

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 14, 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 Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 9, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Billy Hancock gave the Sheriff's report. He reported the Sheriff's office is seeing an increase in man power. Two new hire deputies have been released on the road and a female officer, from Valdosta, has been hired. The Sheriff's office has only lost one employee in the past 60 days. The Sheriff reported staff is still low but he is not feeling too much of a crunch at this time because the office still has enough staff to fill the critical positions. The Sheriff reported one accident this month, involving the 911 Director, at the location of Frontage Road and HWY 300 but the accident was not the fault of the 911 Director. Court hours and Prison hours are up and the jail is maintaining a population of 180 to 184 inmates, which is down from previous population of 224 inmates. The Sheriff also reported the Maintenance Director, Toby Coleman, and his staff has done a great job maintaining repairs of the jail and replacing broken windows. The Sheriff stated it has been a real good season with toy donations for Toys for Tots and Adopt an Angel. This week, Officers will be visiting the Georgia Sheriff's Boy's Ranch to hand out gifts. Sheriff also reported that calls for service are still up and still responding to as many calls as the past 60 to 90 days. He advised that the Sheriff's office has been working with the Cordele Police Department and the combined efforts of the Special Response Team on a case that is responsible for the vehicle break-ins and also a young member of the community that had drugs and weapons. The agencies continue to work hard to keep the community as safe as possible.

**ENTERTAINMENT**

Randy West from the Crisp County Extension Office introduced one of the 4-H members, Ms. Sophie Dowdy. Ms. Dowdy is a member of Clovers & Company and the Junior/Senior Local Board. Ms. Dowdy performed a Christmas song for the Commission.

**PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR ROBERT HENDERSON**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that we have a Public Hearing request from Shannon Akin for the purpose of converting an existing structure into a guest house. The property is rural residential and is located at 224 Scenic Route. Mr. Akin addressed the Commissioners requesting a permit to

convert the existing structure into a guest house. Mr. Akin stated converting/expanding the existing structure is an opportunity to create more room for family to gather. Commissioner Felton expressed he agreed with the conversion and Chairman Farrow advised that a decision cannot be made today but a decision will be made by the next Commission meeting in January. The Public Hearing was closed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Commissioners that a Public Hearing was required during the November 9, 2021, Commission Meeting which was a request from Robert Henderson for a Special Use Permit for the purpose of installing a building mounted Solar System at his residence of 118 Simmons Dairy Road. Mr. Harrell read the finding of facts and requested a motion from the Commission. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dowdy, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested consideration approval, for the 2022 Crisp County Board of Commissioner's 2022 Holiday Schedule. **Motion made by Commissioner Nance, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

## **5311 TRANSIT PROGRAM**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested for consideration, approval for the policy update to the 5311 Transit Program Drug Policy. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

## **CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PERSONNEL POLICY**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested for consideration, approval for the policy update to the Crisp County Board of Commissioner's Employee Personnel Policy and Procedure Handbook. The policy update is to inform employees that the annual leave buy-back is not included as part of eligible pension wages. **Motion was made by Commissioner Dowdy, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## **2022 LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested for consideration, approval for the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant to resurface roads. The 2022 LMIG grant will be \$618,873.40. For County use of the grant, Crisp County is required to match 10% which is \$61,887.34, totaling \$680,760.74. A grant application will be submitted through LMIG to the Georgia Department of Transportation by February 2022 while the Legislature is in session. The roads to be resurfaced are Arabi Warwick Road, Exa Avenue, 8<sup>th</sup> Street, 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hickory Street, and Crossroad Store Road. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

## **ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-018 – DESIGNATE NO THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that Resolution 2021-018 is to designate no through truck traffic route on Wiley Road in the unincorporated area Crisp County. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt Resolution 2021-018 as stated above, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion was carried unanimously.**

#### **ADOPT RESOLUTION 2021-019 – DESIGNATE NO THROUGH TRUCK TRAFFIC**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that Resolution 2021-019 is to designate no through truck traffic on Crossroad Store Road in the unincorporated area of Crisp County. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt Resolution 2021-019 as stated above, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett reported the preliminary report for the period of July through November, 2021. Mrs. Leverett reported the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, are just under \$7.7 million and YTD expenditures at \$8.5 million leaving us with a negative -4% expenditure over revenue shortfall position at November 30<sup>th</sup> of -\$778,284. The Water Fund ended the same period with an YTD net profit of \$100,016. Water consumption billed for the month was 4,291,000 gallons to 1,448 customers and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.2 million. Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues less expenses is a net income of \$70,075. The total tonnage received for the month of November was 4,926.68 tons. Of the total tonnage received, 42% was received from the commercial contract, 11% under the city's residential contract and 7% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is also current at \$1.4 million. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$15.1 million; The proprietary funds at \$8.2 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds at \$7.9 million. Mrs. Leverett reported the cash reports total expenditures and appropriations to date for the 2011 Issue ended the month at just over \$23 million and the 2017 issue, is up 30% over this time last year, bringing to date collections to \$16.5 million, expenditures and current obligations have reached \$11.3 million. Mrs. Leverett also reported the Count spent \$123,140 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month of November. Projects benefiting were the Airport, County Buildings, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste & the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. The County has now collected almost \$7.1 million in local revenue from the transportation tax since January of 2013. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have appropriated over \$9.4 million in local road projects through this Fund. This month's distribution of Local Option Sales Tax of \$206,745 also represents a sizable increase over last year of 29.75%. CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts remain at nine outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$2.1 million. The General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are within budget at 40%; the Water and Landfill funds are both under at 30% and 37% respectively.

#### **APPROVE ACCEPTANCE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,000 FOR THE CORDELE-CRISP COUNTY AIRPORT**

Sherrie Leverett, Finance Director, also reported the County received notification yesterday that our application for federal assistance under the American Rescue Plan Act for the Airport in the amount of \$32,000 has been approved. In order for them to issue the payment...we need formal approval from the Board for acceptance of these funds. If I could please get a motion to accept the \$32,000 in ARPA funding for the Crisp County-Cordele Airport. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve acceptance of the American Rescue Plan Funds in the Amount of \$32,000 for the Crisp County Airport, seconded by Commissioner Dowdy, motion carried unanimously.**



## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) January 3, 2022, the Tax Commission Office will be closed due to State of Georgia upgrades to the software system. The Tax Commissioner will be releasing a Public Notice of the closing date. 2) Road patchwork has been completed on Midway Church, Old Hatley, Antioch Road (three locations), Cannon Branch, Drayton Lane and Hawpond. 3) Working on current 2022 LMIG. 4) Coal Ash Project is ongoing and progressing very well. 5) Continue to work with South Georgia Tech to develop curriculum for equipment operators. 6) Attended several meetings and events last month. 7) Advised of new Timber Harvest Ordinance, which will be presented at a forthcoming meeting.

### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION PURPOSES**

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

### **COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session with no action taken.

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

  
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Sam N. Farrow, Jr., Chairman

  
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Clark Harrell, County Administrator