

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 8, 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.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 11, 2021 and the budget public hearing minutes of May 25, 2021, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported in his monthly report the warrants/civil division served 108 warrants, 106 civil papers, 242 subpoenas and logged 104.5 court hours. They are looking for an alternative courtroom as Chief Judge Chasteen would like to have another courtroom somewhere in the county as he is concerned about too many people in small spaces. The sheriff stated that he goes on record opposing this idea as he thinks security will be an issue, and hopefully with some of the restrictions lifted regarding COVID-19, that will be a moot point. He reported that the average daily population at the detention center for the month of May was 189, federal transports were 18, court transports 32, medical transports 15, mental health transports 7, and other transports 25. They had 42 incidents at the jail. He thanked the county maintenance crew who had to come and assist them out on a holiday weekend as they had an inmate try to escape and caused damages inside of the jail. Also, deputy cars are operating at about .22 a mile, and E911 had a total of 6,203 telephone calls last month.

**DISCUSS LIBERTY HOUSE**

Diane Rogers, Director of Liberty House of Albany, advised that they are a certified domestic violence program housed in Albany but they serve 17 counties and Crisp is one of those counties. She advised that domestic violence is the number one cause received by law enforcement and one of the most dangerous calls, and it can be scary for the citizens because it doesn't impact the victim but the entire community. Their services include an emergency shelter, as for many victims and families there are no other alternatives for them to stay. They have a 24 hour crisis line that takes all calls to assist victims of domestic violence and their families. They also have an outreach program, which is pretty active in Crisp County; the advocate that serves in this county is involved in many of the community meetings just to know the people that are serving the victims in the county. Liberty House provides an abundance of services and most importantly one of the services is safety planning and working with the victim on how to get out safely. Mrs. Rogers stated that there are so many children that grow up in homes where there has been violence, and they repeat the cycle of violence; they know the way to change domestic violence is with

our future kids. They have to learn how to make healthy choices and relationships, have a better self-esteem and notice red flags, and if they are educated today on domestic violence that is what is going to change our future numbers and occurrences. Last year they implemented a healthy relationships program for our youth ages 12-18, and all of their services are free. She advised that they are primarily (75%) funded by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council with federal funding, and fund-raisers make up the other 25%. Funds are being cut in a lot of areas and if there is any way that Crisp County can support them, they would welcome that.

### **PROCLAMATION HONORING COMMISSIONER GARY BLACK**

Administrator Harrell reported that Monica Simmons sent him a proclamation last night honoring Gary Black, State Agricultural Commissioner. He read the proclamation recognizing Commissioner Black for his work, dedication and devotion to Agriculture in Georgia and proclaiming June 10, 2021 as Commissioner Gary Black Day in Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt the Proclamation Honoring Commissioner Gary Black For His Service And Dedication To The Cordele-Crisp County Community, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **ADOPT PROPOSED TEXT AMENDMENTS**

Administrator Harrell advised the first decision for the Planning Department is the Proposed Text Amendments to the Land Development Code in reference to Chapter 2. Procedures and Permits; Chapter 3. Use of Land and Structures; Chapter 4. Restrictions on Particular Uses; and Chapter 13. Glossary of Definitions. Also, there is one small amendment to make to this under Solar Energy Systems; Chapter 4, Section 4-37(a1) F. Permits and Code Compliances, which says a building permit shall be required for Installation of all Building Mounted Solar Energy Systems, except for flush mounting systems. We want to strike the except for flush mounting systems. He read the Review Checklist for the Text Amendments. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Dowdy made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and approve the following Text Amendments to the Unified Land Development Code. Chapter 2. Procedures and Permits; Chapter 3. Use of Land and Structures; Chapter 4. Restrictions on Particular Uses; Chapter 13. Glossary of Definitions; and Chapter 4, Section 4-37(a1) F. Solar Energy Systems. Mr. Felton second the motion. Motion carried.**

### **APPROVE REQUEST FROM PAUL MILLER FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

Administrator Harrell advised the next decision is for a request from Paul Miller for a Special Use Permit for a residential, building mounted Solar Energy System. The property is zoned RR (Rural Residential) and is located at 919 Arabi Warwick Road. He read the Review Checklist for a Special Use Request. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Nance made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and approve a Special Use Permit for a residential, building mounted Solar Energy System at 919 Arabi Warwick Road. Mr. Dowdy second the motion. Motion carried.**

### **APPROVE REQUEST FROM REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO REZONE A PARCEL OF PROPERTY FROM GENERAL COMMERCIAL TO RURAL RESENDITIAL**

Administrator Harrell advised this request is from Reeves Construction Company (with the property owner's authorization) to rezone a parcel of property from GC (General Commercial) to RR (Rural Residential) for the purpose of a Gravel Pit, Topsoil Stripping or Borrow Pit, for the construction of the

widening of US Hwy. 280. The property is shown and described as 6.31 acres, Tract 2, on the proposed plat. The property is located adjacent to, and east of 2452 Hwy. 280 W. He read the Review Checklist for a Rezoning Request. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Nance made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and to approve the request to rezone (Tract 2) from GC to RR for the purpose of a proposed borrow pit. Mr. Crenshaw second the motion. Motion carried.**

**APPROVE REQUEST FROM REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A PROPOSED GRAVEL PIT, TOPSOIL STIPPING OR BORROW PIT**

Administrator Harrell advised this decision is from Reeves Construction Company (with the property owner's authorization) for a Special Use Permit for the purpose of a proposed Gravel Pit, Topsoil Stripping or Borrow Pit to be used for the widening construction of US Hwy. 280. The property is currently zoned GC (General Commercial) with a requested application to be rezoned to RR (Rural Residential), if the rezoning to Rural Residential is approved, then a Special Use Permit would be required for the proposed use. The property is shown on proposed plat as Tract 2 with 6.31 acres and is located east of 2452 US Hwy. 280 W. He read the Review Checklist for a Special Use Request. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Dowdy made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and approve a Special Use Permit for a temporary borrow pit for the widening construction project on Hwy. 280 W.. Mr. Felton second the motion. Motion carried.**

**APPROVE REQUEST FROM REEVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR, WITH MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE AREA**

Administrator Harrell advised this decision is from Reeves Construction Company (with the property owner's authorization) for a Special Use Permit for the purpose of a Construction Contractor, with machinery, equipment and storage area. The property is zoned GC (General Commercial) and is located east of 2452 Hwy. 280 W., and is shown on proposed plat as Tract 1 with 6.72 acres. He read the Review Checklist for a Special Use Request. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Dowdy made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and approve a Special Use Permit for the purpose of a Construction Contractor, with machinery, equipment and storage yard on Tract 1. Mr. Nance second the motion. Motion carried.**

**DECISION ON REQUEST FROM JONI NAPIER FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT**

Administrator Harrell advised that this is a request from Joni Napier on behalf of Douglas Stanford for a Special Use Permit for a Family Care Dwelling. The property is zoned RR (Rural Residential) and is located at 373 Byrd's Mill Road. He read the Review Checklist for a Special Use Request. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion on the request. Mr. Nance made the motion to adopt the Findings of Fact as presented and approve a Special Use Permit for a Family Care Dwelling to be located at 397 Byrd's Mill Road. Mr. Dowdy second the motion. Motion carried.**

**DECISION ON REQUEST FROM JONI NAPIER FOR TWO EXCEPTIONS**

Administrator Harrell advised that this is a request from Joni Napier on behalf of Douglas Stanford for the following exceptions to the requirements of a Family Care Dwelling: 1) Required Standards: Class B (single wide) mobile homes; ~~Special Exception Variance: double wide~~, and 2) Required Locations: Rear of the main house at least 20' away; ~~Special Exception Variance: locate the family care dwelling in front and on~~

the ~~south~~ north side of the main house. We had the public hearing initially for a Special Exception Variance for a double wide that is no longer the case as they have located a single wide. The required location near the main house is 20' away and they are requesting a Special Exception Variance to locate the family care dwelling in front and on the north side of the main house. This Special Exception Variance may be granted upon the Findings of Fact that the relief, if granted, would not cost substantial detriment to the public good. He read the Review Checklist Special Exception Variance. Commissioner Felton stated that he doesn't think 30 days is long enough to move the home at the time the family care need no longer exists and would like to take that out of the Land Development Code. Administrator Harrell advised that he would look at the code and see what he can do. Mrs. Youngblood, Planning Director, advised if for some reason they couldn't move the home within that time frame, she could handle this administratively without coming back to the Board. **Chairman Farrow asked for a motion. Mr. Dowdy made the motion to approve and adopt the Findings of Fact and deny the requested location on the south side, but to approve the location for the family care dwelling on the north side of the property line, pending health department approval for a septic system. Mr. Felton second the motion. Motion carried.**

#### **ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-007 FISCAL YEAR 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET**

Administrator Harrell reported that Resolution 2021-007 is for your consideration to adopt the FY 2022 annual budget. He read the resolution, which is in balance and estimated revenues and expenditures are as follows: General Fund - \$17,814,505; Law Library - \$35,000; Jail Maintenance Fund - \$173,500; D.A.T.E. Fund - \$45,000; E911 Fund - \$1,232,722; TSPLOST Special Revenue Fund - \$805,825; CDBG 20 Grant Fund - \$764,227; CDBG MIT Grant Fund - \$347,474; Special Service District - \$1,933,092; Hotel/Motel Tax Fund - \$36,000; Asset Forfeiture Fund - \$353,000; 2011 SPLOST - \$154,000; 2017 SPLOST - \$4,101,500; TSPLOST Capital Projects Fund - \$258,359; Water Fund - \$691,450; Landfill Fund - \$2,115,740; CDBG RLF - \$23,000, making total Crisp County FY 2022 Budget of \$30,884,394. **Motion was made by Mr. Crenshaw to adopt Resolution 2021-007 Crisp County Board of Commissioners Resolution to Adopt Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Budget, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **REAPPOINT MEMBER TO MF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE BOARD COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD**

Administrator Harrell advised the next item is to reappoint a member to the Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare Board. Deborah Priest was appointed by this board to fill the unexpired term of David Fallin through June 30, 2021. The Middle Flint Board has asked that she be reappointed for a 3year term. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint Deborah Priest to the Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare Community Services Board, term expiring June 30, 2024, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **DISCUSS INMATE MEDICAL CONTRACT**

Administrator Harrell reported that Sheriff Hancock is looking at entertaining a contract with Southern Correctional Medicine, as it looks now by the end of this month inmate medical services will be over \$400,000 for this fiscal year. That amount is not all with Crisp Regional Hospital, our current inmate healthcare provider, there are others involved including dentists, medications, etc. They were looking at ways to try to save money for the county. Southern Correction Medicine has given a bid for inmate medical in the amount of \$298,200. Sheriff Hancock advised that Southern Correctional Medicine can provide on-site urgent care, nursing care and doctor visits, medications, dental, and mental health coverage. He reported that some of the things we don't have with our current package are dental



coverage, EKG machine on site and no emergency room visits unless acute emergency. We have a great working relationship with Crisp Regional and for years we have bartered medical and security, but the cost of our medical is just continuing to go up, and this is a way to try to bring that down. He wanted to bring the contract before Commissioners and let them look at it and give his office permission; there are still some things that they would like to do in the next couple of days before they make this decision. If we were go with Southern Correctional, it would mean we no longer have the barter system with the hospital, and we could be possibly taking the deputies away from the hospital. The hospital would have to provide their own security, or if we continue to provide deputies they will have to pay us. Also, the hospital is one of the places he is having a hard time filling the position with a deputy. He advised that this new contract is based on up to a daily population of 180 inmates for \$298,200 and includes everything but the specialty medication. We opened the door with the local health department and Colonel Youngblood sat down with Dr. Brown, and we think we have something worked out on the specialty medications with them. Steve Gautney, CEO of Crisp Regional, advised that the hospital and EMS are just like the sheriff's department, as they are all having trouble staffing. Southern Correctional Medicine has been doing this at a number of other locations. He advised that their staff has met and if there is any way they can work with the county to provide anything cheaper, they will try to do that. He stated his biggest concern is the security at the hospital, and he thinks they are going to work that out too. Administrator Harrell stated that he has included the current contract for medical and security services with the hospital in Commissioners books so they can be familiar with that. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to move forward to allow the chairman and the sheriff to the sign the contractual document with Southern Correctional Medicine, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REQUEST**

Administrator Harrell reported that there is a small area of property that is on Hwy. 41 South right before you get to the bridge before Eddie Road that Georgia Department of Transportation is wanting to acquire from the county, it is about 10,000 square feet. This is a bridge program the GDOT is doing to replace the Hwy. 41 Bridge. They need some additional right-of-ways, and they are offering a fair market value for this property in the amount of \$3,900. He asks that they allow the chairman to sign the documents to transfer this property to DOT. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to allow the chairman to sign the necessary paperwork transferring this county property to GDOT, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVE DRUG COURT GRANT AWARD**

Administrator Harrell advised the next item is the Drug Grant Award which includes federal funds in the amount of \$217,903 and local funds of \$24,211, making total grant funds of \$242,114. This is a recurring grant every year for the drug court. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the Drug Court Grant award, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **RATIFY AIRPORT AGREEMENT WITH GDOT**

Administrator Harrell reported that we need to ratify an Airport Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. We had to execute this agreement after the last meeting. This is part of the 5 year plan for Engineering Design Services for maintenance hangar, pavement rejuvenator, six unit T-Hangar Taxi line and removal of obstructions at the Crisp County- Cordele Airport. Grant funds will be \$105,681, local funds at \$35,227 making total cost of \$140,908. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to ratify the Airport**

**Agreement with GDOT for services at the airport totaling \$140,908, seconded by Mr. Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett reported that the first page of the financial report shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General and three major Special Revenue Funds through May, 2021. Combined, these funds are reporting YTD revenues at \$20.4 million and YTD expenditures at \$18.3 million leaving a 10% positive revenue over expenditure position. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures increase the YTD net income to \$199,329. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. In the Landfill Fund, we are reporting \$1.6 million in accrued year to date revenue and \$1.3 million in accrued expenses leaving a net income of \$269,766. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.5 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$14.5 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$7.2 million in the proprietary funds and \$6.3 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving us a county wide total of \$28.1 million. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we appropriated \$23.1 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue leaving about \$149,000 to wrap up projects associated with this issue. Distribution No. 40 for the 2017 SPLOST Issue is up considerably over last year by 38.5%. It is also up over the 2019 numbers by about 16%. Total collections are just over \$14 million. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$10 million. Included next is an issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues. In summary, we have collected approximately \$6.6 million since January of 2013. Next is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions; just like SPLOST, it is also up 38.5% over last year. For the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we ended the month 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 report for the period of July 2020 through May 2021. All departments and divisions should be at or below 92% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds are at 90%, the Water Fund is at 64% and the Landfill Fund is at 59%.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) he received a letter from Tom Curles, Dorothy Rhodes and citizens of the Cedar Lake and Bob White communities. He read the letter which thanked all the parties involved in the installation of drain pipes under the Norfolk Southern Railroad Track and other activities related to the opening up the drainage basin west of the railroad. He advised that the Cedar Creek/Gum Creek project has been completed. We removed 108 tons of debris from both creeks and also removed two dump truck loads of tires from beneath the bridge on Gum Creek/15<sup>th</sup>/Drayton. Federal share of this project is \$59,358. He has also notified CSX RR of debris against the trestle downstream on Gum Creek; 2) we are near completion of another ongoing flooding issue on Midway Church Road as we have installed a large 72" pipe which should be able to handle the water flow. We have built up Hines Road in conjunction with this project; 3) we have several areas in the county which needs patch work, Midway Church, Antioch, Cannon Branch, Cannon, and Haw Pond Roads. We are trying to get a price together to have a contractor come in and make the repairs; 4) at this time we are putting together bid packets for resurfacing of a portion of Pateville, Ferry Landing, Brock, and Lakeshore Way Roads for our LMIG. There are some other roads we had looked at but it just comes down to money; 5) we have issued a purchase order for a new fire truck (\$288,000), and money was allocated in SPLOST for this purchase; 6) we received a grant award from ACCG for \$4,000, three departments applied for funding, with the money coming from the employee safety grant. He showed the big check that was given to them for the Community Block Development Grant in the amount of \$347,474 for a communications grant for the sheriff's department;

7) he attended several meetings and events last month; 8) we are having problems with filling positions for lifeguards this summer, we only have three and are hoping those three pass their test. Mr. Bozeman stated that right now his plan is for the Recreations Department pool to be open two days a week and Pickens Pool will be open three days a week, with hours of operation from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.; that could change; and 9) we are still doing a lot of work at the landfill, preparing a leachate problem, mowing on roads, and ditching roads. He advised that he would like to have a work session dealing with the hospital bond issue on Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

**CHANGE COMMISSION MEETING DATE IN JULY**

By common consent, Commissioners set the regular meeting in July for Thursday, July 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m., due to conflict of the regular meeting for several of the commissioners.

**GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mr. Crenshaw to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel, litigation and property, seconded by Mr. Felton motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

**COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

**APPROVE SALARY SUPPLEMENT UPGRADE FOR SHERIFF HANCOCK**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance, contingent to the fact that Sheriff Billy Hancock has completed the educational requirement, to approve a salary supplement upgrade for Sheriff Hancock, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

  
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Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman

  
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Clark Harrell, Administrator