

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 8, 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 Crenshaw to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 11, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock informed the Board of a chase taking place a few hours before the Commission Meeting. The chase started in Americus and ended at Slade Bridge Road in Crisp County. The driver was apprehended and taken to the Crisp County Jail. The Sheriff also informed the Board of an accident shortly after, no fatalities, on Hwy 41 and Eddie Road. The Sheriff Office has been busy, several new employees, but is still short staffed in some departments. Drug activity arrests have increased and Sheriff Hancock commended the drug staff for their hard work and efforts in removing several pounds of fentanyl off the streets. Sheriff Hancock also reminded citizens to be careful while driving this time of the year, the Sheriff's Office has worked 32 deer accidents in the last 30 days inside the county. Sheriff Hancock presented a \$63,000.00 check to Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett for inmate housing for October, 2022. Also, the Sheriff's Office just received a grant to purchase new vests and rifles. Sheriff Hancock stated during his 8 year tenure the Sheriff's Office has brought in close to \$17 Million Dollars in grant money.

PUBLIC HEARING:

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the Public Hearing is for a rezoning request from Stacy and Justin Roberts (DBA Doles Peanut Company, Inc.) for 7.95 acres from General Commercial and Rural Residential to Heavy Commercial for the purpose of developing an RV Park and Mini Storage Warehouses. The property is located at 2209 South GA HWY 300. Mr. Stacy Roberts and Mr. Justin Roberts was present. Mr. Stacy Roberts addressed the Board explaining their intentions which is to clean up and remove the current peanut bins, fence the property, landscape, and install paved roadways to the storage buildings and RV pads. **No decision will be made at this time. Public Hearing closed at 9:25 am.**

NEW BUSINESS

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

DECISION – REQUEST FROM JAMES MITCHELL FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF OPERATING A PET CREMATORIUM AT 736 RAINES STATION ROAD

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Findings of Fact. The Planning and Zoning Department has reviewed the application submitted by Jimmy Mitchell to operate a Pet Crematorium at 736 Raines Station Road and recommends the Board approves the Special Use Request with the following conditions: 1) that all components of the incinerator are to be maintained and kept in a working condition to prevent the release of visible smoke and odors while in use 2) the refrigeration units are to be maintained and kept in a working condition for storage and deceased animals. 3) deceased animals are to be kept in a refrigerated unit while waiting to be incinerated to help with the following: to minimize any smells or decomposition and for the protection of the deceased from scavenging animals that could spread disease, phone numbers with 24 hour availability is to be maintained at the Crisp County 911 center and updated as needed. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to grant the request of Mr. Mitchell for the Special Use Permit to operate a Pet Crematorium at the property located at 736 Raines Station Road, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

RATIFY ACCEPTANCE OF AND RECORD IN THE OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE COUNTY FOR CERTAIN GRANT AWARDS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's consideration in accepting and ratifying the list of grant awards for the official county minutes. Grant C21-8-001 Prosecution VOCA, Grant B50-8-008 Law Enforcement – COVID Supplement, Grant W21-8-023 Prosecution VOCA, Grant K76-8-011 Law Enforcement Training, Grant C20-8-008 Law Enforcement VWAP, Grant J22-8-016 Adult Felony Drug Court, and Grant J23-8-016 Adult Felony Drug Court. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to ratify acceptance and record in the official minutes of the county for certain grant awards, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, gave a summary report for the period ending October 31, 2022. Revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined YTD revenues of \$5.8 million and expenditures of \$8.4 million leaving a FY to date deficit position of -\$2.6 million at the end of October. The Water Fund ended the same period with a net profit of just over \$5,400. Water consumption billed for the month was 6.5 million gallons to 1478 customers and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.1 million. Landfill Fund YTD Revenues of \$1.4 million and expenses of \$812,599 leave this fund with a year-to-date profit of \$642,479 at 10/31/22. The total tonnage received for the month of October is 7,846.78. 41% (3,183.44 tons) of that was received under the coal ash contract with CCPC, 26% under the commercial contract, 5% under the city's residential contract and 3% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$1.1 million. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$17.2 million; The proprietary funds with \$9.9 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds with \$10.9 million; bringing a County wide total of \$38.1 million. 2011 SPLOST as of October 31st, has appropriated \$23.1 million of the \$23.2 million collected under this issue. 2017 SPLOST Issue Report distribution of \$468,915 is up about 16% over last year and brings issue to date total up to \$21.7 million. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$14.7 million. SPLOST Expenditures spent during the month of October, \$423,726 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies. Projects benefiting were the Airport, EMS, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. 2012 TSPLOST revenues, both capital and operating projects supported by those

funds, in summary, has collected over \$8.1 million since January of 2013. Combined with LMIG and GDOT Revenue have appropriated over \$11.4 million in local road projects through the Special Transportation Tax Fund. Local Option Sales Tax Distributions pretty much mirrors the SPLOST as this month's LOST distribution is also up just over 16%. Revenue by fund and expenditures by department report summary shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund as of Oct. 31st YTD, expenditures should be below 33%. As of this report all funds appear to be slightly over at 36%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported to the Board Crisp County has been show cased in November's Georgia Trend with an overall good article. He also advised the Board the County is still waiting for any status updates on the Lake Blackshear Area Water System Grant totaling \$9 million dollars. River Valley Regional Commission is writing a \$2 Million dollar grant on behalf of Crisp County for Recreation Park updates which will include a new track, playground equipment, paving and resurfacing basketball courts. All property has been acquired for the Rock Road Railroad Project and currently awaiting approval of changes made. Mr. Harrell also reported Bids have been left for the 2022 LMIG Project including the roads Arabi Warwick, Exa Avenue, 8th Street, 30th Avenue, 31st Avenue, Hickory and Cross Road Store. The County is awaiting final plans from engineer for the Meadow Park Subdivision Project and we are collaborating with GDOT's engineer for Fenn Road. Mr. Harrell stated he is currently working with Sheriff Hancock on a firing range for Crisp County. He stated he is continuing to look for ways to access BIL Funding for roads for Crisp County. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings this month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for potential litigation and personnel, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:00 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of Executive Session at 10:37 am, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RAILROAD FOR CROSSING CLOSURE AT MUSSELWHITE ROAD

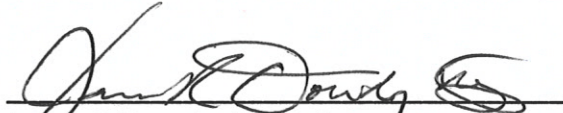
County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested a motion from the Board allowing the Chairman to sign agreement for a new road and to improve the existing road. Georgia Law does not require a Public Hearing to close a railroad crossing. The agreement is to accept \$915,000.00 and completion of a new road. Relocation of Rock Road and closing railroad crossing at Musselwhite Road. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton for the Chairman to sign the Memorandum of Understanding for a new road and to close the railroad crossing at Musselwhite Road, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion unanimously approved.**

INCREASE SHERIFF'S LOCAL SUPPLEMENT

Sheriff's county stipend will be increased \$7500.00. Total salary will be \$122, 236.00 as of January 1, 2023. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to increase the Sheriff's local supplement, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion unanimously approved.**

ADJOURN MEETING

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


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator