

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 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. Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 9, 2021, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock brought a check in the amount of \$115,995 for housing federal inmates last month. He advised that Senate Bill 272 passed over yesterday changing juvenile age to 17; he is hoping it will not pass and was glad to know that our representative voted no on it as they already have housing issues inside the juvenile facilities and transportation issues inside the juvenile system. It will have an effect that he doesn't think anyone has actually thought about. Also, there is a 911 bill that would have added .50 to the telephone fees for the state of Georgia with .25 going to state and .25 to local counties but it looks like it will not pass. The construction company is still working on the firing range and we are still in ongoing discussions regarding the firing range. They are working with ROTC as P.O.S.T. is now requiring a physical agility test before they will accept law enforcement officers in the Peace Officers Standards and Training basic mandate they will have tryouts tomorrow for some of their Special Response team members, and they are about six or seven people below full staff. Also, the Georgia Department of Transportation advised that they have determined a left turn signal phase should not be installed at this time at SR 300 and Old Hatley Road.

ADOPT PROCLAMATION OF CRISP COUNTY EXTENSION LIVING WELL MONTH

Administrator Harrell reported that he received a proclamation after the agenda was set from Crisp County Extension Coordinator Randy West. He read the Proclamation of Living Well Month which proclaims March 2021 as Living Well Month. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation of Crisp County Extension Living Well Month, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

HERBERT GLADDIN REGARDING TRASH/LITTER

Herbert Gladdin advised he wanted to give commissioners ideas of what he thinks we need to do regarding the trash and litter in the county. This has been done by other people, and we need to try to change the thinking of people as he thinks trash is not the problem in the county. He stated that trash has gotten

worse over the last ten years, and he thinks it is going to get worse, so if we don't change something, we are stuck with it forever. He thinks to change the problem we have to go directly to the source, and we have to change the source. We can pick up trash for people forever or we can train people to think and throw trash away instead of just throwing it on the ground. Also, one of the things that attract industry is an attractive environment. If we did clean up in Crisp County, we could get something that you cannot provide with money, which is front page advertising of being a clean county; it can't happen if we continue to clean up behind someone. He advised that there are counties around this are that are really clean because they have done different things and put methods in place, and if they want to research how these counties stay clean, he will be glad to help them research. He has chosen three sites over the last ten years to clean up personally and it works. It can be done but you have to find the source first, let's do something different and get started.

WITHDRAW PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FROM LANE STUCKEY

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a Public Hearing for a request from Lane Stuckey for a Special Use Permit to operate a Convenience Store. Mr. Stuckey is not here and no one is here to speak in opposition, plus he heard prior to the meeting that this may be withdrawn. He recommends since no one is here to speak for or against the hearing, that they withdraw it at this time. If Mr. Stuckey decides to have a public hearing later, it would have to be re-advertised at that time. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to withdraw the public hearing request by Mr. Stuckey, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE ORDINANCE 2021-003 – REGULATING JUVENILE CURFEW

Administrator Harrell reported that he has worked with Sheriff Hancock and County Attorney Lawson putting together Ordinance 2021-003. He read the ordinance that makes it unlawful for any minor under the age of seventeen (17) to be any place in the county without a supervised adult having lawful authority to be at such places between the hours of 11:00 p.m. on school nights and 6:00 a.m., and on non-school nights the effective hours of curfew are between the hours of 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and 6:00 a.m. on the following day. Also any juvenile between and including the ages of twelve (12) and sixteen (16) years old who is found by law enforcement during curfew who are on streets, public and/or private property of another without permission and completely unsupervised by any adult can be detained. Sheriff Hancock advised that this ordinance is not anything new to our community. The City of Cordele has an ordinance similar to this, but with what we have seen with crime as of late, and the people committing the crimes inside the city limits are also the same people committing the crimes in the county, we need some teeth in the county jurisdiction for law enforcement officers to be able to interact with these juveniles that are breaking into cars, stealing firearms, and vandalizing homes. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve Ordinance 2021-003 – An Ordinance Regulating Juvenile Curfew in Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE AMENDMENT #1-FY21 – RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

Administrator Harrell reported that he has another item that came in after the agenda was set, which is an amendment to an existing contract the county has with Resource Management System. He advised that the Georgia Department of Transportation decided to revert back to a cost reimbursement method for the FY21 contract period and add some language to the existing contract. This amendment makes that change to the original contract. This is the transit of 5311 program, and it has been recommended by the

GDOT. Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve Amendment #1-FY21 Resource Management Systems, Inc. Operator Agreement, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT REPORT

Miller Edwards with Mauldin & Jenkins reported that their firm has issued an unmodified audit report (clean opinion) for the comprehensive audit, which means it covers every part of the county. General Fund Revenues, Expenditures and transfers to and from other funds for last year, the county is almost at break-even losing just a little bit. He advised that the budgeted Revenues were down a little at about \$900,000 but the budgeted Expenditures were right in line with what you budgeted. He wanted to bring to their attention how strong the county's financial position is as you have about seven months of reserves as of June 30, 2020. Regarding the Water System Fund, he stated it is not a large fund but it is covering its costs, and the Landfill Fund, Crisp is the only government that he knows of that actually makes a positive bottom balance. Is firm did have to do a single audit this year as the county received about \$1.2 million in federal funds last fiscal year. He advised they looked at the internal controls, and they do have segregation of duties concern, which is not unusual for county governments; they do recommend that you take a look at the segregation of duties. Also, he mentioned the small amount of excess cash in the Magistrate, Probate and Superior Courts and advised that anytime you have a difference between what the cash is and who you think you owe it to, both sides of the balance sheet is not tying something together. Administrator thanked Mrs. Leverett and the finance department for the work they do regarding the finances and getting everything ready for the auditors.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's packet includes a preliminary report on the major funds of the County as of the end of February, 2021. Year to date activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds combined are running ahead of last year by about 18% and leaves YTD positive revenue over expenditure position of over \$3 million. To date we have received about 88% of the projected revenue from the 2020 Tax Digest. The Water Fund activity brings YTD net income to \$150,315, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. The Landfill Fund activity brings the YTD accrued net income to \$200,051, and the GEFA Loans are current at \$1.6 million. In the cash on hand report we ended the month with \$15.3 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds, \$7.1 million in the proprietary funds and \$5.7 million in the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds giving a countywide total of \$28.2 million. February activity pushed expenditures under the 2011 SPLOST Issue to \$23.1 million. Distribution no. 37 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue is up about 20% from this time last year, and expenditures and appropriations have reached \$9.2 million. In our LOST receipts, this month's distribution is also up 20.25% over this same reporting period last year. For the 2012 TSPLOST, we have collected almost \$6.3 million since January of 2013. In the Revolving Loan Fund, we have a total outstanding balance of \$2.2 million for all these accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department report for the eight-month period. All departments and divisions should be at 67% or below of their annual allowances; preliminary numbers show the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds at 65%, the Water Fund at 47%, and the Landfill Fund at 42%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) the Cedar Creek/Gum Creek NRCS project continues, and we will clean a portion of Cedar Creek and Gum Creek with the intention of helping the flooding issues and wants

to do this will our staff but may have to contract out a portion. Due to weather, this project may not take place until summer; 2) he attended several meetings and was on the noon day show with Rick Smarr; 3) the new Crisp County website is on tract to be complete by the end of March; 4) recreational activities have resumed, and this past weekend we hosted a tournament with 62 teams, 2700 visitors and was an approximate \$132,300 economic impact to the county; 5) the constant rain has slowed the progress on the Floyd Road widening, Midway/Hines drainage improvements, Cannon Road drainage improvements, installing driveways, replacing pipes and installing water taps; 6) they are refurbishing ramps and all weather roads inside the Landfill for general municipal solid waste and to approve the Coal Ash site; and 7) they will resume mowing (weather providing) on paved roads in Hatley area and dirt roads on Big Curve, scraping roads, cleaning pipes and ditches, patching, and picking up debris along the roads; 8) they have spot clipped to relieve ponding water for safety purposes, and 9) have had multiple water main locates for Hwy. 280 project and AT & T projects. Mr. Harrell reported that the fire department had seven structure fires last month, and the DOT advised that there would be no left turn signal installed at Hwy. 300 and Old Hatley. Also the DCA has \$500 million available for renters and those people involved in rental properties to get reimbursed; there will be a portal that will be open soon by the DCA for renters for rental assistance, and we received some really good news regarding the Farmers Market as Commissioner Black has advised that the funding for the Market is in place.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator