

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 9, 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, Larry Felton, 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. Commissioner James Nance 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 April 9, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 12, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF'S REPORT**

Sheriff Hancock reported the Recreation Department burglaries have been solved. Juveniles are responsible for the break-ins over the past several months. Once arrested and interviewed, the Juvenile Justice Center released the juveniles to their parents. Sheriff Hancock stated 193 warrants was served last month, 125 civil papers served, 92 subpoenas served, 298 citations written, and 309 court hours worked last month. Now that the Sheriff Office is fully staffed, mileage for patrol is back up to 102,000 miles per month on average. The average daily population of the jail is 218. Last month there was 53 jail incidents reported. These incidents consists of fights, sickness, transports, injuries, etc. A lot of these incidents stem from overcrowding in the jail. Mr. Hancock stated the jail is up to date and is inspected yearly but still needs maintenance and upgrades. Sheriff Hancock also reported the tornado that came through Crisp County last week, Emergency Management has 436 man hours dedicated to this incident. Deputies were on the scene within minutes searching and offering help to those in need. Sheriff Hancock also commended the Crisp County Power Commission for their dedication, hard work, and commitment to the citizens of Crisp County. The County was able to receive mutual aid from Turner County, Houston County, and Express Disposal. Over 50 homes were affected by this storm. Tons of debris have been removed from the area and work continues to have debris removed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) as set out in Title IV, of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Public Law 103-322. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the VAWA Grant is handled through the District Attorney's Office, the grant W23-8-059 is for \$100,000 with matching funds of \$33,333 paid by the DA's Office. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's support of the grant and to allow the Chairman to sign as the authorized official approving the grant. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the Chairman to sign as the authorized official approving VAWA Grant W23-8-059, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## BEER AND WINE LICENSE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Greg and Lori Noland owners of Cordele Motor Speedway, LLC has submitted an application for license to sell beer and wine located at 355 Farmers Market Road. The applicant has satisfactorily completed all requirements for the license. Mr. Harrell requests final approval from the Board for retail beer and wine consumption on premises. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve license to sell beer and wine by Cordele Motor Speedway, LLC located at 355 Farmers Market Road, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PLAN

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this is a plan update. The Equal Employment Opportunity Plan has been in place for many years. It has been quite some time since the plan has been updated. This plan is used in conjunction with Federal and State Grants from time to time. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's favorable support of this update and to allow the Chairman to sign in approval of the update. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the plan update and the Chairman to sign in approval of the update, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

## LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated a letter was received in March from the Governor's Office stating Crisp County will be receiving \$818,507.66 in extra LMIG funding with no match. Mr. Harrell offered a proposal to the Board to resurface portions of Dockweiller Road, Williford Crossing, Penia Road, and Twin Pines Road. Total estimated cost is \$816,500.00. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to accept County Administrator, Clark Harrell's recommendation to use the extra LMIG funding to resurface the above named roads in Crisp County, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, 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 March 31, 2024. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, brought YTD income down by -\$962,194 to \$124,973 as of March 31<sup>st</sup>. The Water Fund also fell by \$45,964 dropping YTD net income here to \$66,127. 1,507 customers billed for a total usage of

4,378,000 gallons. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. Including March activity, reporting YTD net income of \$753,038 for the Landfill Fund. Total tonnage... 4,266.14 for the month. The GEFA Loans are current at \$685,178. Cash on hand, ended the month with \$17.9 in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined; \$11.9 million in the proprietary funds; and \$12.5 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds. SPLOST Reports, March activity increased the actual expenditure total to \$19.8 million on the 2017 Issue. Distribution #2 on the 2023 Issue came in at \$479,785, exceeding the 2017 average as well as the distribution from last February. Bringing issue to date collections up to \$918,310 while expenditures totaled \$45,900. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of March were the Airport, County Buildings, Roads, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. In summary, a total of \$1.3 million was collected under the 2022 TSPLOST issue. Combining that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and the County has expended and/or obligated \$3.7 million in road maintenance and capital projects with the use of local TSPLOST Funds. An updated schedule on our LOST receipt, this month's distribution represents almost a 15% increase over this same period twelve months ago. CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, ended the month of March with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for all these accounts. The last report is the preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Expenditures should be at 75% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are over at 82%; the Water Fund is just under budget at 73% and the Landfill is good 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. Bid documents are being prepared for Williford Crossing North of 280 for resurfacing. LMIG, extra funding, applications will be due back to Georgia Department of Transportation by June 15, 2024. The total will be \$818,507.66 with no match required. Tornado clean up continues on North Cedar Creek, Scenic Route, and South Cedar Creek with hopes to be finished this week. I appreciate the leadership of Sheriff Hancock and his staff, as well as all first responders dedicated to last Wednesday morning's tornado. Crisp County will not receive a declaration for the weather event, all expenses will be a direct cost for Crisp County. Road striping has been completed for McKinney Road and Ray Road at a cost of \$6000 per mile. The total cost for the project was \$31,000. Mr. Harrell also reported he is preparing a request to the United States Army Corps of Engineers for assistance in past flooding events. This will help to understand why and what mitigation efforts are needed. This will be done in conjunction with Emergency Management Agency, City of Cordele, and Crisp County. If approved, it will be no cost to Crisp County. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into executive session at 9:57 am for Litigation, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**


**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of executive session at 10:06 am, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**LANDBANK**

Commissioner Felton made a motion for Crisp County to remove themselves from the Land Bank Authority due inactivity of meetings and lack of awareness of what is going on with the Land Bank. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton for Crisp County to remove themselves from the Land Bank, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN MEETING**

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator