

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 12, 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 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. Father Paulinus Okpala 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 Crenshaw to adopt the agenda for the March 12, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 13, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock thanked the Board for allowing him to attend the Commission Meetings the past ten years giving him the opportunity to speak on Public Safety issues and also keeping the community informed. Sheriff Hancock reported as of today, the jail count is at 220. ACCG and Dublin Construction recently visited and inspected the jail. The inspection and assessment review of accreditation was good. We hope to continue to be a certified law enforcement agency for the county. This is a tremendous help with grants, man power, and law suits. Sheriff Hancock stated he is honored that the men and women have performed the duties required. This will be the agency's third time of renewal. The Firing Range is in final stages and hope to have a ribbon cutting for the new range next month. Sheriff Hancock also stated he is now fully staffed, both detention center and sheriff office. Sheriff Hancock gave a review of the weather over the past weekend. He stated it was a very busy weekend. After speaking with the National Weather Service, Sheriff Hancock awakened County Administrator, Clark Harrell at 3:15 am Saturday morning with concerns of flooding situations that continued into mid-day and Saturday night. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he was proud of the Sheriff Office and the Emergency Management side. The organization was truly amazing in how everyone came together for the benefit of the community. The Sheriff stated it is the men and women of the agency that make it all happen. Sheriff Hancock also stated his agency worked well with their partners in the city. The Bear-Cat was used to rescue several citizens from their homes in the city. A total of seven homes in the city was under water about knee-high. Sheriff Hancock ended with another Thank-you to the Board for all they do for Crisp County and he is honored to be the Sheriff of Crisp County.

Chief Tax Appraiser, Sean Sammons, introduced Linderia Lewis, the newest Appraiser hired in the Tax Assessor's Office. Both are attending the Commission Meeting to give Mrs. Lewis the chance to observe the local leadership.

CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Mr. James Volz stated he lives on Antioch Road and addressed the Board in reference to garbage pick-up and internet service. Mr. Volz said he has noticed a degradation in trash service beginning the first of the year. He recently received a notification by mail the trash pick-up will now be done by a robot and trash not inside the container will not be picked-up. He also stated pick-up times are no longer consistent. Mr. Volz does not know the ins and outs of the Waste Management Contract but wanted the County Commissioners to be aware of the current service issues. Mr. Volz also mentioned he has heard talk for several years of internet service becoming available in his area but still has not occurred. Mr. Volz feels residence in the area are being short-changed and should be provided strong steady internet service.

PUBLIC HEARING:

MEADOW PARK STREET & DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PHASE III

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, explained to the Board the Public Hearing is to close out the Community Block Development Grant for the Meadow Park street and drainage improvements. Mr. Harrell also reported he has observed the area during the recent flooding event and the problems prior to the CBDG improvement phase have been resolved. The before and after results are amazing. Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, stated this is a requirement to announce the final quarterly reporting available to the public. The total cost of the project was \$1.3 million, CBDG grant was \$715,227.00 and TSPLOST Funds covered \$588,682.00 of the balance except for \$833.00. The project is now completed and this formality is to close-out the grant.

Hearing closed 9:27 am

NEW BUSINESS

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

ROAD RESTRIPING QUOTES

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated prior to 2019 Georgia Department of Transportation allotted Crisp County monies for road restriping. The County is now in the stages of needing to spend the allotment for the restriping of the roads. Bids have been received from two companies, Peeks Paving and Mid-State Paving & Striping. The cost for the restriping is approximately \$6000 per mile. The bid was for Ray Road---Cork Ferry Road 1.49 miles to South Cedar Creek Road, and McKinney Road--Old Albany Road 4.41 miles to Scenic Route. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's support in awarding the low bid to Mid-State Paving & Striping for a total cost of \$31,000.00. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the road re-striping bid to Mid-State Paving & Striping, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

VOTING DELEGATE FOR GEORGIA OPIOID SETTLEMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Resolution is for appointing voting delegate for the Georgia Opioid Settlement. Mr. Harrell stated the settlement will bring \$638 million in payments to Georgia over a period of 18 years. The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities

Commissioner, Kevin Tanner, is the trustee of those funds. The state's share of the settlement is 75%, which is \$479 million to be placed in a state administered trust. 40% of the state's share \$191 million, must be spent on a regional basis. The Settlement requires the creation of The Georgia Opioid Settlement Advisory Commission and Regional Advisory Councils to assess grant applications and recommend funding for the regional portion of the opioid settlement funds. Participating local governments are required to vote on three GOSAC representatives and the RAC members for their respective regions. Mr. Harrell stated to the Commission he would like to recommend Mr. Jerome Outlaw be selected as the voting delegate for Crisp County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to appoint Mr. Jerome Outlaw as the voting delegate for Crisp County, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2024-003

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the resolution is a contract agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation. The contract is for the water project ongoing in Sumter County, having to move waterlines with the anticipated round-about that will be on the Sumter County side of Hwy 280. The water lines belong to Crisp County with the Lake Blackshear Area water system. Georgia Department of Transportation is requiring the water lines be moved. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt Resolution 2024-003, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report and executive summary on the major funds of the County as of the end of February, 2024. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, ended the month with a 5% positive revenue over expenditure position of \$1.2 million. The Water Fund, YTD net income is \$114,177. Customer usage billed for the month was 7,268,007 gallons to 1511 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund, February activity brings the YTD accrued net income to \$699,417. The total tonnage received for the month of February was 3,629.86 tons. 38% was delivered under the commercial contracts, 9% under the City's residential contract and 6% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at just over \$728,412. The cash on hand as of February 29, 2024, ended the month with \$19.2 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds; \$11.9 million in the proprietary funds; and \$12.6 million in the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds. The SPLOST Reports, actual expenditures and appropriations on the 2017 Issue have now reached \$19.7 million, the first distribution under the 2023 Issue came in at \$435,525. Although this is quite above the average return for Januarys under the 2017 issue it's only \$103 over this same time period from twelve months ago. SPLOST Expenditures for the month of February, a total of \$323,700 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were the Airport, County Buildings, Roads, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. An issue to date report on the 2022 TSPLOST revenues, both capital and operating projects supported by those funds in summary, collected a total of \$1.2 million over the thirteen-month period covered by this issue. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and the county has expended and/or obligated \$3.7 million in local road maintenance and capital projects through the 2022 TSPLOST Funds. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund ended the month of February with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for all these accounts. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are slightly over budget at 72%; the Water Fund is good at 59%; and the Landfill is within budget at 43%.

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. US 280 and Lamar Road roundabout is scheduled to be LET for bid in December. 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, being told the funding will be about the same amount as last year's LMIG. The applications will be due to GDOT by June. As you are aware, the county sustained a flooding event over the weekend. This was significant in many areas of the county. An after-action meeting will take place this afternoon at the EOC. Mr. Harrell attended several meetings last month. Mr. Harrell also stated, do not forget the groundbreaking for Crisp Regional Hospital on Wednesday at 12:30pm. This will be for the new surgery center. Gillespy Grand Opening will be on Monday, March 18th at 10:00 am, and the Champs Graduation will be March 27th, 9:00 am at the Methodist Church.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator