

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9, 2023**

**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, (present by speaker phone) 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.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt the agenda for the May 9, 2023 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 11, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock reported things are pretty much as usual, nothing out of the ordinary. Sheriff Hancock advised the Board he has initiated the new Health Contract and the Firing Range contract has been signed and is in place with DNR. He also advised the Board that he is working with Sheriff Peavy in Dooly County on obtaining a piece of equipment in Georgia that is valued at about \$360,000.00. The equipment was acquired through a grant from another county but this county no longer has any use for the equipment and is giving it up. The equipment is for a virtual firearms training facility. The School Board has given the Sheriff's Office a space in the old middle school to put this firearms training in place so that officers are able to train in a realistic setting. The Sheriff also reported to the Board that the Sheriff's Office lost three certified officers in the last two weeks. Two of the officers left to employ with a different county for more money and one officer is leaving law enforcement. The Sheriff stated hiring and retaining employees is difficult due to competitive salaries and he is currently working on a budget that will hopefully with this issue.

**CRISP REGIONAL MED PORT PRESENTATION**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, introduced Mrs. Jodi Ingram and Mrs. Cassandra Rainey with Crisp Regional Hospital. Mrs. Rainey informed the Board of a non-emergency transportation service provided by Crisp Regional Hospital to the citizens of Crisp County. This service is to provide transportation to and from doctor appointments for citizens. The service is provided 5 days a week 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and is free to Crisp County residents. Antoinette Poole is head of the program and may be contacted by phone at 229-276-3568.

## NEW BUSINESS

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

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board the Public Hearing, Special Use Permit, addressed in last month's meeting requested by Sasha Fields to operate a group home located at 118 Joe Wright Drive has been withdrawn.

### RESOLUTION 2023-009 NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board Mr. Dale Mitchell is present on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard in support of National Safe Boating Week and to accept Resolution 2023-009. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution. Crisp County Board of Commissioners support the goals of the Safe Boating Campaign and proclaim May 20-26, 2023, as National Safe Boating Week. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to proclaim May 20-26, 2023 as National Safe Boating Week and start the year round effort to promote safe boating, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

### RESOLUTION 2023-010 SPLOST INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board Resolution 2023-010 is to approve the 2023 SPLOST Intergovernmental Agreement and authorizing the Chairman to execute the Agreement on behalf of Crisp County. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt Resolution 2023-010 and approve the Chairman to execute the Agreement on behalf of the County, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### RESOLUTION 2023-011 GRANT APPLICATION LWCF

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board Resolution 2023-011 is supporting a Crisp County grant application for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the Department of Natural Resources for the state of Georgia. The grant application is for the track located at the Crisp County Recreation Department. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve Resolution 2023-011 grant application for the Crisp County Recreation Department track, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### VAWA GRANT AWARD

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board VAWA sub grant award is awarded through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to the District Attorney's Office for a grant under the Violence Against Women Act. The grant and matching funds total \$93, 333.00. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked for the Board's support and the Chairman's signature for approval. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to support and approve the VAWA sub grant award, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

## AIRPORT PAVEMENT REJUVENATOR PROJECT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board of the contract for construction of the airport project which is a rejuvenator project in the amount of \$816,872.55. The federal portion of the contract is \$585,247.91 the state will match this in the amount of \$585,247.91 and the county portion from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) will be in the amount of \$195,082.84. This contract is the grant award contract between Crisp County and Georgia Department of Transportation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the airport rejuvenator project contract moving forward with construction, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

## TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND GRANT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board the Transportation Trust Fund Grant is from the 5311 Transit Program. The award is made to the program through the Georgia Department of Transportation in the amount of \$49,039.00. It is a grant that is applied for and has been received just needs the commission's approval and signature. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve and sign the transportation trust fund grant for the 5311 transit program, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

## FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report and executive summary on the major funds of the County as of April 30, 2023. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting both YTD revenues and expenses at \$19.9 million basically leaving a break even net position point at 4/30/23. The Water Fund monthly revenues and expenditures increased YTD net income for this fund to \$113,317. Customer usage billed for the month was 4,823,000 gallons to 1490 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund is reporting accrued YTD net income of \$1.2 million as of this report. Monthly tonnage totaled 4,141.58, with 43% of that being delivered under the commercial contract, 10% under the City's residential contract and 7% under the County's curbside contract. GEFA Loans are current at \$980,000. The cash on hand report as of April 30, 2023 ended the month with \$18.1 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$10.8 million in the proprietary funds and \$12.7 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds. SPLOST report appropriations for the 2011 Issue have now reached \$23,178,647 leaving less than \$100,000 to complete this Issue. The 2017 SPLOST Issue Report, Distribution No. 63 in the amount of \$506,184 is up 3% over this time last year. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$16.4 million. Projects benefiting from the local option sales tax pennies during the month were the Airport, EMS, County Roads, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. TSPLOST Reports, for the 2012 Issue, combining those distributions with GDOT & LMIG Funds, have now expended \$13.8 million on local projects. The 2022 Issue, collections are up to \$262,625. No expenditures to report from this fund yet. Updated schedule on our L.O.S.T., this month's distribution is up 3.7% from April of 2022. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, ended the month of April with a total outstanding balance of \$1.7 million for all these accounts. As of today on the FY 24 Budget Proposal, we have been and continue working to balance the shortfalls indicated here for the General & Special Revenue Funds. We hope to get that done and bring you a balanced proposal by the June meeting. Today we just need to announce that the proposed budget is available for public review and we also need to schedule the date for the public hearing. We are recommending June 13<sup>th</sup>.

The revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the ten-month period of July 2022 through April 2023 shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of this report, all departments and divisions should be at or below 83% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General and Special Revenue Funds over at 86%, the Water Fund is within budget at 82% and the Landfill Fund is also slightly over at 84%.

### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Rock Road Railroad Project is underway. Mr. Harrell gave thanks to the Crisp County Board of Education as well as Ken Little, for the help with this project and for donating dirt to build the road base, and for the brick and concrete from the Crisp County Middle School demolition/remodel. Mr. Harrell also advised the Board the concrete is a recycled material for roads and the cost to the County is \$6.50 per ton to recycle the material. The Meadow Park Subdivision/CDBG street and drainage improvement project is ongoing and is on time within the projected timeline. This project has saved the County \$100,000 in a change order which was requested by Concrete Enterprises to swap the soil cement with GAB (rock). Mr. Harrell stated he has held Concrete Enterprises to the original contract and the project is scheduled to be completed in August. The ditch project on 10<sup>th</sup> Street has been completed and additional funding from CDBG will allow for street and drainage improvements. Mr. Harrell also reported the bid for 2023 LMIG will be let very soon and the 2023 SPLOST coordination with Arabi and the City of Cordele is complete. Mr. Steve Gautney has agreed to the Board's request to provide EMS services through the Hospital Authority for \$650,000 without additional "true up" at the end of the year. Evaluations will begin soon for the 2024 FY budgets. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings last month.

### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL**

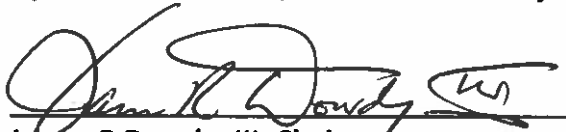
**Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to go into Executive Session for personnel, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:15 am.**

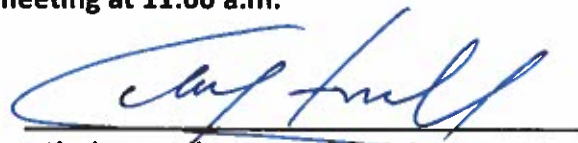
### **COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 10:45 am, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**

### **ADJOURN MEETING**

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

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator