

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON APRIL 13, 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 approve the regular meeting minutes of March 9, 2021, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that last month deputies served 208 warrants, 160 civil papers and 102 subpoenas with an average daily population in the detention center of 186 and total prisoners transported at 136. He advised that his department is working on a contract with a private ambulance service to make some 10-13 transports that they are required to make after a doctor or a probate judge evaluates someone and says they should be in-house for mental or substance treatment. Financially it will be a little bit higher for those transports but it keeps your deputies in the county and also keeps from having to pay those deputies overtime. He advised that they have remodeled seven of the offices in the administrative side of the detention center, they used inmate labor to take up the flooring, and purchased the flooring with asset forfeiture funds; the county maintenance crew laid the flooring. They have purchased two cars out of SPLOST funds and purchased another out of the asset forfeiture funds. Sheriff Hancock advised that they are still working on the firing range and training area for the deputies, and he thinks this will be a requirement in the next few years for each entity to have a training and firing range. He also brought the finance department a check for inmate housing for the month of March in the amount of \$109,812.40, and inmate labor is picking up trash along the sides of roads.

**NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK PROCLAMATION**

Administrator Harrell read the proclamation by which the Board of Commissioners support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 22-28, 2021 as National Safe Boating Week in an effort to promote safe boating. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the National Safe Boating Week Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Dale Mitchell, with US Coast Guard Auxiliary, advised all that if they are going to be out in a boat to please put on life jackets because they do save lives.

**APPROVE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR OPERATION OF WATER SYSTEM WITH WORTH COUNTY**

Administrator Harrell reported that we have an Intergovernmental Agreement for the operation of the Worth County side of Lake Blackshear water system. The previous two year agreement has run out, and Worth County adopted the agreement in March. The language is the same as it was in the previous two year agreement, and the only thing that is different is the change of dates. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Operation of Water System (Including Human Consumption and Fire Fighting) and Collection of Charges and Fees between Worth County and Crisp County and authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE HARRIET SHEFFIELD AS CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION**

Administrator Harrell reported that the Board of Elections and Registration has recommended Harriet Sheffield be appointed as Chairman for the next term that will begin on July 1, 2021 and end on June 30, 2025. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to appoint Harriet Sheffield as Chairman of the Board of Elections and Registration, term beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2025, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**RATIFICATION OF GRANT AWARD W20-8-014 – DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

Administrator Harrell reported that previously the district attorney had received a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Grant Award W20-8-014 in the amount of \$70,000, and from an administration standpoint he would recommend approval and ratification of this grant. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to ratify the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Grant Award No. W20-8-014 of \$70,000, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

Administrator Harrell reported that Mrs. Rollins, Director of the Department of Family and Children Services and Mrs. Haugabrook were here this morning regarding the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation. He read the proclamation whereas the Department of Family and Children Services is hosting public awareness events through the county during the month of April and also proclaim April 2021 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to approve the Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.** Linda Rollins, DFCAS Director, introduced her First Steps Coordinator Vanessa Haugabrook and case manager Amanda Vaughn, and advised that their two agencies work in conjunction with each other. Mrs. Haugabrook reported that they serve Crisp and Dooly counties, and they get referrals from DFACS and the hospitals regarding children and families. They try to go into the homes and help strengthen families and get children ready for school, and caseworkers go into the homes to help organize different activities for the families. Mrs. Rollins advised that their office and all state offices were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic and are still closed to the public; they do have walk up within their lobby where you can pick up paperwork, and they also have a drop off box where people can drop off paperwork. There is a staff member there every day until noon; all other staff is working from home. She advised that they are making sure that children are safe, and they will make face to face contact if they have to take care of a situation. She advised that they did have 219 cases of substantiated child abuse last year

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report shows the monthly and year-to-date activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds as of March 31, 2021. Combined, March numbers bring YTD totals to \$17.5 million in revenues and \$14.9 million in expenditures, dropping our YTD net income by almost -\$400,000 down to \$2.5 million. March activity increased the net income for the Water Fund by just over \$20,000 bringing it up to \$167,871 YTD, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1,227,031. The Landfill Fund YTD net income is \$231,732, and the GEFA Loans are current at \$1.6 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$15.1 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$7.1 million in the proprietary funds and \$5.9 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a countywide total of \$28.1 million. Of that amount, \$17.8 million is restricted or reserved for special purposes or uses. Regarding the SPLOST reports, there was no change in the 2011 Issue as we remain at \$23.1 million appropriated out of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue. Distribution number 38 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue is up about 11% over last year. Actual expenditures and appropriations have now reached \$10.7 million. Included next is a report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues, and in summary, we have collected \$6.4 million since January of 2013. Following that is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions; this month's distribution of \$162,458 is also up 10.67% from March of 2020. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we ended the month of March with a total outstanding balance of \$2.1 million for all these accounts. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department for the eight-month period of July 2020 through March 2021. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund; all departments and divisions should be at 75% or below of their annual allowances. Overall, the numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are at 74%, the Water Fund is at 52% and the Landfill Fund is at 48%.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported 1) the Cedar Creek/Gum Creek project continues and will clean a portion of Cedar Creek and Gum Creek with the intention of helping the flooding issues. Federal share of this project is \$59,358, and we are awaiting a notice to proceed; 2) Norfolk Southern RR scheduled today as date for construction to begin on the Cedar Creek pipe installation, which should help with flooding; 3) we have uploaded 24 TSPLOST projects into the River Valley Regional Commission portal for consideration of TSPLOST funding in the next round. Multijurisdictional projects include Cannon, Coney, and Williford Crossing Roads. The mayor of Americus is our roundtable representative for Crisp, Sumter and Dooly Counties; 4) department heads have submitted their FY 21-22 budget requests. We are looking at projected insurance costs and bidding this out prior to finalizing the next budget; 5) regarding the legislative update from ACCG, one bill of concern is HB 317, which relates to excise tax on rooms, lodgings, and accommodations after July 1, 2021; and 6) he attended several meetings and events last month. He advised commissioners that he is looking to make some minor adjustments to the Land Development Code as there needs to be a way for this commission to approve variances; right now they go to the Planning and Zoning Board. If something comes to you for a special use that would entail a variance as well, you need to have that latitude, so there will be some text amendments that are coming forward. We will have to advertise that and have a public hearing, and he will get with commissioners individually on this. Regarding the road department, they are mowing roads now in several areas of the county, ditching several roads, scraping roads, also cleaning out pipes and outfall ditches on dirt roads behind where they are scraping the roads, and cleaning ditches on several paved roads. They are patching when the weather is conducive and picking up debris around the county. They are also working with the Federal Emergency



Management Agency to try and get reimbursed on some of the expenses we have had for Covid-related things, plus they still owe us money from Hurricane Michael. He also demonstrated how the new county website will work, and he hopes to have it released by the end of the week.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 a.m., seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.



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Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



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Clark Harrell, County Administrator