

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 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 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. Reverend Clay Johnson 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 Felton to adopt the agenda for the May 14, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 9, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board Sheriff Hancock is unable to attend the meeting he is out of town attending the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington. Sheriff Hancock has turned in an inmate housing check in the amount of \$54,000 and his report is in the notebooks for each of you.

PROCLAMATION 2024-005

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Proclamation is to honor the retirement of Helen Hunt. Mrs. Hunt has dedicated forty years of teaching as well as commitment, passion, and expertise to the students and faculty of Crisp Academy and the Crisp County Community. Mr. Harrell read the Proclamation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt Proclamation 2024-005 honoring Helen Hunt, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

PROCLAMATION 2024-006

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Proclamation is to honor EMS Week and proclaim the week of May 19 – 25, 2024 as Emergency Medical Services Week. The 50th Anniversary of EMS Week is themed: Honoring Our Past Forging Our Future. Mr. Harrell read the Proclamation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt Proclamation 2024-006 proclaiming May 19-25, 2024, as Emergency Medical Services Week, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FAMILY CONNECTION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, introduced to the Board Mrs. Monica Robinson. Mrs. Robinson is the Executive Director of Family Connections. Mrs. Robinson stated she is with the Crisp County Community Council which is our states', Family Connections for Crisp County. Mrs. Robinson gave an annual plan for FY25 regarding services, statistics, programs, activities, and future goals for the next three years.

CITIZEN REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Crisp County Citizen, Mr. Ronald Michael has requested to address the Board. Mr. Michael stated he is the U.S. Fields Operations Manager for Grizzly Grooves Entertainment, which owns the DUI School across the street from the Government Center. January 16, 2024, the City Commission approved for the selling of off-premises alcohol consumption to the store across the street at 305 South 7th Street. The state law says a license cannot be issued to sell beer or wine within 300 feet of a school. The DUI School is a licensed school by the state of Georgia. I am asking for your help because at this point there is nothing more I can do about it but I wanted to bring it the County Board's attention because the county also has a Drug Court/Treatment Facility located in the Government Center. The County Board has the authority to file an injunction to stop the selling of alcohol at the store located across the street. Again, Mr. Michael stated he has exhausted all avenues and requests the Board's help in filing an injunction with the help of the County's Attorney to stop the store from being allowed to sell alcohol per State Law 3-3-21.

PUBLIC HEARING

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the public hearing is regarding a rezoning request from Mr. Steve Southwell. The request is for the purpose of relocating Smoakies Restaurant on the west side of Greer Street, rezone from rural residential to general commercial. Mr. Southwell addressed the Board explaining his reason for the request and his plans for the property. Mr. Southwell stated he will not be moving his current restaurant onto the property but plans to landscape the two acres and park a food truck on the property 2-3 days a week continuing to sell Smoakies barbeque. Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, asked Mr. Southwell if he still intended follow through with the gravel variance to place gravel inside the lot for parking. Mr. Southwell replied he would like to keep the lot a grass lot.

No one spoke in opposition to Mr. Southwell's request

Public Hearing Closed 9:46 am

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2024-007

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, resolution is to dissolve the Solid Waste Management Authority of Crisp County and for other purposes. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt Resolution 2024-007 dissolving the Solid Waste Management Authority of Crisp County, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

AIRPORT CONTRACT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the contract is to construct a maintenance hangar at the Airport. The contract has been awarded to LRA Contractors which has already been approved by the Board. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's approval to allow the Chairman to sign-off on the contract for the construction of the hangar with the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to allow the Chairman to sign-off on the contract for the construction of the airport maintenance hangar, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated for various months the county staff has worked on the joint comprehensive plan with the City of Cordele, City of Arabi, and Crisp County. Through the River Valley Regional Commission, a preliminary plan has been put together that will ultimately need to be sent to the Department of Community Affairs to be approved and to be approved by the commission. This plan is done every ten years and updated every five years. This year marks the ten year update. Mr. Harrell introduced Mr. Jim Livingston, with the River Valley Regional Commission, to speak about the plan. In addition, Mr. Harrell thanked Mickey Dunnivant and Jimmie Mumphery, with the Planning and Zoning Department, for all of their hard work during this process. Mr. Livingston also thanked everyone for all of their input and hard work. Mr. Livingston also stated the plan needs to be adopted by June 30, 2024. He also explained the process and steps needed to be followed in order to have the plan approved so Crisp County will remain a certified county in order to qualify and to receive grants.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report and executive summary on the major funds of the County as of April 30, 2024. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, YTD income down by -\$279,085 to -\$171,564 as of April 30th. Net activity for the Water Fund brings that YTD income up to \$70,438. 1511 customers billed for a total usage of 4,963,014 gallons. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. Including March activity, reporting YTD net income of \$839,771 for the Landfill Fund. Total tonnage...7,398.45 tons for the month. The GEFA Loans are current at \$666,925. Cash on hand ended the month with \$18.0 in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined; \$11.9 million in the proprietary funds; and \$13.2 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds. The SPLOST Reports, March activity increased the actual expenditure total to \$19.9 million on the 2017 Issue. Distribution #3 on the 2023 Issue came in at \$474,920, down about 6% from this time last year. It does bring issue to date collections up to \$1,390,231 while expenditures and encumbrances total \$898,652. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month were the Airport, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. An updated report on the 2022 TSPLOST, in summary, we collected a total of \$1,378,689 to date under this issue. Combining that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue the county has expended and/or obligated \$4.6 million in road maintenance and capital projects with the use of local TSPLOST Funds. An updated schedule on the LOST receipt, this month's distribution of \$232,722 also represents a -6.4% decrease from this same period twelve months ago. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, ended the month of April with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for all these accounts. The preliminary revenue by fund and expenditures by department report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each

fund. Expenditures should be at or below 83%. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are over at 91%; the Water Fund is right on target at 81%; and the Landfill is good at 53%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the forthcoming budget for this year started out at \$4 million dollars out of balance. Mr. Harrell stated that he and Sherrie Leverett, Finance Director, have been able to draw that number down a few degrees. We continue to work on the budget with departments and constitutional officers. Mr. Harrell also stated that tough times are ahead but is not ready at this time to make any recommendations. He reported the Rock Road Railroad project is ongoing. Norfolk Southern is scheduled to close the Musselwhite crossing soon. Currently working with engineers on a three-phase approach to Fenn Road. 1 – 41 to RR, 2 - railroad to Macedonia Church Road, 3 – Macedonia to Coney Road. The city has agreed to move the existing gas line from its location adjacent to the pavement due to it being in too close a proximity. We do not have budgetary number yet; however, we do have 1.5 million in pledged monies from the Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Transportation. Mr. Harrell stated he is currently working on trying to acquire additional property for the landfill for the purpose of cover dirt and Local Maintenance Improvement Grant monies have been received and final bid documents are being put together. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into executive session at 10:15 am for Personnel, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of executive session at 10:52 am, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to re-appoint Willie Mae Dexter as the Democratic Party Representative, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

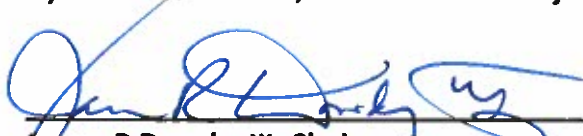
LANDBANK

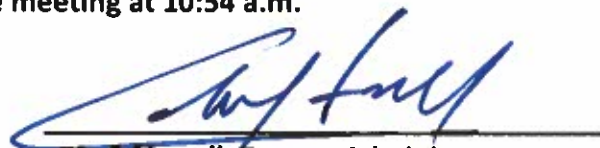
Motion was made by Commissioner Felton for Crisp County to enter back into the Land Bank, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

City Commissioner, Royce Reeves spoke on behalf of the City Commission, stating the City of Cordele supports Larry Felton remaining as the Chairman of the Land Bank.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator