

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 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. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, 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 Nance to adopt the agenda for the November 14, 2023 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 10, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported the number of warrants and civil papers are about the same as last month. Total man hours for court was 254 hours. 603 total citations written, 169 warnings issues – 38 of those belonging to Arabi and City of Cordele, 17 to Superior Court, 523 to Probate Court, 2 DUI, 3 Drug Arrests, and 26 Accidents. Sheriff Hancock also reported the black camera-like devices located at several entrances into the county are not speed cameras but tag readers also known as Flock Cameras. These readers have been up and active for 35 days. The tag readers have indicated 2 stolen tags, 2 wanted persons, 50 expired tags, 27 suspended registration, and 10 no insurance that have traveled through Crisp County. Sheriff Hancock stated, if the Flock Cameras had been in place the morning Deputy Tyee Browne was killed deputies would have been alerted ahead of time the suspect was in our community. The Flock System is a tool law enforcement can use to enhance our duties as far as protecting our community. We traveled 104,000 miles and that's increasing the more deputies we place on patrol. Sheriff Hancock also wanted to acknowledge the School Board for their purchase of two cars given to the School Resource Officers. These officers traveled 7,916 miles last month to ballgames and other functions for the schools. Jail vehicles traveled 10,000 miles last month and administrator cars traveled 4000 miles. Sheriff Hancock informed the Board the Sheriff's Office has lost their Animal Control Officer, she has moved on to a different job. The Sheriff's Office is in the process of accepting applications for Animal Services Personnel. The Sheriff requested approval from the Board to lease five vehicles. He also informed the Board the Sheriff's Office just graduated two deputies from the Academy and hired five new deputies.

OBLIGOR RESOLUTION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the lease payment the Sheriff referred to will not be due until November 2024. Mr. Harrell stated he felt this was the best choice to acquire the cars needed rather than trying to come up with \$200,000 at one time right now. There is no restrictions on the mileage and

other requirements of a typical car lease. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's consideration in approving the authorization of the County Administrator, the Sheriff, and the Chairman to execute the documents for the Government Obligation Contract. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to authorize the execution of lease documents between Capital Source Associates, LLC (Obligee) and Crisp County Board of Commissioners (Obligor) for the Government Obligation Contract, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

Trey McAfee resident of 1392 Arabi Warwick Road, Special Use Permit for Residential Business as Personal Fitness Trainer. Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, spoke on behalf of Mr. McAfee stating to the Board Mr. McAfee's special use request is for the purpose of conducting a personal training business at his residence which is zoned Rural Residential. Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, read the Findings of Facts.

No Opposition

Public Hearing Closed 9:20 am

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2023-023

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. The Resolution is to allow Trey McAfee, after a finding of fact presented, a Special Use in a rural residential zone to conduct a personal training business in his residence known as 1392 Arabi Warwick Road. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution granting a Special Use for Fitness Training at his residence to Mrs. McAfee, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2023-024

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. The Resolution requests local legislation to provide for a technology fee for Probate Court and for other related and lawful purposes. This allows a \$5.00 processing fee added to each ticket issued in Crisp County to help cover the processing and equipment costs. Judge Roberts explained it is a technology fee that will apply to civil filings as well. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, further stated once the Resolution is adopted it will then go before State Legislation for approval. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution allowing a processing fee for tickets and civil filings, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

SURPLUS PROPERTY CONSIDERATION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's consideration in declaring property owned by Crisp County as surplus. The property is no longer any use to the County. The County Commission was given the property from Gwendolyn and Beulah Nance in 2009. It is located on Hwy 41 across the street from the Cordele Lions Club. It is a small triangle less than half of an acre. Semi-trucks are currently parking on the property and the County is receiving numerous complaints about the noise. Mr. Harrell stated he does not believe posting no trespassing signs will resolve the issue. Mr. Harrell's recommendation is to place the property back on the tax digest. The options available are: 1) seal bid,

2) auction, or 3) negotiate with surrounding property owners to acquire property. Mr. Harrell asked the Board to give him the authority to negotiate with interested individuals if the Board decides to surplus the property. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to surplus the property no longer any use to the County located on Hwy 41 and give County Administrator-Clark Harrell to authority to negotiate terms, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FY2023 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, explained to the Board the adjustments are routine actions taken each year to clear up the budget for the previously ending fiscal year FY2023. Started off the year with 34.7 million, county wide budget ended with just over 36 million. Biggest increases was in the general fund \$112,000, the ARPA Fund \$538,000, Special Service District Fund \$53,000, and the TSPLOST Fund \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund also had a significant revenue increase of \$1.3 million. Mrs. Leverett asked for the Board's approval for the above listed adjustments. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the FY2023 Budget Adjustments, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

GDOT BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PI0016571/PI0016572

The Memorandum of Agreement was previously signed and coordinated with the Office of Bridge Design and Maintenance and has been revised through the Georgia Department of Transportation. The revised and updated Memorandum of Agreement require review and signature for further approval and execution. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the two bridge projects will be replacing the bridge located at Story Road at North Branch Swift Creek Tributary and Lower Pateville Road at Swift Creek Tributary. Clark Harrell, asked for the Board's approval to allow the Chairman to sign the GDOT documents needed for further approval in order for the projects to move forward. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the Chairman to sign the necessary documents to move forward with the bridge projects, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

RETAIL BEER & RETAIL WINE LICENSE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked for the Board's consideration in approval of off premises retail beer and retail wine licenses. The off premises license is for Cordele Bait, LLC located at 2456 GA Hwy 300 Ext., owner Snehal M. Patel. The required documentation has been completed. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the off premise retain beer and retail wine license for Cordele Bait, LLC, motion seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the period of July through October, 2023. General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, these funds are reporting YTD revenues of \$5.5 million and expenditures of \$7.7 million leaving a FY to date deficit position of -\$2.2 million at the end of October. The Water Fund ended the same period with a net profit of \$59,763. Water consumption billed for the month was just over 6.0 million gallons to 1503 customers and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund, YTD Revenues of \$1.3 million and expenses of \$700,000 leave a year-to-date profit of \$598,513 at 10/31/23. The total tonnage received for the month of October came in at 9,877.83. 46% of that was received under the coal ash contract with CCPC, 17% under the commercial contract, 4% under the city's residential contract and 3% under the county's curbside contract. The

principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$824,682 million. Cash Report for October 31, 2023, The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$15.3 million; The proprietary funds with \$11.4 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds with \$12.8 million; bringing a County wide total to \$39.5 million. There are no changes to report from last month's 2011 SPLOST Issue. This month's distribution of \$498,625 under the 2017 ISSUE is up about 6% over last year and brings our issue to date total up to \$27.3 million. Actual expenditures and appropriations have reached \$18.4 million. The reported distribution received in Oct., represents retail sales for the month of September. The County spent \$395,444 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month of Oct. Projects benefiting were the Airport, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. And....Of course, the best news is that our Special Local Sales Tax Revenues will continue as the 2023 SPLOST Issue did pass with 86.5% of voter approval. In summary, we have collected \$823,100 since January of 2023 under the TSPLOST Issue. Combining that with other State and Local Revenue Sources, we currently have \$2.4 million appropriated for local road capital and maintenance projects through the Special Transportation Tax Fund. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions pretty much mirrors the SPLOST as this month's LOST distribution is also up 6%. The revenue by fund and expenditures by department report, as Oct. 31st YTD Expenditures should be below 33%. As of this report all fund categories appear to be at or below that number.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Firing Range is coming along quite nicely and ahead of schedule. Meadow Park Subdivision/CDBG street and drainage improvement project is 95% complete. The 10 Year Comprehensive Plan is in the works and being updated by River Valley Regional Commission. Also, will be meeting with Georgia Department of Transportation for future bridge projects. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings last month. Mr. Harrell also informed the Board in reference to the Lake Blackshear water system, a roundabout will be placed on the Sumter County side of Hwy 280 at the intersection leading to Booger Bottom. The county has water lines in this area, according to engineers it will cost the water system around \$160,000 to move the water lines. Georgia Department of Transportation utilities staff is working with our GDOT representative and Sumter County to have GDOT take on this expense and not cost the water system.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for potential litigation, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 9:50 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 Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

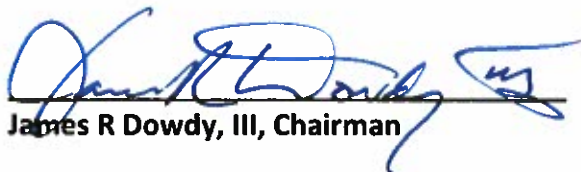
ARMED SECURITY SERVICES

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, expressed to the Board the concern of Sheriff Billy Hancock in reference to lack of man power to keep violence under control in the jail cells. The Sheriff has suggested the use of a third party contract with John Anderson to provide extra man power in the jail as needed. The contract agreement will allow the jail to be monitored at all times, especially when inmates need

medical attention and have to be taken outside of the jail and transported to a medical facility. The contract will be "man power" as needed for \$27 per hour. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to enter into an Armed Service Security agreement with Anderson & Anderson, LLC for as needed man power in the Crisp County Jail, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:50 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator