

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 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 Monica Irwin. 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. Crenshaw to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 14, 2021, seconded by Mr. Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Colonel Denise Youngblood gave the Sheriff's report. She reported the Sheriff Office numbers are pretty well holding as they have the past several months. Mrs. Youngblood advised there are renovations scheduled for the jail kitchen that have been approved and on task for the month of October. The Sheriff office is continuing to push their vacancies for the detention division and the civil, court, and patrol divisions. Mrs. Youngblood presented a check from the Sheriff's office for inmate housing of the month of September for \$69,000.00. Mrs. Youngblood advised the Sheriff's office is moving forward with Regional training opportunities to provide training to the Sheriff Office employees as well as surrounding counties that has been on hold due to the COVID pandemic the last twelve months. She also advised that the jail still has no COVID cases to report and that the vaccine is now offered to anyone inside the detention facility that wants it.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK PROCLAMATION

Administrator Harrell read the National 4-H Week Proclamation while Randy West, County Extension Coordinator, stood alongside of him. At the end of the reading, Mr. West thanked the Commissioners for their continued support and also thanked Commissioner Felton for coming out last week to support 4-H. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the National 4-H Proclamation to declare and proclaim the week of October 3rd – 9th to be Crisp County 4-H Week, seconded by Mr. Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RED RIBBON WEEK PROCLAMATION

Administrator Harrell read the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation while Monica Simmons and Tamala Mathis, Cordele Chamber of Commerce Directors, stood alongside of him. At the end of the reading, Mrs. Simmons thanked the Commissioners for all they do and for their support. **Motion was carried by Commissioner Dowdy to proclaim the week of October 25th – 29th as Drug Awareness Week, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK

Mr. Harrell asked for the Commissioner's consideration for appointment of Clerk now that Mrs. Finch has retired. Mr. Harrell announced his recommendation for Clerk being Monica Irwin to fill this most important position for Crisp County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dowdy to approve the appointment of Monica Irwin as County Clerk, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-016 – AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION WITH THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR A GRANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE UNDER THE TITLE 49 U.S.C., SECTION 5311.

Administrator Harrell reported that Resolution 2021-016 is for the 5311 Program and application renewed on a yearly basis through the Federal Transit Administration Grant Application of the Georgia Department of Transportation and is for Commissioners consideration. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt Resolution 2021-016, Authorizing the filing of an Application with the Georgia Department of Transportation and the United States Department of Transportation for a Grant for Public Transportation Assistance Under the Title 49 U.S.C., Section 5311, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FISCAL YEAR 2021 FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, reported that the county-wide final budget for Fiscal Year 2021 is \$29,433,737.00. She also advised the report detailed by category within department within fund is the County's legal level of control and is the one needed to be adopted. It is basically annual action taken to sure up the fiscal year budget. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dowdy to adopt the 2021 Fiscal Year Final Budget Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

APPLICATION FOR NEW BUSINESS LIQUOR LICENSE

Administrator Harrell reported, for the Commissioner's consideration, an on premises alcohol license for J&R Capital Investments, LLC doing business as The Hushed Puppy, located at the old Pat's Fish Camp, 2452 U.S. Hwy 280 N, Cordele. Mr. Harrell advised that the application is in order. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dowdy to grant an on premises alcohol license for the new business, The Hushed Puppy, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

TITLE VI/NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY STATEMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT TO TITLE VI PLAN

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked the Commissioners' consideration to approve the Title VI plan that Crisp County Transit assures the Georgia Department of Transportation that no person shall on the basis of race, color, or national origin as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Federal Transit Laws, 49 CFR Part 21 Unlawful Discrimination, Nondiscrimination in Federally-Assisted Programs Of The Department of Transportation and as per written guidance under FTA Circular 4702.1B, dated October 2012, be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation under any program or activity undertaken by the agency. **Motion was**

made by Commissioner Felton to approve the Title VI Plan Commitment, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mrs. Leverett reported that today's financial report is the Executive Summary Financial Report for the three month period of the new fiscal year FY22 ending September 30, 2021. Report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting FYTD revenues received of \$3.6 million and YTD expenditures at \$4.9 million leaving us with a -7% shortfall after the first 90 days of the fiscal year, which is typical for this window of our year. Reserves remain sufficient to support daily operations until the 2021 tax revenues begin to flow in. Mrs. Leverett advised a resolution setting the 2021 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate was approved during the September meeting. The digest package was completed and submitted shortly after that and is happy to report, has now been approved and accepted by the Ga. DOR. Mrs. Leverett also advised the Tax Commissioner anticipates that she will be mailing out the 2021 Tax Notices later this week. Mrs. Leverett expressed appreciation to the offices of the tax assessor and tax commissioner for all their work and cooperation in assisting with the 2021 Tax Digest process. The Water Fund ended the quarter with a net income of \$62,717 and the Landfill Fund reported an accrued net income of \$33,889 at 9/30/21. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$1.4 million. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$14.3 million; The proprietary funds with \$7.4 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$7.2 million; bringing our County wide total to \$29.1 million. The 2011 SPLOST, as of September 30th, has appropriated \$23.1 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue. Distribution no. 44 of the 2017 SPLOST Issue Report is up about 17.5% over last September. It brings our issue to date collections to \$15.7 million. SPLOST Expenditures for the month of September were Sanitation & Solid Waste, the Airport, Fire & Rescue, County Buildings, Public Works, the Sheriff's office, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total of \$190,474. The 2012 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX Funds have now reached \$6.9 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have expended and/or obligated almost \$9.0 million in local road maintenance and capital projects with the local portion of our TSPLOST tax. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions is up about 17.6% here as well. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund status of all nine loans total an outstanding balance of \$2.1 million. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of Sept. 30th everyone should be at or below 25%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are just under budget at 24%, the Water Fund is good at 20% and the Landfill is on target at 24% as well.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) in accordance to a letter of correspondence, the 2021 County Ad Valorem Digest was received by the Department of Revenue and indicated in writing was found to be in order; 2) Hwy 280 widening project is still on-going between the City of Cordele and Lake Blackshear; 3) North Coney Road will be closed for a portion of time by Reeves Construction Company while the County's water main is relocated. A detour will be set-up through Swann subdivision; 4) \$1.2 million awarded to Crisp County from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the Federal Road Bridge Project finalizing the right-away on Watson Road; 5) Certifications have been sent to Georgia EPD on remaining life of Crisp County Landfill. Current remaining life capacity of the Municipal Solid Waste is 67.5 years and 5.4 years on construction and demolition; 6) Reeves Construction has been provided a notice to proceed with Resurfacing Project to begin December, 2021; 7) The county is seeking bids for patch-work on several

county roads; 8) Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, is working on finalizing Lake Blackshear Area Water System Grant Application; 9) he attended several meetings and events last month.

**GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION
FOR LITIGATION PURPOSES**

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to go into Executive Session, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of Executive Session, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman

Clark Harrell, County Administrator