

**MINUTES OF CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JULY 15, 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 June 8, 2021, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously. Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve the called meeting minutes of June 24, 2021, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

ADOPT PROCLAMATION HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JEROME OUTLAW

Administrator Harrell advised that he has a Proclamation honoring the forthcoming retirement of Jerome Outlaw, EMS Assistant Director. He read the Proclamation stating that Jerome was hired in 1981 when the county still operated the EMS and has been a loyal, dedicated employee. He also served as a Deputy Coroner for the Crisp County Coroner's office, as well as working part-time as a police officer for the City of Cordele, and a Deputy Sheriff for the Crisp County Sheriff's Office, along with serving on several county boards. He has always been there for this community when we needed it the most. **Motion was made by Mr. Nance to adopt the Proclamation Honoring the Retirement of Jerome Outlaw, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Outlaw thanked the commissioners, citizens, hospital family, and his family. Commissioners thanked Mr. Outlaw for his many years of service to the community.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that last month deputies served 225 warrants, 150 civil papers, 80 subpoenas, and worked 191 man hours in the courts. The traffic division issued 220 citations, and he turned in \$94,000 this morning for inmate housing. He stated that the average population in the jail was 190, they patrolled 82,000 miles, received 83 animal calls, and total calls for E911 were 3009. Due to the manpower shortage and calls for service going up, they have moved the school resource officers and investigators to help the deputies with the calls. He also has a contract this morning for new Tasers and would like the commissioners to enter into this agreement and sign the contract; it will be a yearly payment of \$18,727.80 for five years and the payment will come out of the drug account for at least the first year. The total price for the Tasers is \$93,639. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to engage in this contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. and authorize the chairman's signature, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.** Sheriff Hancock advised that we are going to have to talk about how we are going to manage the inmate housing as he does not have the employees to continue handling inmates other than the county inmates they have in the jail. He advised that when the jail was built in 1991, it housed 124 inmates and four guards were assigned to that jail; there are still at four guards that are

assigned to the jail today with 224 inmates. They cannot continue this way as they are nine people short inside the detention center at the present time.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FROM JAMES F. BAKER, JR. TO REZONE TWO PARCELS OF PROPERTY

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a public hearing request from James Farrow Baker, Jr. to rezone two parcels of property from CG (General Commercial) to RR (Rural Residential) for the purpose of residential/rural use. The property is approximately 14.42 acres and is located at 349 Farmers Market Road. The decision cannot be made at this meeting. Chairman Farrow opened the public hearing. Mr. Baker advised that this property on Farmers Market Road was his father's office for years, his father has retired and is not going to use the property or the building any more. The property is his now, and he will not need it for any commercial use, but would like to turn the dwelling on the property to a house. He would like the property to go back to rural residential, with the possibility of maybe selling house lots behind the building on the open area. The property has not been used as commercial since about 2008. Chairman Farrow asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak for or against the request; there were none, so he closed the public hearing.

APPROVE CONTRACT FOR SERVICES WITH CRISP AREA ARTS ALLIANCE, INC.

Administrator Harrell reported that the first item we have today in new business is a Contract for Services with Crisp Area Arts Alliance; a contract we have been trying to get in place for a little over a year. If taxpayer money is given to outside entities, we need a contract for services. The contract will be between the Board of Commissioners and Crisp Area Arts Alliance, with their budget this year at \$5,000. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to allow the chairman to execute the Contract for Services with Crisp Area Arts Alliance, Inc., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE CONTRACT BETWEEN GDOT & BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR AIRPORT CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM SUPPLEMENT

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a contract between the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and Board of Commissioners for the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Supplement. The amount of the supplement is \$13,000. We ask Commissioners to approve this contract so that we can receive and utilize these funds for general expenses at the airport. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the Contract between GDOT and Board of Commissioners for the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Supplement, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY CONTRACT BETWEEN GDOT & BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR 5311 TRANSIT SERVICES

Administrator Harrell ask that commissioners ratify a contract between GDOT and Board of Commissioners for the 5311 Transit Services for FY 2022. The grant amount is \$229,716, and the local match is paid by the vendor. We had to electronically sign this document after the last meeting, so we are asking for you to ratify this contract. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify the Contract between GDOT and Board of Commissioners for the 5311 Transit Services FY 2022 seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GA. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS & BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN SUPPORT OF THE CDBG MIT PROJECT

Administrator Harrell reported that this contract will also need to be ratified, which is between GA. Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Board of Commissioners in support of the CDBG Mitigation program that we were awarded a couple of months ago. Commissioner Dunn from DCA presented a big check to the commissioners for \$347,474 in grant funds. The purpose is to enhance the radio communication equipment of the 800 Megahertz System that we have in the county. This will allow for interoperable use with other agencies traveling through Crisp County or coming to the county in assisting with disasters, etc. **Motion was made by Mr. Crenshaw to ratify the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation Sub Recipient Agreement between the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Crisp County, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-010 – CDBG-MIT AWARD ACCEPTANCE

Administrator Harrell reported that we have Resolution 2021-010, which is essentially the same as what we just addressed but this is a resolution that we have to maintain on file authorizing the award. Since it is federal money, there is a lot of paperwork we have to approve regarding the Community Development Grants. This resolution authorizes the CDBG-MIT Award acceptance. He read the resolution, which will commit \$25,000 from Crisp County. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to adopt Resolution 2021-010 Authorizing CDBG-MIT Award Acceptance, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's packet includes a summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County as of June 30, 2021. The General and three major Special Revenue Funds are reporting YTD revenues of \$21.9 million and expenditures at \$19.8 million providing a positive 10% revenue over expenditure balance as of this report. In the Water Fund, monthly revenues and expenditures increased preliminary YTD net income to \$234,408. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. In the Landfill Fund, revenues and expenditures pushed the preliminary YTD Income to \$312,261. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.5 million. In the Cash report, we ended the fiscal year with \$14.2 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$7.3 million in the proprietary funds and \$6.5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a countywide total of \$28.1 million. Approximately \$17 million of that is reserved or restricted for special projects or uses. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue, we have appropriated \$23.1 million of the \$23.2 million collected. Distribution # 41 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue is up by about 20% over this same time from a year ago. It brings our issue to date collections to \$14.4 million and actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$9.5 million for this issue. Next is an issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST revenues, and we have collected \$6.6 million since January of 2013. Following that is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions. This month's receipt of \$210,555 is up 19.6% over last year. Regarding the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, we have eight outstanding loans for a total combined balance due of \$2.1 million. The final report is a summary report on the revenues by fund and expenditures by department. All departments and divisions should be at or below 100% of their annual allowances; overall numbers, at this time, indicate the General and Special Revenue Funds are at 98%, the Water Fund is at 69% and the Landfill Fund is at 65%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) we have completed and addressed flooding issues on Midway Church Road. We installed a large pipe which should be able to handle the water flow as this issue was causing the road to be topped by water during heavy rainfall events. Hines Road was built up in conjunction with this project; 2) we have been put on notice of a CPI increase of 3.4% in regards to Advanced Disposal rates; 3) our formula for the FY22 LMIG Program amounts to \$618,873.40 with a 10% match, and applications must be received by February 2022; 4) GDOT will be resurfacing a portion of Hwy. 300 in Worth and Crisp Counties. The project is 2.95 miles, beginning west of Hwy. 313 and ending at the divided median west of old Coney Road; 5) the American Rescue Plan Act is providing Non-Primary Airports in Georgia a total of \$3,458,000 of which Crisp County will receive \$32,000; 6) Crisp County will receive a dividend from ACCG's Insurance Program in the amount of \$29,915; and 7) he attended several meetings and events during the month.

COMMENTS REGARDING WASTE SERVICES

Herbert Gladdin stated that when the county started with Advanced Disposal seven years ago, the company had a fantastic record, now they have increased the fees a good bit and are not owned by the same people. Recently they went to a side delivery truck, which reduces their labor force. The arm of the new truck picks up the trash and dumps it in the truck, part of the trash falls on the ground, and the driver drives off. He said every week he and a neighbor picks up some of the trash on the ground near his house. He is in favor of improvements and efficiency, but that is Advanced Disposal's problem, not the county's. On the one hand we have the city spending money picking up trash, and we have Advanced adding to it. It may be time to consider that contract with Advanced when it comes up again and let somebody else bid on it and see if we can get a little competition, as that is always good. He has nothing against the company. They are not picking up the yard debris as they did in the beginning as he has seen piles in his neighbor's yard stay for five months before they picked it up. He stated that people need to realize also that they have to put the garbage in the container for it to be picked up. Commissioner Felton stated that maybe we need to talk with Advanced because we have a lot of people that don't have trash cans because of non-payment anymore in the county.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

APPROVE ADDING \$.50 PER HOUR FOR NIGHT SHIFT EMPLOYEES

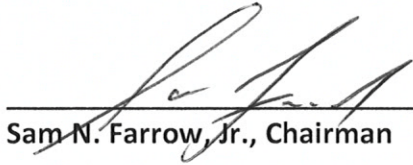
Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve an additional \$.50 per hour for night shift employees, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

CORONAVIRUS AWARD

Administrator Harrell advised that the county has been awarded \$4.2 million by the federal government regarding Covid-19. Mrs. Leverett has done due diligence with that, and we have in a bank account in Cordele half of that money now. We have been listening to different webinars trying to find the proper way to spend those funds; he understands that we have until December, 2024 to spend the funds. There is a lot of red tape. He did give a lot of credit to ACCG as they are taking a big role in this in trying to guide counties, but we just don't have 100% guidance yet.

ADJOURN MEEING

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m., seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator