

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 10, 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 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 July 15, 2021, and the work session minutes of July 21, 2021, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock reported that last month deputies served 124 warrants, 80 Civil Papers, 448 Subpoenas, and because of trial weeks they had 216 Court Man Hours transporting prisoners to and from Court. He stated that it has been a busy seven or eight days as there was a drowning at Lake Blackshear last weekend, then last night they had a mental patient being released from Crisp Regional Hospital who stole a deputy's vehicle but was caught with no incident or damage to the vehicle, and also an individual who was on top of the water tower on 23rd Avenue. Rick Smarr was able to talk the individual down without an incident. Also, their July monthly report shows that the average daily population in the detention center was 182, deputies traveled 82,247 miles, and E 911 calls were 3,074. He also turned in a check in the amount of \$84,000 for inmate housing.

ANNUAL FORESTRY REPORT

Marty Fore, Chief Ranger with Crisp-Dooly Forestry, reported that he is hoping this year will be a better year for them so they will be able to serve the land owner and help burn more acreage. His department issued a total of 2,317 automated telephone calls and burn permits. He advised that word is out that you do not need a permit to burn trash, but that applies only to hand-piled natural vegetation. Also burning must be done between daybreak and dark, any fire must be at least 50 feet from a structure and 25 feet off of any landline, and the fire must be fully extinguished before leaving or that person will be held liable. Also, anything other than hand-piled vegetation still has to go through the Forestry to get a permit, mostly to manage the smoke.

PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST FROM BARBARA CLARK FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT

Administrator Harrell reported that we have a Public Hearing request from Barbara Clark for a Special Use Permit for the purpose of operating a Day Care Facility in her home at 2317 Joe Wright Drive South. Property is zoned RSI (Single Family Residential). Chairman Farrow opened the public hearing. Ms. Clark

advised that she presently owns a day care center, which she has been running in the community for about twenty years. She is relocating to this property and would like to be approved to be able to continue to run her business at the new address. Chairman Farrow asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the Special Use Permit; there were none. He closed the public hearing and advised that the decision will be made in the September 14, 2021 meeting.

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

Administrator Harrell reported that at the last meeting, we had a public hearing concerning James Farrow Baker, Jr. for a request to rezone two parcels of property from GC (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. Administrator Harrell went over the Review Checklist for a rezoning request. **Commissioner Dowdy make the motion to adopt the “Findings of Fact” as presented and to approve the request to rezone the area as presented, which is approximately 14.42 acres from GC to RR for the purpose of a proposed residential use and is located on Farmers Market Road. Commissioner Felton second the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-011 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A POWER PURCHASE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE SOLAR PARTICIPANT AND MEAG

Administrator Harrell reported next is Resolution 2021-011, which would approve and authorize the execution of a Power Purchase Contract between a solar participant and the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), and also for such other purposes. He advised that the power commission has met and adopted this Contract; this is a partnership with the power commission that MEAG is asking the Board of Commissioners to sign off on as well. It is for a solar project so that the power commission can expand their portfolio for nuclear and hydro into solar, and it is ultimately for Walmart. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adopt Resolution 2021-011 Resolution of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners Approving and Authorizing the Execution of a Power Purchase Contract Between the Solar Participant and the Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia, the Pledge of the Full Faith and Credit of the Solar Participant to Secure its Payment Obligations thereunder, and for such Other Purposes, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY AMENDMENT TO 5311 CONTRACT WITH RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, INC.

Administrator Harrell reported that the next item is a 5311 Contract with Resource Management Systems, and we are asking you to ratify Amendment #1, which is based on compensation. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to ratify Amendment #1-FY22, Resource Management Systems, Inc. Operator Agreement, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINT MATT COLEY TO CRISP REGIONAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY BOARD

Administrator Harrell reported that we have received a letter from Steven Gautney, CEO of Crisp Regional Hospital, asking that the Commissioners appoint an additional member to the Hospital Authority Board. In the letter, it recommends the appointment of Matt Coley to this board. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to appoint Matt Coley to the Hospital Authority Board, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINT DAVID EDWARDS TO SOUTHWEST GEORGIA REGION 8 EMS

Administrator Harrell advised that David Edwards serves on Region 8 EMS Council and has served for a number of years. The Council has submitted a letter requesting the Commissioners reappoint David Edwards, EMS Director, to Region 8 EMS Council. **Motion was made by Mr. Felton to reappoint David Edwards to the Southwest Georgia Region 8 EMS Council, 2021-2024 term, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's financial report includes a summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County after one month in the 2022 fiscal year. In the General and three major Special Revenue Funds, we are showing \$1.1 million in YTD revenue; that combined with \$1.9 million in expenditures leaves a -4% shortfall of expenditures over revenues of -\$761,804. Nothing alarming as we are in that window of our fiscal year where our revenue stream is pretty lean, and we depend on reserves for support of daily operations until the 2021 tax revenues begin to flow in. The Water Fund is showing a net income of \$22,840, and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. The Landfill Fund recorded a net income of only \$57; the GEFA Loans are current at \$1.5 million. In the cash on hand report, we ended the month with \$13.2 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds, \$7.3 million in the proprietary funds and \$6.8 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving us a total of \$27.4 million. For the 2011 SPLOST Issue report, we have appropriated \$23.1 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue. Distribution No. 42 for the 2017 SPLOST Issue, in the amount of \$467,029, is up almost 18% over this same period last year and appears to be the largest single monthly distribution received to date under this issue. It brings issue to date revenue to \$14.9 million. Expenditures and appropriations have reached \$10.8 million. Next is an issue to date report on the 2012 TSPLOST; collections have reached \$6.7 million. This month's L.O.S.T distribution of \$228,906 is up 17.5% from this same time last year. In the CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, we currently have nine loans with a total outstanding balance of \$2.1 million. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department report. All departments and divisions should be at or below 8% of their annual allowances. The numbers show the general and special revenue funds are at 9%, the water fund is at 3% and the Landfill is at 8%. Mrs. Leverett advised that we received the 2021 consolidation sheets Friday afternoon, which is not going to allow enough time to meet the advertising requirements needed to meet the September 1st deadline for digest submission. In view of that, the Tax Commissioner has requested an extension for submission of the digest, which will allow us to formally adopt the millage rate at our regular meeting on September 14th. In looking at the numbers, we are showing about a \$15 million decrease in our net taxable assessed values for 2021 and also a drop in our millage rate due to the inflationary growth calculation. Rolling back the inflationary growth plus the drop in values adds up to an estimated -\$213,928 decline in ad valorem tax revenues as compared to 2020. She is requesting approval from the Board for advertisement of the Current 2021 Property Tax Digest and Five year History of Levy. **Motion was made by Mr. Dowdy to approve for advertisement the Current 2021 Property Tax Digest and Five Year History of Levy and designating the meeting date of September 14, 2021 for formal adoption, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) Advanced Disposal/Waste Management trash problems continue to be reported – residents can't get in touch with them, callers are being put on hold for long periods of time, trash is not being picked up or missed, and no one local to talk with. He hopes to have a resolution

very soon. He has also asked them to hire a local person to handle calls in Cordele, and they have agreed to do this. Part of the issues have to do with the merger between Advanced and Waste Management; 2) he is asking Carl Gamble to seek a minor modification, if needed, with GA EPD which will allow us to open the old bailer building at the landfill for use as a transfer station. In inclement weather garbage trucks have to be pulled up the working face, out of bogs and in some cases pulled down from the face. This process would improve efficiency with the county and companies who dump trash at the landfill; 3) LMIG is on track for resurfacing this year with a bid opening on August 19th, we will have this on the agenda for approval in September; 4) he is still working with South Georgia Tech/Cordele to develop a training course for equipment operators; 5) they continue working on ARPA funding aspects within Crisp County, and are still awaiting the Final Rule as to allowable expenses. A secondary grant has been opened by Governor Kemp with \$4 billion for various projects due to COVID-19. We would like to capture some of that money and working on an expansion grant application for the Lake Blackshear Water System; 6) we continue working on the Bond Issuance with Crisp Regional and will have a called meeting on August 17th to ask for your authorization for approval of additional documents; 7) the Grand Jury made a visit to the Commissioner's office last week as part of their inspection as required by law; 8) we are continuing to work on our CDBG Meadow Park project; and 9) he attended several meetings during the month.

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

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO THE CRISP COUNTY EMPLOYEE PERSONNEL POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve an Amendment to the Crisp County Employee Personnel Policy and Procedures Handbook for vacation buy-back in the amount of 80 hours to be determined through those parameters through the Administrator and Finance Director, seconded by Mr. Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT TENTATIVE PLAN

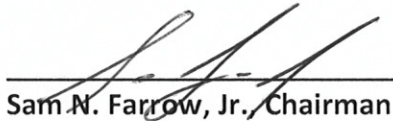
Motion was made by Mr. Felton to approve the American Rescue Plan Act Tentative Plan that Administrator Harrell has put together with the parameters of it being the mission of the Board of Commissioners to provide premium pay to first responders and essential Crisp County workers, to provide funding for county offices and departments within the Crisp County Board of Commissioners budgetary authority, and to provide necessary revenue for services relating to negative impact due to Covid-19, that being the priority of the Board of Commissioners at this time, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

WORK WITH SHERIFF HANCOCK TO DEVELOP A SALARY INCREASE

Motion was made by Mr. Felton, giving Administrator Harrell and Finance Director Leverett the authority to work with Sheriff Hancock immediately to develop a salary increase pursuant to the problems and issues that the sheriff's office is having with retaining jailers, deputies and E911 operators, seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. Felton to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m., seconded by Mr. Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman



Clark Harrell, Administrator