

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 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 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. Sheriff Billy Hancock 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 June 13, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 14, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN REQUEST

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board of a citizen's request to address the Board concerning Lilliston Road. Mr. Harrell introduced Mrs. Doris Johnson and advised the Board she would like to express her concerns regarding the condition of Lilliston Road. Mr. Harrell also advised the Board that he has visited with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson and taken a look at the road conditions. Mr. Harrell stated the road is in need of some maintenance. Mrs. Doris Johnson stated she is a resident of Arabi and has resided on Lilliston Road for six years. The issue is getting in and out when it rains. The road is too dangerous to travel during and after rain storms. The conditions of the road make it hard at times to receive mail, school bus pick-up and drop off, being able to make it to work and other appointments. Mrs. Johnson also stated she is worried that emergency responders will not be able to assist during emergencies due to the conditions of the road. Mrs. Johnson showed the Board a few pictures of the road she had taken with her phone. Mrs. Johnson requested the help of the Board to assist in this matter in any way possible to improve the conditions of Lilliston Road. Mr. Harrell also advised the Board the road is in a low area and a lot of water coming from under I-75 which is running over the road but there is a considerable amount of rock on the road keeping the road from washing away but it does need some maintenance.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff, Billy Hancock, reported citations have increased and continue to increase. As mentioned before, I am in the process of building back some of the Sheriff Office divisions that were cut during 2020 as a result of Covid, causing the Sheriff Office a loss in man power. The school system recently approached me requesting another School Resource Officer needed which also create another vacancy for the Sheriff Office as far as sworn officers. Sheriff Hancock stated in the FY25 budget he asked for additional personnel for patrol due to the amounts of calls for service coming in. He also stated the City of Arabi is

creating their own police force so the contract with the City of Arabi will not be renewed for next year. This will free-up a deputy to be able to patrol other zones during the night. Sheriff Hancock also stated he wanted to point out the cost of unexpected medical payed last year totaling over \$146,000. Anticipating the cost to be less in the next year due to more staff and less crowding in the jail. Sheriff Hancock presented several checks to the Board totaling \$369,000.00 including inmate housing, donations for the firing range, Tye Brown's funeral, and phones for the jail. Next week a \$650,000.00 grant will be completed for new air condition units in the jail.

NEW BUSINESS

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

AIRPORT MAINTENANCE HANGAR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this is a federal grant with 95% paid from the FAA and Georgia Department of Transportation with a local portion of \$39,957.71 coming from the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's consideration in allowing the chairman to sign the contract to move forward. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to allow the chairman to sign the airport maintenance hangar construction contract, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FY25 DRUG COURT GRANT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the sub grant J25-8-016 is federal funds through the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council for the Drug Court. The grant is for \$275,668.00 with a funds portion from Crisp County in the amount of \$15,000.00. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's approval for the grant. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to approve sub grant J25-8-016 for the Drug Court, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL

County Administrator, Clark Harrell stated the health insurance renewal comes with a 5% increase and continues to rise yearly. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's approval to continue with CIGNA and not change anything for employees **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to renew with CIGNA, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

INMATE HOUSING FEE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the new amount billed to the City of Cordele for inmate housing will be increased from \$35 to \$42 per inmate per day. No action needed at this time, still under negotiation with the City Manager.

ORDINANCE 2024-004

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the ordinance is to amend the zoning map and land use regulations in the unincorporated areas of Crisp County. David Southwell has submitted a rezoning request from Single Family Residential to General Commercial. Mr. Southwell has changed his business

model from a full operations restaurant to now operating a food truck on the lot. Mr. Harrell read the Findings of Facts Standards for Rezoning and the Ordinance. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's consideration in approving the ordinance. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve Ordinance 2024-004 to rezone the land lot from single family residential to general commercial, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF FY25 BUDGET PROPOSAL & SET DATE TO ADOPT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, to give an overview of the FY25 budget proposal. Mrs. Leverett stated this is just a proposal not the final. The county wide adopted budget will be \$40,627,725.00. Mrs. Leverett stated the general fund is hopefully balanced by adoption date. \$874,000.00 in the general fund is being transferred out in support of E911. This proposal includes a million dollars from reserves and a million dollars from the remaining ARPA funds leaving a million dollar shortage which at this point has now changed to \$500,000.00 shortage. Public Hearing, with no opposition, was held June 11, 2024 for the proposed budget. A called meeting is set for 9:00 am June 27, 2024 for FY25 budget approval.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report and executive summary on the major funds of the County as of the end of May. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined and including preliminary numbers for May, the YTD Expenditures exceeding revenues by about -4% leaving a negative -\$965,181 position at 5/31/24. The Water Fund monthly revenues and expenditures increase the YTD net income to \$92,988. Usage billed for the month totaled 7,412,000 gallons to 1,516 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund is reporting \$891,500 in accrued year to date income at the end of eleven months. Total tonnage for the month was 4,363.78 tons. Approximately 25% of that was delivered under the commercial hauling contract, 9% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 6% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$648,614. The cash on hand report as of May 31st ended the month with \$16.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, \$12.2 million in the proprietary funds and just over \$13.0 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total at the end of the month of 05/31/23 of \$43.7 million. SPLOST monthly activity increased the actual expenditure total to \$19.8 million. Distribution #4 on the 2023 Issue came in at \$450,302. It does exceed the average of May Distributions from the 2017 Issue. It also came in slightly, less than 1% above the monthly amount received in May of 2023. It brings issue to date collections up to \$1.8 million while expenditures & encumbrances came in just under \$1.6 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny during the month were the Airport, the Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Roads, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. The 2022 TSPLOST, both capital and operating projects supported by those funds, in summary, after 16 months, we have collected just under \$1.5 million through this issue. Combining that with LMIG, GDOT and other road revenue sources and we have expended and/or obligated \$4.7 million in local road maintenance and capital projects with the use of TSPLOST Funds. L.O.S.T distributions, mirroring SPLOST, this month's distribution is also up over last year by less than 1%. 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 May with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for the total of five accounts. The final report, revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the eleven-month period of July 2023 through May 2024 shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of May 31st, all departments and divisions

should actually be at or below 92% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds over at 99%, the Water Fund is good at 87% and the Landfill Fund is within budget at 57%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he has done absolutely nothing the past month but work on the FY25 budget. Mr. Harrell stated he is continuing to work with the Propel Group in trying to develop positive initiatives such as infrastructure and workforce housing. In working with Propel, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government is proposing that both the City Commission and County Commission have an Intergovernmental Summit to update on where Propel is and the initiatives being narrowed down at this point. This will be held Wednesday, July 17, 2024. The time and location will be determined later.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR ACQUIRING OF PROPERTY

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session for acquired property, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:09 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

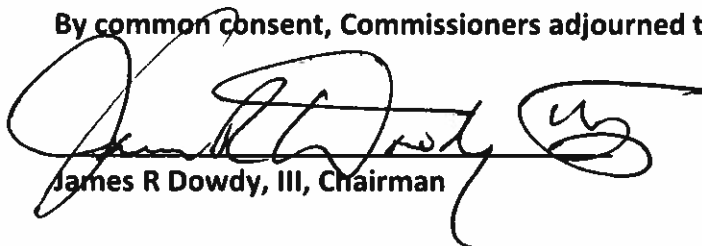
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 10:58 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's consideration in extending the July 4, 2024 holiday to also include July 5, 2024 being the July 4th holiday falls on a Thursday. Per this request, the county will be closed Thursday and Friday. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to extend the July 4, 2024 holiday to include July 5, 2024 as an administrative leave day, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator