CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL GRANT AWARDS

Administrator Harrell reported that Crisp County Board of Commissioners document active grant awards are awards that have already been granted to the county basically from the US Department of Justice and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. In audits that these agencies do with the county, some but not all have been found in older minutes, and for the record he is asking to ratify the acceptance in the official minutes to reflect these grant awards. These awards are from Adult Felony Drug Court Grant J21-8-016;

two from Law Enforcement VWAP Grant C18-8-467 and C18-8-226; three from Prosecution VOCA Grant C19-8-103, W19-8-016, and C18-8-264; Community Oriented Police Grant 2020OUMWX0227; and MSNTF Grant B18-8-016. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to ratify the acceptance of these grants from the US Department of Justice and the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) with the continued rise in COVID cases and with consultation of Sheriff Hancock and the health department, he asked Eric Bozeman to suspend all recreational programs until such time it is deemed safe to continue; 2) he had a meeting with Norfolk Southern concerning installation of pipes to alleviate flooding in Cedar Lakes Subdivision. The pipe construction is set for early 2021; 3) last summer we contracted with Spy Glass to conduct an audit of internet, phones line and cell phones for Crisp County. Based on the findings and final report last week we were able to save the taxpayers approximately \$15,000 by turning off, disconnecting and purging unused lines; 4) work is continuing with building the county's new website. I have set a March 31st deadline goal to be completed; and 5) he is very proud of the Cordele/Crisp County Chamber of Commerce Map, he worked with the Chamber, 911 Director and the mapping company to produce a new, very nice and comprehensive map for Crisp County. A lot of work took place over several months getting the map in proper form, and maps are available at the Chamber and at the commission office.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

REAPPOINTMENTS MADE

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint John Gordon to the Airport Board, Mena Vonier to the Animal Services Board, Barbara Smith to the Crisp County Board of Health, Ray Rollins, Jimmy Tyrone Walker and Larry Felton to the Recreation Advisory Board, Catherine McGill to the Region 6 Mental Health Developmental Disabilities Board, J. C. Clark to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and Jerry Johnson to the Crisp-Dooly Joint Development Authority, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT LAND BANK DEVELOPMENTAL AUTHORITY MEMBERS

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to appoint Commissioner Felton to a 2 year seat and Commissioner Crenshaw to a 1 year seat on the Land Bank Authority, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE BOARD MEMBER

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint Deborah Priest to fill the unexpired term of David Fallin on the Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care Board, term ending 6/30/21, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY MEMBER

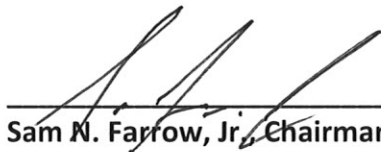
Motion was made by Mr. Nance to appoint Wallace Mathis to fill the unexpired term of Mark Crenshaw, citizen representative, to the Solid Waste Authority, term ending 02/13/21, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

APPOINT RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to appoint Gary Cross to the Recreation Advisory Board, term ending 12/31/23, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator