

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

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Chairman, James Dowdy, III, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in Room 305 of the Crisp County Government Center, with Commissioners Larry Felton, A. James Nance, Jr, Sam Farrow, 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 Dowdy welcomed all in attendance.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 13, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock was unable to attend the Commission meeting. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, presented a check to Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, totaling \$75,488.13.00 for jail Per Diem.

**PROCLAMATION 2022-019 HONORING ROBERT L EVANS**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Proclamation as Mr. Evans and his wife stood at his side. The Board applauded and congratulated Mr. Evans on his retirement. Mr. Evans stated to the board serving Crisp County has been an honor and a privilege. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Proclamation 2022-019 honoring the retirement of Robert L Evans, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**PROCLAMATION 2022-020 RED RIBBON WEEK**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Proclamation proclaiming Crisp County Red Ribbon Week campaign theme, Good Vibes Only – Living Drug Free, promotes family and individual responsibilities for living healthy, drug-free lifestyles, without illegal drugs or the illegal use of legal drugs and hereby proclaim the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> as Drug Awareness Week. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Proclamation 2022-020 proclaiming October 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> as Red Ribbon Week, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the public hearing is for a special use permit requested by Mr. James Mitchell for the purpose of operating a pet crematorium. The location will be 736 Raines Station Road. Mr. Mitchell was present and addressed the Board explaining his reason for the special use permit request to operate a pet crematorium. **Public Hearing closed at 9:25 am with no decision being made at this time.**

## NEW BUSINESS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Commissioners of several items under new business needing their consideration:

### **REZONING REQUEST FOR 191 FLOYD ROAD, RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO HEAVY COMMERCIAL BINNINGER FAMILY TRUST**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reminded the Board the property of 191 Floyd Road is currently being used as an RV Park. Mr. Harrell read the findings of fact. Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, reported the rezoning for this land parcel is correct and is in line with the comprehensive plan. Mr. Dunnavant, on behalf of the Planning & Zoning Department, recommends the Board approve the request to rezone from rural residential to heavy commercial with the following conditions: 1) the rezone section of parcel 034021 is to only be used as an RV Park and campground as stated in the Public Hearing, 2) Crisp County Code of Ordinance Section 34-77 pertaining to loud and unnecessary noises be strictly enforced in the park as a whole, 3) The Campground in its entirety be brought up to the standards as outlined in the Crisp County Development code Section 4-33, 4) The phone numbers work with 24 hour availability for the park manager and park owner and be maintained at Crisp County 911 and updated as needed. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to rezone 191 Floyd Road from Rural Residential to Heavy Commercial, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **RESOLUTION 2022-021 SUPPORT OF FLINT RIVER WATER TRAIL**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution. Monica Simmons, CEO/President Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce, reported to the Board she was contacted several months ago to collaborate with other counties to promote the river. Since Crisp County is predominantly the Lake, it promotes the lakes for canoeing, kayaking, camping, boating, etc. The Chamber was asked to give an inventory of all the boat ramps and camp sites in Crisp County. The lead organization is the Merriweather Chamber. Most Georgia Counties have signed on in support of the water trail. This is also considered economic development as well as a tourist event. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Resolution 2022-021 in support of the Flint River Water Trail, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### **AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT - ACCG**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked for the Board's consideration for an administrative action as a request from the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. The County participates in a defined contribution plan and in doing so different tiers of plans have been created. ACCG is trying to put all counties under the same plan. ACCG is asking the County Commissioners to sign off on adding a tier 3 fund to all plans at no cost to the County. It is county employee contribution plan that allows employees to decide which funds they want to contribute to. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to amend the ACCG administrative services agreement, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

## FY22 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, reported the County started off with a county wide budget of \$30,884,394.00. The adjustments total \$3,049,412.00 giving a final county wide budget of \$33,884,306.00. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve final budget adjustments for FY22, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, gave a preliminary report for the first quarter of FY 23. The County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting FYTD revenues received of \$3.2 million and YTD expenditures at \$6.2 million leaving a -13% shortfall after the first 90 days of the fiscal year of just over -\$3.0 million. A resolution setting the 2022 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate was approved during the September meeting. The digest package was completed and submitted shortly after has been approved and accepted by the Ga. DOR. The Tax Commissioner has mailed out the 2022 notices and this revenue is beginning to trickle in which should help close that -13% revenue shortfall gap. The Water Fund ended the quarter with a net income of \$21,756. The USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund as of 9/30/22 has a net income of \$642,711. The total tonnage received for the month of September was 7,556.47 with 22% being delivered under the commercial contract, 6% under the city's residential contract and 4% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at just over \$1.1 million. Cash Report for September 30, 2022, General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$16.4 million; The proprietary funds with \$9.7 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$8.5 million; bringing a County wide total to \$36.6 million. There is no change to report for the 2011 SPLOST Issue. There is still just over \$149,000 remaining to close out this issue. The 2017 SPLOST Issue Report, Distribution no. 56 in the amount of \$446,039 is up about 12% over last September. Issue to date collections are \$21.2 million. Appropriations have reached \$14.4 million. Projects supported by our Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies for the month were Fire & Rescue, the Sheriff's office, Public Works, Roads Solid Waste and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total of \$336,149. The 2012 TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX Fund issue to date collections have now exceeded \$7.9 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and the County has expended and/or obligated over \$11.3 million in local road maintenance and capital projects with the local portion of our TSPLOST tax. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions regular monthly distribution is up just over 12.0%. The CDBG Revolving Loan monthly balance and status currently has eight loans with a total outstanding balance of \$1.8 million. The expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund as of September 30<sup>th</sup> should be at or below 25%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are slightly over at 27%, the Water Fund is right on target at 25% and the Landfill is also slightly over at 26%.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell advised the Board the County is still awaiting information from the office of Planning & Budget on the grant application for the Lake Blackshear area water system. Mr. Harrell reported closing has taken place on the Chastain property and agreements have been signed with the Nutt property for the Railroad Project. The funds will be used to construct a new portion of Rock Road. Mr. Harrell also reported the completion of road patches on Cannon Road, Arabi Warwick Road, Hatley Road, Cemetery Road, Cork Ferry Road, and Tama-Laurel Lane. Mr. Harrell informed the Board he



continues to work with Recreation on the submission of a grant application which includes a new track, playground equipment, paving and resurfacing of basketball courts. The Meadow Park Subdivision project is ongoing and all acquisition of property is completed. Department of Community Affairs has agreed to allow the use of an overage of funds in the Revolving Loan Fund for the widening and resurfacing of Fenn Road. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings this month.

**GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for litigation, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:10 am.**

**COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of Executive Session at 10:31 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**


**2019 FIRE TRUCK**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, addressed the Board in reference to a 2014 Fire Truck that has had problems from 2019 to now. Mr. Harrell informed the Board the County has spent over \$50,000.00 the last two years on the Fire Truck. The Fire Truck currently needs \$17,000.00 worth of work and has been taken out of service. Mr. Harrell requested the Board declare the Fire Truck surplus and allow Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus Company to sell it because it is no use to the County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to declare the 2014 Fire Truck surplus and be sold for the County by Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus Company, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion unanimously approved.**

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.**

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator