

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2022**

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. Public Works Director, Carl Gamble 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.

CHAIRMAN NOMINATION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported it is that time again to elect a Chairman for the Board of Commissioners for 2022. **Chairman, Sam Farrow, nominated Commissioner James Dowdy for Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Larry Felton, motion carried unanimously. Chairman Dowdy changed seats with outgoing Chairman Sam Farrow.**

VICE-CHAIRMAN NOMINATION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported it is that time again to elect a Vice-Chairman for the Board of Commissioners for 2022. **Vice-Chairman, James Nance, nominated Commissioner Larry Felton for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Mark Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, recommended Rick Lawson to remain as County Attorney. **Motion was made by Commissioner Sam Farrow, seconded by Commissioner James Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

APPOINTMENT OF COUNTY CLERK

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, recommended Monica Irwin be appointed as County Clerk. **Motion was made by Commissioner James Nance, seconded by Commissioner Larry Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Larry Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 14, 2021, and the Called Meeting Minutes of December 29, 2021, seconded by Commissioner Mark Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Billy Hancock gave the Sheriff's report. He reported the Sheriff's office patrolled about 75,000 in the county last month but are still around 12 to 14 employees short of being fully staffed. Sheriff Hancock advised the office has had only a few employees out with the COVID Virus. He reported the Sheriff's Office has hired two new Certified Deputies from Valdosta and a new E911 dispatcher but the Detention side is

still short staffed. The Sheriff advised the Detention Center had three employees out with the COVID Virus that will be returning this week but at this time the virus is still being held out of the jail, only a few inmates have tested positive but have recovered and met the requirements to be returned to general population. The staff continues to disinfect and wipe down areas several times per day to minimize the spread of the virus. The Sheriff also reported the benefits and protection of mask usage. The Sheriff stated how proud he is of the community and the Department of Public Health, Crisp County Health Department, Dooly County Health Department and the Department of Natural Resource for their help in setting-up and conducting the mass testing site at the Farmer's Market and for the help of Dooly County, Sumter County, Wilcox County, and Crisp County for their help with traffic management and security. The Sheriff also reported that the Crisp County Sheriff's Office has been working in conjunction with the Cordele Police Department on cases and is currently offering a reward of \$5000 for the arrest and conviction of the person who conducted a drive-by shooting in the city.

**RESOLUTION 2022-001, RESOLUTION 2022-002, RESOLUTION 2022-003, RESOLUTION 2022-004,
RESOLUTION 2022-005**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell reported that in the month of December the County had 5 individuals that retired from Public Works and the Landfill with 30 years, 20 years, 7 years, 26 years, and 25 years of service. Mr. Harrell read the Resolutions honoring retirees Willie Frank Brown, Eddie Charles Lewis, Gayland Everett Williams, Eddie Frank Walker, and Robert Curtis Harvey for their years of dedication to the citizens of Crisp County. **Motion was made by Commissioner James Nance to adopt Resolutions as stated above, seconded by Commissioner Larry Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR MICHAEL MCCARTY

Chairman Dowdy opened the Public Hearing at 9:30 am. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that we have a Public Hearing request from Michael McCarty for the purpose of using a metal building for a heating and air business and a metal fabrication business. The property is rural residential and is located at 1463 Tremont Road. Mr. McCarty addressed the Commissioners requesting a permit for the existing structure to conduct business. Planning and Zoning Director, Connie Youngblood, advised the Commission the building is already there and put into place before the permit was issued and now a special exception needs to be made to allow the construction of business and do a reduction of the lot set back from 50ft to 38ft. Mrs. Youngblood also advised the Commission there is three motions that will need to be made for this special use permit. County Administrator, Clark Harrell reminded the Commission a decision cannot be made today but a decision will be made by the next Commission meeting in February. No one spoke in opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING – SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR INNOVATIVE SENIOR SOLUTIONS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that we have a Public Hearing request from Innovative Senior Solutions for the purpose of rezoning a parcel of property from Single Family Residential to Two Family Duplex for the purpose of constructing a family personal care home. The property is approximately 4.34 acres and is located adjacent to and south of 243 and Valhalla Road. Ms. Lashonda Wright Blue and Jessica Wright represented Innovative Senior Solutions and Ms. Blue expressed to the Commission their mission is to improve the lives of seniors by preventing them from having to go to a nursing home and keeping them safe in their home and their community. Ms. Blue also stated there is a need for a non-nursing home care facility that is not related to skilled care that allows certain seniors to

remain in their home and in their community to live out their lives in an “at-home” environment. Ms. Blue advised on the plans for the family personal care home and believes the facility will be an asset for the community. Valhalla Residents speaking in opposition to the special use permit for Innovative Senior Solutions and requesting to keep the parcel of property zoned for Single Family Residential are: Lin Barnes, Sonny Burt, John McMichael, Aubrey Halstead, Kate Mitchell, Buddy Lewis, and Marguerite Lewis. Chairman Dowdy advised a decision will not be made today but will be made by the next Commission meeting in February and closed the Public Hearing at 10:07 am.

NEW BUSINESS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Commissioners that a Public Hearing was required during the December 14, 2021, Commission Meeting which was a request from Shan Akin for a Special Use Permit for the purpose of converting an existing structure into a guest house located at 224 Scenic Route. Mr. Harrell read the finding of facts and requested a motion from the Commission. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the finding of facts and approve the special use permit for a guest house, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FY2023 BUDGET CALENDAR

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested consideration for approval, for the 2023 Crisp County Board of Commissioner’s Budget Calendar. **Motion made by Commissioner Farrow, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

DAPHNE LODGE ALCOHOL LICENSE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested for consideration, approval for new owners of Daphne Lodge to sell beer and wine on the premises. Mr. Harrell introduced to the Commission, the new owners, Rick & Lisa Garcia. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2022-006 – QUALIFYING FEES FOR 2022

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported that Resolution 2022-006 is a resolution fixing, and ordering, the publication qualification fees pursuant to O.C.G.A. section 21-2-131. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt Resolution 2022-006 as stated above, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion was carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett reported as of 12/31/2021 for the County’s General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, reporting year to date revenues of \$11.4 million and year to date expenditures of \$11.2 million with a positive revenue over expenditure position of \$226,230 at the end of December. As of this report, the Finance Department has received about 53% of the ad valorem tax revenue projections for this fiscal year. December activity increased the The Water Fund net income to \$120,012 for the year. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. The Landfill Fund accrued revenues and expenses at 12/31/21 leave this fund with an YTD net income of \$123,849. The GEFA loans are current at \$1.4 Million. The General and Special Revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$17.1

million; The proprietary funds \$7.8 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds \$8.3 million... leaving a County Wide total at 12/31/21 of \$33.1 million. The SPLOST reports total expenditures and appropriations to date for the 2011 issue have reached \$23.1 million. Distribution no. 47 of this issue in the amount of \$426,800 is up, about 19.5% over this same reporting period from last year. It brings issue to date collections to \$16.9 million. 12/31/21 appropriations are being reported at \$11.5. The detail list of all the SPLOST Expenditures for the month of December; \$150,677 in total Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were, the Airport, EMS, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste, County Roads, and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. The 2012 TSPLOST Issue, in summary, issue to date collections have reached \$7.2 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have appropriated over \$9.4 million in local road projects through local TSPLOST Funds. Local Option Sales Tax Distributions is up 19.5% over this same time last year. The General and Special Revenue Funds combined are running slightly over budget at 53%; the Water Fund is in good shape at 35% and the Landfill fund ended the month at 46%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported that 1) the redistricting map has been sent to Atlanta and has been advertised. 2) sent a letter to the new Chairman with the city of Cordele and to the new ward 3 Commissioner with the City of Cordele telling them I look forward to working with them in their capacities in the city and our paths certainly will cross in many aspects. 3) many pending projects in the hopper.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for litigation and property purchase, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:37 am. Commissioner Crenshaw did not attend Executive Session.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 10:50 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, 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 10:55 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator