

**CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

OPENING CEREMONIES

Chairman Sam N. Farrow, Jr. called the meeting to order 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2021, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that in regards to Covid-19, the number of positive cases have come down but the deaths have risen. Georgia State Patrol troopers seized drugs from a vehicle and made an arrest last week on the interstate. As you know we have had a good many auto break-ins in the city and county, and they have a meeting this morning between Cordele Police and sheriff's investigators as we are going to try to provide some resources for them. Sheriff advised that they will be putting out extra patrols at night, and in addition Juvenile Judge Pack has signed an Emergency Order for immediate secured detention of juveniles found unsupervised in the community after curfew. This gives law enforcement the permission and legality to take these youths and detain them until the next day when Judge Pack will have a hearing. He advised that there is a state curfew that if you are 14 years old or younger you are not supposed to be out unsupervised after 9:00 pm, and if you are 16 years or younger unsupervised after midnight. We are going to try to get a handle on this as a good many of these breaking into cars are unsupervised youth. He also advised that in his sheriff's department report, they patrolled about 90,000 miles last month at about \$.14 a mile, and E911 dispatchers received a total of 5,511 calls.

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT JOSH GRANT COMMENTS

Josh Grant, County Extension A & R Agent, advised that the Livestock Committee has announced that they will have the annual livestock show on March 10th in accordance with all the safety regulations regarding COVID safety. He advised that they have multiple contingency plans, which will include keeping the amount of people in the building to a minimum, following social distancing guidelines, and requiring all to wear masks. He advised that they will be breaking the amount of animals they have into five classes, instead of the normal four and only allowing the families of the exhibitors in at that time, so they can minimum the amount of people inside the building at one time. He advised that the consequences of this is that the show will be longer than usual; the sale will be later in the afternoon. He stated that they also have to plan for the number of buyers they can have at the auction and will be maintained at a correct level as they are going to try to minimize the amount of people that can be in the barn during the sale. They have other plans, but they hope that they can go forward with this plan.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR LIFTING A MORATORIUM ON AGRICULTURAL WASTE PRODUCTS REMOVED FROM AGENDA

Administrator Harrell reported that for purposes of the minutes, we had advertised for a public hearing today on an application to construct a stack house at 1073 Muller Road; since the publication of the public hearing in consideration for lifting a moratorium on the Agricultural Waste Products is no longer needed, it has been administratively removed from the agenda.

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES OF MIDDLE FLINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Angela Holt, new CEO of Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare CBS, advised that she came to introduce herself as well as they want to insure that they provide the services needed for each community. She stated that they have several outpatient clinics, one is housed in Cordele. They provide peer programs, residential programs for behavioral health, and various other programs. A new program they have just begun is a crisis stabilization unit and is valuable to the counties. They are rare in the state of Georgia, and they have only about fourteen beds; they try to insure that the eleven counties they serve have priority to access those beds. She left packets of information for Commissioners.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-001 - CDBG-MIT FUNDING

Administrator Harrell reported that Resolution 2021-001 authorizes preparation and submittal of the CDBG-MIT grant application. He read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution 2021-001 Authorizing preparation and Submittal of CDG-MIT Grant Application and giving the chairman authority to sign the resolution, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE REQUEST FROM CARLOS PEREZ

Administrator Harrell reported that we had a public hearing at the last meeting for a 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. Property located at the intersection of Hwy. 41 and Drayton Lane. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the rezoning request of Carlos Perez, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-002 – AMEND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE

Administrator Harrell reported that Resolution 2021-002 is regarding the amending of the Land Development Code. The public hearing was held at the last meeting; he read the resolution. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt Resolution 2021-002 Resolution to Amend the Unified Land Development Code of Crisp County, Georgia Including the Procedures for Calling and Holding a Public Hearing and the Standards for the Exercise of the Zoning Power Contained therein; to Readopt Policies and Procedures for Calling and Conducting Hearings on Proposed Zoning Decisions; and to Readopt Standards Governing the Exercise of the Zoning Power, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE SELECTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CONSULTANT FOR CDBG MIT PROJECT

Administrator Harrell reported that we need to select an Administrative Consultant relating to the Community Development Block Grant that was just approved. He recommended, based upon a review of

the proposals received, the scoring of the criteria on the scoring worksheets following analysis of the proposals received, that the County hire Bob Roberson and Associates as Administrative Consultants for the CDBG MIT Project. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve Bob Roberson and Associates for the Administrative Consulting Services of our CDBG MIT project, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR CDBG MIT PROJECT

Administrator Harrell offered a recommendation to approve an agreement for Professional Services with Bob Roberson and Associates for the CDBG MIT Project. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Contract for CDBG Grant Administrative services between Crisp County and Bob Roberson and Associates, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

REAPPOINT BOARD MEMBERS TO SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to reappoint Angus Campbell and Wallace Mathis to four year terms on the Solid Waste Authority, terms ending 02/13/25, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that this report includes the report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General and three major Special Revenue Funds. Year to date Revenues exceeded expenses at January 31st by about 14% leaving a positive revenue over expenditure balance of \$2.7 million. In the Water Fund, YTD net income for this fund is up to \$150,702 leaving a 22% positive total. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. In the Landfill Fund, monthly revenues less expenses dropped the YTD net gain by \$23,708 down to \$209,237 for the year. The GEFA loans are current at just over \$1.6 million. In the Cash report, the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds combined, are reporting cash on hand of \$16.7 million, the proprietary funds \$7.1 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$4.8 million, leaving a County Wide total of \$28.7 million. Just over \$16 million of that is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. There was no change in the 2011 SPLOST Issue as total expenditures and appropriations to date remain at just over \$23 million. For the 2017 SPLOST Issue, Distribution #36 is up 5% from this time last year. It also brings issue to date collections to \$12.4 million while expenditures and current obligations have reached \$9.1 million. Next is the updated report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues, Crisp County's distributions to date have reached \$6,267,971. This month's distribution of \$192,670 of the Local Option Sales Tax Distributions is also up by 5% over last January. Next is the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report; the total number of loans remains at eight with an overall outstanding balance of \$2.2 million. The last report is preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each department. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. Overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds are at 59%, the Water Fund at 39% and the Landfill at 36%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) NRCS will clean a portion of Cedar Creek and Gum Creek with the intention of helping the flooding issues; 2) he is working with U.S. Air force, Georgia DNR and Veteran's Park concerning the B-29, WWII aircraft on display at the park. The Aviation Museum in Warner Robins wants to preserve the plane; currently it is in the elements and is rapidly deteriorating. It is the only B-29

left of its kind. This plane flew missions over Japan; 3) ACCG is having weekly legislative update meetings, and he has had communications with both Representative Williams and Senator Summers regarding these updates; 4) he attended meetings with several committees and individuals; 5) the new Crisp County website is progressing and on track to be complete by the end of March. He will schedule a time for photos with department heads and commissioners, and we need a mission and vision statement for Crisp County. He is going to engage the services of Keith Jones to develop a professional strategy for the Board; 6) He continues to work on developing a time for all county employees, who want a shot, to be able to receive a COVID vaccine. Currently, only citizens 65 and over, public safety and caregivers are eligible; 7) with the help of the Tourism Committee, \$75,000 has been allocated for Keep Crisp Beautiful to address the trash issues within Cordele; and 8) we continue to have all recreational activities suspend. After discussion by the commissioners, the consensus of the board was to open up recreation, but be responsible.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, 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.

APPOINT MEMBER TO THE TAX ASSESSORS BOARD

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to appoint Anna Roberts Hurt to fill the unexpired term of Harold Carter, Jr., who resigned, to a term ending April 8, 2022, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

JOIN IN CONSENT ORDER BEING CONSIDERED IN WHITEST LITIGATION

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to join in the Consent Order being considered in the Whitest Litigation in the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia in substantially the form that was presented to the Board this morning, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m., seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator