

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 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 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. Deacon William Culpepper 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 Nance to adopt the agenda for the July 9, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 13, 2024 as well as the work session minutes of June 13, 2024 and the called meeting minutes of June 27, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

CITIZEN REQUEST

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board of a citizen's request to address the Board concerning 1201 N 6th Street. Mr. Harrell introduced Pastor Calvin Haugabrook and advised the Board he would like to express his concerns regarding flooding issues of the church property. Mr. Haugabrook stated he was the Pastor of the church located at 1201 N 6th Street and is here on behalf of himself and the congregation requesting to have the ditch and the surrounding property of the church be maintained due to consistent flooding and extensive water damage to the church. This has happened over the course of several years costing thousands of dollars and also causing many services to be cancelled. Mr. Haugabrook also stated he has been unable to get help from the city and the county to clean out the ditch which has again cost the church money trying to keep the ditch cleaned out. Mr. Haugabrook also presented pictures taken this year of flooding on the property. So far, the water damage this year has cost the church \$15,000.00 which included having to replace the air condition unit. Mr. Haugabrook also stated the area is not considered to be a flood zone therefore, the church has been unable to obtain flood insurance. Mr. Haugabrook stated the church is willing to do their part to try to fix the situation but asks the county do their part as well. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he agreed the area should be deemed a flood zone. Mr. Harrell stated he will meet with emergency management and planning and zoning to find out how to go about making the change, if possible. Mr. Harrell also stated he has sent a letter to the court of engineers asking them, in conjunction with the City of Cordele, to look at Gum Creek and Cedar Creek as a study for mitigation purposes but will be a long-term process. A portion of Gum Creek and Cedar Creek was cleaned out several years ago. This was done through an emergency water shed project set up by Sheriff Hancock due to Hurricane Michael. There is a portion of the ditch owned by the county but the property behind the church is private

property. Mr. Harrell stated he would like to continue to work with Mr. Haugabrook on resolving the flooding issue as best as possible.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff, Billy Hancock, reported the fireworks show was a huge success at the State Park. This event took 5 deputies on the inside of the park, 3 deputies on the back entrance of the park, and 3 deputies on the front entrance of the park. Deputies had citizens safely moved out of the park by 11:15 pm. Overall, it was a great event. Sheriff Hancock stated 354 citations were written last month and the Crisp County Sheriff Office will no longer be patrolling Arabi. Arabi is currently working on their own Police Department. Sheriff Hancock stated the Crisp County Sheriff Office was patrolling around 2,920 hours a year inside the City of Arabi, which was basically costing around \$200,000 a year, the City of Arabi was paying only \$50,000. This area will now be used as a float zone. Now, deputies will be on scene when stores in Arabi are closing for the night as done for other businesses in Crisp County. Inmate housing last month totaled \$65,962.52 and average daily inmate count was 202. The Sheriff Office began active shooter training this morning. This is a mandated training involving the school systems and deputies learning the areas of the schools and how to respond and what to do in a school shooting situation. The Fire Department and EMS are also part of the training. Sheriff Hancock also stated there are new laws on the books that deputies will be enforcing. (1) High-rise or raised trucks will now be measured due to a new law in place. (2) Bonding laws, own recognize bonds are now limited. Sheriff Hancock stated he continues to work with the judges.

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he could not express enough the importance of the Crisp County Sheriff Office State Accreditation. Mr. Harrell asked the Sheriff to speak on this subject. Sheriff Hancock introduced Captain Tammera Sears, the Sheriff's Office Accreditation Manager. Sheriff Hancock also stated this is round 3 for the Crisp County Sheriff Office being certified as a Law Enforcement Agency in the state of Georgia. Captain Tammera Sears stated the state certification gives an opportunity to make sure what is written in policy is what is practiced. It also secures the liability of the agency, the officers, and the county. The Crisp County Sheriff Office is the 23rd agency in the state of Georgia to carry this certification. This is a great honor to have and to continue.

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2024-009

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the resolution is to amend the fee schedule for building permits in response to House Bill 461, for clarity and other purposes. House Bill 461 was effective as of July 1, 2024. Mr. Harrell read the resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the resolution amending Crisp County Planning and Zoning fee schedule effective immediately, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2024-010

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the resolution is to update the Joint Crisp-Arabi-Cordele Comprehensive Plan for the period 2024-2029. Mr. Harrell read the resolution. **Motion was made by**

Commissioner Farrow to adopt the resolution for the 2024-2029 Joint Crisp-Arabi-Cordele Comprehensive Plan, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION DOCUMENTS FOR LANDFILL

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he is seeking the Board's permission to sign the necessary documents to apply 50 acres of land that is adjacent to the Crisp County Landfill. The documents have been prepared by County Attorney, Rick Lawson. The documents just need to be executed to purchase the 50 acres for use of covered dirt to continue the landfill operations. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to execute the documents needed to purchase the adjacent 50 acres to the Crisp County Landfill, 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 June. The monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds Combined and including preliminary numbers for June, YTD expenditures exceeding revenues by about -1% leaving us in a slight negative position of -\$155,863 at 6/30/24. The Water Fund Monthly revenues and expenditures increase the YTD net income here to \$128,316. Usage billed for the month totaled 7,859,014 gallons to 1,521 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund shows \$964,342 in accrued year to date income at the end of eleven months. Total tonnage for the month was 3,803.45 tons. Approximately 38% of that was delivered under the commercial hauling contract, 8% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 6% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$604,959. The cash on hand report as of June 30, 2024 ended the month with \$17.0 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined, just under \$12.0 million in the proprietary funds and \$12.7 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total at the end of the month of \$43.5 million. SPLOST Reports monthly activity on the 2017 Issue increased the actual expenditure total to \$19.8 million. Distribution #5 on the 2023 Issue came in at \$461,230. It does exceed the six-year average of June Distributions from the 2017 Issue. It also came in slightly, less than 1%, above the monthly amount received in June of 2023. It brings issue to date collections up to \$2.3 million while expenditures & encumbrances came in just under \$1.8 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny during the month were the Airport, Recreation, EMS, Roads, Sheriff's Office, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. In summary, after 17 months, we have collected almost \$1.6 million through the 2022 SPLOST issue. Combining that with LMIG, GDOT and other road revenue sources the county has expended and/or obligated \$4.9 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 slightly over last year by less than 1%. 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. Although very preliminary, the revenues by fund and expenditures by department report for the twelve-month period of July 2023 through June 2024 summary report 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 100% of their annual allowances. Overall, as of this report, the preliminary numbers indicate the General Fund and Special Revenue Funds over at 105%, the Water Fund is good at 92% and the Landfill Fund is within budget at 61%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Rock Road Railroad Project is ongoing. Norfolk Southern is scheduled to close Musselwhite Crossing soon. Currently working with our engineers on a three-phase approach for Fenn Road. (1) 41 to RR, (2) RR to Macedonia Church Road, and (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. Currently have 1.5 million pledged from Department of Community Affairs and Georgia Department of Transportation. The budgetary number for the 1st phase of Fenn Road is approximately 2.4 million. This project is currently being bid. I anticipate awarding the bid at the August meeting. The 10.26 mile paving project of road resurfacing is being bid on. We should have those bids for your consideration at the August meeting. As a reminder, those roads or portions of roads are Williford Crossing, Dockweiler Road, Penia Road, and Twin Pines Road. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to go into Executive Session for personnel, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 9:58 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

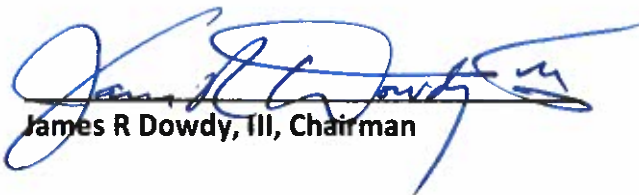
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 10:26 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated two terms will expire August 31, 2024 for the tax assessor's board. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's consideration in re-appointing William Turner and Dravian McGill to serve on the Board of Assessors. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to re-appoint Mr. Turner and Mr. McGill to the Board of Assessors, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, 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