

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 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, 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the agenda for the October 10, 2023 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 12, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Chief Deputy, Denise Youngblood, reported the warrants, civil division, and court hours were steady for the month of September. November will be a trial month and another court term, with that said, transport numbers and court hours will be increasing. Inmate housing check totals \$64,812.00. Average daily population for September was 242 inmates. 7,835 miles driven during the month of September from the detention division for inmate transports. Animal Control Division totaled 54 assistance calls. 911 stats for September totaled 6,130 calls. This includes incoming, outgoing, and CAD calls for assistance. CAD calls for other agency assistance was 3,427. Vehicle analysis report for the month of September, totaled 93,883 miles driven by the patrol division at a cost of 25 cents per mile. The Sheriff's Office is currently working on increasing the numbers in the patrol division, with three new hires starting this morning.

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Chief Ranger III, Marty Fore, stated overall it's been a good year. Wildfire counts were slightly increased compared to last year. 31 fires burning a total of 70.17 acres an average size of 2.26 acres. A total of 536 permits covering agriculture, silviculture, and land clearing totaling 5,947 permit acreage. We had 8 land owner burning assistance totaling 663 acres. Firebreaks included 28 with fire plow and 14 with harrow totaling 42 landowners at 125 man hours. Current protection responsibility of Forested Acres is 77,206 and 175,300 acres total land area. \$7,720.60 annual county tax revenue contributed to State Forestry Operation. The Georgia Forestry Commission currently participates in Public/Education Outreach Programs such as Elementary Fire Prevention, FFA/4-H reaching 234 people and distributing 120 pieces of educational literature or promotional items.

RED RIBBON WEEK

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Proclamation while standing alongside with Chamber of Commerce President, Monica Simmons. The Cordele/Crisp County 2023 Red Ribbon Week Campaign theme is "Let's Taco 'Bout Being Drug Free" promotes family and individual responsibilities for living healthy, drug-free lifestyles, without illegal drugs or the illegal use of legal drugs. The members and leaders of Cordele-Crisp County proclaim the week of October 23rd – 27th as Drug Awareness Week. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to approve the Red Ribbon Week Proclamation, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

MR. RICKY SMARR

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Proclamation while standing alongside with Ricky Smarr. Mr. Smarr has served the Crisp County community with honor in radio and television broadcasting for over 30 years. The Board of Commissioners of Crisp County congratulate Mr. Smarr for his dedicated years of service and for his retirement effective September 2023. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve Proclamation honoring Ricky Smarr, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Emily Cohen resident of 1401 GA HWY 90 South, Special Use Permit for Residential Business as Personal Fitness Trainer. Mrs. Cohen stated to the Board she has her own fitness equipment and wants to help friends and others in the community reach their fitness goals. The service is limited to a maximum of five people at one time who will be required to sign in and pay with an app. This allows tracking of appointments and who is entering the residence.

No Opposition

Public Hearing Closed 9:34am

NEW BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE 2023-021

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reminded the Board this Ordinance follows the Public Hearing held last meeting for the Rezoning request from Sheila Knight to rezone approximately 1(+/-) acres from Residential Single Family to General Commercial for the purpose of building a 1259 sq. ft. business office. The Ordinance is to amend the zoning map and the land use regulations of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Findings of Facts for the Special Use Permit Request. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt the Ordinance amending the zoning map and land use regulations rezoning the area from RS1 to GC for the purpose of building an office, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2023-022

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. The Resolution is to allow, after a finding of fact presented, a Special Use in a rural residential zone by Emily Cohen to conduct a personal training business in her residence known as 1401 Ga Hwy 90 South. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance**

to adopt the Resolution granting a Special Use for Fitness Training at her residence to Mrs. Cohen, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the first quarter of FY 24. The County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds, combined are reporting FYTD revenues received of \$3.4 million and YTD expenditures at \$6.6 million leaving a -10% shortfall after the first 90 days of the fiscal year of -\$2.3 million. As you are aware, a resolution setting the 2023 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate was approved during our September meeting. The digest package was completed and submitted shortly after and I am glad to report, has now been approved and accepted by the Ga. DOR. Tax notices should go out later this week. The Water Fund ended the quarter with a net income of \$40,371. Water consumption billed for the month was 9,017,028 gallons to 1,507 customers. The USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund is reporting an accrued net income of \$452,039 at 9/30/23. The total tonnage received for the month of September was 8,434.93 & the balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$843,294. Cash Report for September 30, 2023, the General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$15.1 million; The proprietary funds with \$11.5 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$13.2 million; bringing the County wide total to \$39.7 million. For the SPLOST reports, the only change on the 2011 issue is that actual expenditures went up slightly to \$23,261,293. 2017 SPLOST Issue Report, Distribution no. 68 is down 6.4% from last September. It does bring issue to date collections to \$26.8 million. Appropriations have now reached \$18.3 million. Projects supported by our Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies for the month were the Airport, the Sheriff's office, Public Works, Roads, Solid Waste and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total of \$336,149. TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX reports no change on the 2012 TSPLOST. Distributions received under the new issue have reached \$733,671. Combining those numbers with LMIG and GDOT Revenue, the county has expended and/or obligated approximately \$2.2 million in local road maintenance and capital projects from the 2022 Issue. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions regular monthly distribution is down -6.75% from this time a year ago. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are right on target at 24%, the Water Fund is good at 24% and the Landfill is slightly under at 19%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Meadow Park Subdivision/CDBG street and drainage improvement project should be finished with paving today. The paving contractor, through Concrete Enterprises, has also won the bid for the next LMIG Project which will be Barry Road and North Cedar. Mr. Harrell also reported the forthcoming LMIG Project will include Williford Crossing. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings last month.

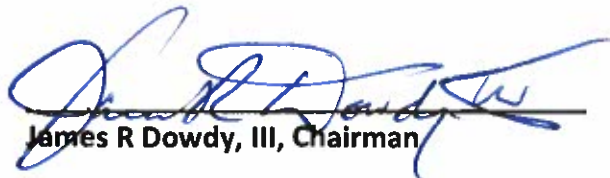
HEARING FOR SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF LICENSE FOR VIOLATION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated to the Board a violation to code requires the Board of Commissioners to conduct a hearing or a called meeting. Sheriff Hancock has requested the Board conduct a hearing based on the Code of Ordinance and consider suspended the alcohol license of Jay Bhole 2022, Inc. The business is located on Hwy 280 known as Hobbs Grocery/Arrowhead Groceries. Chief Deputy, Denise Youngblood reported this is the second time the business has sold to minors. Mrs. Youngblood added the state came in and conducted an investigation whereas the employee sold alcohol to an underage undercover agent. Mrs. Youngblood proceeded to read a letter written by Sheriff

Hancock requesting the Board suspend the alcohol license for thirty days to allow for a more thorough investigation and also allow time for the business to rectify any issues and implement corrective measures. Mr. Mike Prajapati spoke on behalf of the business. He apologized for the mistake made by his employee, selling alcohol to a minor and not asking to see proper identification. Mr. Prajapati also stated his father purchased the business 14 months ago and any prior violations was not under his ownership. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance for a 30 day alcohol license suspension for Jay Bhole 2022, Inc., seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator