

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2024**

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 Terry Ryan 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 AMENDED AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the amended agenda for the January 11, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

ELECTIONS/APPOINTMENTS

Chairman for 2024 – Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to reappointment of Mr. Dowdy, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman for 2024 – Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to reappointment of Mr. Felton, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

County Clerk for 2024 – Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to reappointment of Ms. Irwin, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

County Attorney for 2024 – Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to reappointment of Mr. Lawson, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

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

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and stated the Sheriff's Office is fully staffed for the first time in approximately five years. Sheriff Hancock reported last year the Sheriff's Office answered 18,645 calls. Criminal Investigation Division took 920 of those calls, 6500 of the calls were traffic incidents, 911 Center pulled 41,360 calls for service, and 2809 calls were answered in the city. Sheriff Hancock also reported the most tragic incident was a drowning December 30, 2023 at Lake Blackshear. Sheriff Hancock stated several theft reports have come in from citizens missing items from inside their vehicles. He strongly encouraged everyone to remove valuable items from the vehicle and to keep their vehicle doors locked. Sheriff Hancock also thanked Maintenance Director, Toby Coleman and

his staff for their hard work, dedication, and promptness during the bad weather last week and keeping the Emergency Management Center going during the storms.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2024-001

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. Resolution fixing and ordering the publication of qualification fees for each county office to be filled in the General Primary Election to be held on May 21, 2024 or on such date as set by the 2024 Georgia General Assembly. The notice of each county office to be filled in the General Primary Election and the qualification fee thereof will be timely published in the Cordele Dispatch. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt the Resolution ordering the publication of qualification fees for each county office to be filled, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

PROPOSED BUDGET/AD VALOREM TAX CALENDAR

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the calendar is laid out with different dates and times in order to work on the budget and ad valorem taxes for calendar year 2024 through fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the proposed budget/ad valorem tax calendar, motion seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

5311 TRANSIT PROGRAM

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, reported to the Board this is an update to the public transit program's vehicle maintenance policy. The policy is required to be updated every three years. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the updated vehicle maintenance policy for the 5311 public transit program, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

AIRPORT HANGAR

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported to the Board the county is preparing to build a new airport maintenance hangar. This project has been put out for bids resulting in only one bid being received. LRA Constructors from Albany bid the construction of maintenance hangar and use of crane at \$799,154.12. The project will be funded from SPLOST, FAA, and GDOT. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's consideration in moving forward with the only bid received, pending the county's consultants reviewing the bid and making the bid recommendation back to administration. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to move forward with Albany LRA Constructors, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the period of January 11, 2024 (January 9 rescheduled...weather) This month's executive summary report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures as of 12/31/2023 for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, these funds are

reporting year to date revenues and expenditures at \$13.2 million basically leaving a break-even financial position of just over \$8,000 at the end of December. As of this report, the Finance Department has received about 68% of the ad valorem tax revenue projections for this fiscal year. The proprietary funds, December activity increased the Water Fund net income to \$82,136 for the year. Water consumption billed for the month was 5,506,028 gallons to 1,508 customers and The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund accrued revenues and expenses as of 12/31/23 YTD net income of \$727,783. The total tonnage received for the month of December was 6,568.85. 21% of that being received under the Commercial waste contract, 5% under the City of Cordele residential contract and 4% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$764,623. The General and Special Revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$18.5 million; the proprietary funds \$11.6 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds \$12.8 million. The final report on the 2011 SPLOST ISSUE, all projects have been completed at a total cost from the 2011 Special Local Option Sales Tax Fund of \$23,255.668. The 2017 Issue distribution no. 71 in the amount of \$487,421 is up about 4.0% over this same reporting period from last year. It brings issue to date collections to \$28.3 million with 12/31/23 appropriations being reported at \$19.1. SPLOST Expenditures for the month of December, spent \$840,857 in total Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were, the Airport, Public Works, Recreation, Roads, the Sheriff's Office, Solid Waste, and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. In summary, the county has collected just over \$1.0 million since January of 2023 under the TSPLOST Issue. Combining that with other State and Local Revenue Sources, the county currently has over \$3.5 million in Special Transportation Tax dollars programmed for local roads capital and maintenance projects. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, like SPLOST, this month's distribution is also up 4% over this same time last year. The preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Because this report is preliminary all expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are running slightly over budget at 57%; the Water Fund is good at 45%; and the Landfill fund is also within budget at 33%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Rock Road Railroad project is ongoing, the Sheriff's shooting range project is still underway, and the Comprehensive Plan Update is in the works with River Valley Regional Commission. Mr. Harrell also reported he expects a list of public works surplus items to be presented to the Commission very soon. Mr. Harrell stated the biggest challenges in 2024 will be insurance and retirement being current costs are tremendously high. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

MR. GARMEN MORGAN

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board Mr. Morgan was awarded a revolving loan fund in December. Preparations have been made to close the loan but Mr. Morgan has now shown interest in changing the circumstances of the loan. Mr. Morgan would now like to pay employees with the loan instead of purchasing equipment as approved in the original loan. This now changes the context of the loan and will now have to be re-approved. Mr. Morgan spoke to the Board explaining the reasons he applied for the loan and his experience during the loan process. Mr. Morgan strongly recommends the Board looks into the application process and make changes where needed so applicants are updated on the status of their application in a timely manner.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for personnel and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:02 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 10:31 am, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to reappoint Gary Cross, Ray Rawlins, and Tyrone Walker to the Crisp County Recreation Advisory Board, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

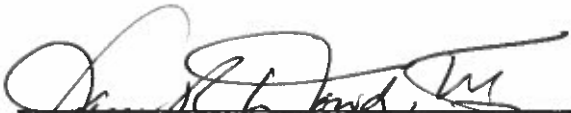
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to appoint Ken Partain to the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

CURRENT BOARD SERVICES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to reappoint Commission Board Members to current board services, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator