

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 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 Tania Montero 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 Nance to adopt the amended agenda for the February 13, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock thanked the Board and staff for their hard work and stated the Sheriff's Office enjoys coming to the Commission Meetings every month and standing before the Board to report updates and keeping an open line of communication. The Sheriff reported the office implemented policy O-111 January 1, 2018, becoming part of the accreditation program and Annual Vehicle Pursuit Review. Since then the Crisp County Sheriff's Office has been involved in 123 vehicle pursuits, 24 of those pursuits occurred from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The pursuits were results of routine traffic stops and none were in violation of Policy O-111. The Sherriff also reported the Firing Range is close to completion and the project is coming in under budget. The Sheriff thanked everyone who has donated and helped with the Firing Range Project. The Sheriff also shared the good news of being the recipient of a \$640,000 grant for upgraded air condition units to be placed inside the jail. He also stated the ACCG Risk Management held a training class last month for command staff and others.

RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL COMMISSION – JIM LIVINGSTON

Mr. Livingston stated River Valley Regional Commission covers 16 Counties, 35 Cities, helping with federal funding such as finding and administering such funds. Mr. Livingston explained several benefits and programs provided by River Valley Regional Commission. Among those mentioned were (1) Operates with a commission, (2) Return on investment is \$86 on every \$1 invested from local governments, (3) Meals on Wheels Program provided for seniors as part of the Aging Program and a Dementia Program (4) Road infrastructure investments and broadband, (5) Workforce Investment Board, (6) Propel Program, and (7) Comprehensive Plan. Mr. John Bullington, a citizen present in meeting, asked Mr. Livingston questions concerning replacement of bridge located at U.S. Hwy 41. Mr.

Livingston responded to Mr. Bullington advising him the bridge issue would need to be addressed with Georgia Department of Transportation.

MAULDIN AND JENKINS AUDIT FY YEAR END JUNE 30, 2023

Mr. Justin Elliot from Mauldin and Jenkins, stated audits are conducted in accordance with government audit standards. Mr. Elliot reported no issues with the audit. He stated overall the audit was good, revenues exceeded expenditures, and an unmodified report was issued. All in all, this years' audit was a success.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

SPECIAL USE REQUEST FOR BUTCHER SHOP/DEER PROCESSING FACILITY

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, explained to the Board Shane Napier has requested a special use permit to open a butcher shop and deer processing facility located at the split of GA Hwy 33 and Ga Hwy 41. The property is currently zoned rural residential. Mr. Shane Napier also addressed the Board explaining the reason and purpose of his request. Mr. Napier also stated the facility will be strictly processing and no retail.

Joey Hampton spoke in favor of the Butcher Shop. John Bullington spoke in reference to the land lines of the property stating he wasn't sure if the land line dispute has been settled completely. Mr. Hampton did not speak in opposition of the Butcher Shop.

Hearing closed 9:59 am

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2024-002

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Resolution is for granting a special use. Mr. Harrell read the Finding of Facts regarding the special use for the butcher shop and deer processing facility and Mr. Harrell also read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt the Resolution to approve a special use in a rural residential zone for a butcher shop and deer processing facility, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's permission to surplus 18 pieces of equipment that is no longer useable. Mr. Harrell asked the Board's approval to dispose of the 18 pieces of equipment by listing them govdeals.com. Mr. Harrell added disposing of the equipment no longer any use to the county will also help clean up area at Public Works. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to surplus the equipment and list on govdeals.com to sell, motion seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Fund. YTD Revenues exceeded expenses at January 31st by about 6% leaving a positive revenue over expenditure balance of about \$1.5 million. As of this report the County has received about 94% of the projected revenue from the 2023 ad valorem tax billings. The proprietary funds, monthly activity for the Water Fund pushed the Fiscal YTD net income for this fund up to \$91,665. Water consumption billed for the month was 5,036,000 gallons to a total of 1,507 customers and The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund, monthly revenues less expenses pushed the YTD net to \$673,896. Total tonnage for January was 4,016.22 tons. Approximately 22% of that was received under the local commercial contracts, 10% under the City's residential contract and 6% under the County's residential curbside service contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$746,546. The General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$19.1 million; the proprietary funds \$11.7 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds \$12.9 million. The final distribution for the 2017 SPLOST issue representing December retail sales came in at \$487,136 bringing the total revenue received under this issue to \$28.7 million. It is up, slightly, over last December by just under 1%. The county spent \$276,102 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were the Airport, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. In summary, this month's distribution issue pushed collections up to \$1.1 million. To date, including LMIG and GDOT, we have programed \$3.7 million in local road maintenance and improvement projects. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million at 1/31/24. The preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report summary shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are over budget at 65%; the Water Fund is within budget at 53% and the Landfill is also well within budget at 39%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, reported the Rock Road Railroad project is ongoing and Norfolk Southern is scheduled to close Musselwhite Crossing in April. The Sheriff's shooting range project is still underway. Mr. Harrell also reported the Georgia Department of Transportation Watson Road bridge project is underway. The County is currently working on road striping and seeking quotes for McKinney Road and Ray Road. US 280 and Lamar Road roundabout is scheduled to be LET for bid in August. Bid documents are being prepared for Williford Crossing North of 280 for resurfacing. Another round of LMIG funding is supposed to be given in the near future by the Governor through Georgia Department of Transportation. In addition, Mr. Harrell encouraged the Board to follow legislative updates each week by ACCG to monitor the General Assembly and bills working their way through the process. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR POTENTIAL LITIGATION


Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into Executive Session for personnel and litigation, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:26 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 11:15 am, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.



James R Dowdy, III, Chairman



Clark Harrell, County Administrator