

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 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. Reverend Larry Rollins 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 December 12, 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 November 14, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock was not present for the meeting. Paper report given to all Commissioners and Sheriff Hancock sent inmate housing check for just over \$60,000.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

Magistrate Judge, Steve Ingram, addressed the Board requesting to change the Crisp County part-time Magistrate Judge position to a full-time position effective January 1, 2025. Mr. Ingram stated to the Board that magistrate positions in most Georgia counties are a full-time position and making Crisp County's Chief Magistrate Judge position full-time will affect the qualified candidates running for this position. No additional money is needed, just need to reverse the rolls of full-time and part-time magistrate positions. Mr. Ingram also stated the position status needs to be made clear at the time of qualifying so candidates are aware the position is currently a part-time position. **Commissioner Nance made the motion to table Judge Ingram's request for further discussion, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT**

Clerk of Superior Court, Tara Hayslip, addressed the Board to announce a Grand Jury Presentment made to increase juror's pay effective July 1, 2024. Current pay is \$20 per day, the requested increase is \$40

per day. Mrs. Hayslip informed the Board the \$20 per day rate was set in 1987. **The Board agreed to consider the increase and make a decision at a later time.**

### **2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's consideration in the approval of the Crisp County Employee 2024 Holiday Schedule. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the 2024 Employee Holiday Schedule, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **RESOLUTION 2023-025**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. The Resolution urges the Governor and General Assembly of Georgia to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia. Including, the provision of state budgetary funding for additional behavioral health crisis centers across the state, additional co-responder units, and other resources to assist those with mental health and substance abuse disorders. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution to continue efforts to reform and improve mental health services for the citizens of Georgia, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### **BALL COMPLEX TOURNAMENT FEE PROPOSAL**

Recreation Director, Eric Bozeman, addressed the Board proposing a rental fee change for ball complex tournaments. Mr. Bozeman explained the fee structure will alleviate the issue of tournaments only renting a few fields at a pinwheel which is keeping the public from being able to use the unrented fields. Most tournaments charge a gate fee at each pinwheel. Therefore, the tournament renter will pay for the entire pinwheel. The fee change will take the place of a per field charge. All fees include lights and field prep prior to the tournament. The new fee will be \$600 per pinwheel per day, no refunds and no rainchecks. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the \$600 per pinwheel, per day, rental fee change for ball complex tournaments, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated there are two grants needing official acceptance from the Board. (1) Victims of Crime Act Assistance C22-8-096 for \$80,014 (2) VOCA Federal Funds C23-8-101 for \$124,700. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to officially accept both CJCC VOCA sub grants, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

### **FINANCE REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the period of July through November, 2023. The County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, are reporting YTD revenues received of \$8.9 million and expenditures at \$11.1 million leaving a negative -10% expenditure over revenue shortfall position at November 30<sup>th</sup> of -\$2.2 million. Reserves are sufficient to support cash flow until these numbers begin to even up. The Water Fund is reporting a net profit YTD of \$58,453. Water consumption billed for the month was 7,321,007 gallons to 1,505 customers and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund accrued YTD revenues, less expenses, leave this fund with a net income of \$598,539. The total tonnage received for the month of November was 5,335.92 tons. Of the

total tonnage received, 28% was received from the commercial contract, 7% under the city's residential contract and 5% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is also current at \$807,249. Cash Report for the General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$16.0 million; the proprietary funds at \$11.7 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds at just under \$13.0 million. For the SPLOST reports, all obligations on the 2011 ISSUE have now been recorded and funds disbursed. We will be taking steps to close out this issue over the next 30 days. The report on the 2017 issue, distribution number 70 in the amount of \$463,402 is down about -1% from this time last year. It brings issue to date collections to \$27.7 million. Expenditures and current obligations have reached about \$18.6 million. The County spent \$349,947 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month of November. Projects benefiting were the Airport, EMS, County Roads, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste & the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. In summary, \$918,459 has been collected since January of 2023 under the TSPLOST Issue. Combining that with other State and Local Revenue Sources, the County currently has over \$2.6 million in Special Transportation Tax dollars programmed for local roads capital and maintenance projects. The Local Option Sales Tax for this month's distribution of \$227,054 also represents a slight decrease over last year of just under -1%. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund, the County has eight outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$1.6 million. The revenue by fund and expenditures by department report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Because this report is preliminary, expenditures should be below 42%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are slightly over at 48%; the Water Fund is good at 40% as well as the Landfill fund at 29%.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Rock Road Railroad project is still ongoing while the Meadow Park Subdivision/CDBG street and drainage improvements are completed. The county also had a deductive change order thereby saving Crisp County \$50,000 off the original quote. The firing range is coming together as a nice facility. The Safety Action Plan from Georgia Department of Transportation is being put together and road re-striping will begin very shortly. Mr. Harrell also informed the Board it's time to be working on the next Community Development Block Grant. Input from the Board is needed as to the location for the next street and drainage improvements. The award is tied directly to low to moderate income areas. Currently working with River Valley Regional Commission for the Comprehensive Plan update. Citizens are being asked to complete the community survey online at [crispcounty.com](http://crispcounty.com). I am currently working with Gladys Bishop to close out the operations of the Solid Waste Management Authority of Crisp County. We should have a Resolution at the January meeting to dissolve the Authority. I expect Crisp County to be receiving some funds from the Authority upon closing. UGA Extension has appointed an interim county AG agent. John Bennett works with Wilcox UGA Extension and will be part-time with Crisp County until a full-time agent is hired. Also, the equipment shed behind Public Works has been torn down and lots of old equipment on the line to surplus and sell. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

#### **GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for personnel, 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 Nance to come out of Executive Session at 10:30 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.**

**HOSPITAL BOARD AUTHORITY**

County Commissioner, Clark Harrell, informed the Board he received a letter from Steve Gautney referencing two terms ending on the Hospital Board Authority. The two Board members term ending is Mr. Pannell and Mr. Ford. Mr. Gautney recommends the re-appointment of Bill Pannell and Gene Ford to the Hospital Board Authority. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to re-appoint Bill Pannell and Gene Ford to the Hospital Board Authority, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN MEETING**

**By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.**

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator