

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 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 James Nance, 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. Pastor Kenneth Bivens 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 August 13, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

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

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff, Billy Hancock, reported the Sheriff's Office has only one sworn position and one detention officer position unfilled at this time and is currently taking applications for both positions. As far as man-power, the Sheriff's Office is better than it has been in several years. For better performance, Sheriff Hancock stated he has currently implemented some restructuring within the departments, such as creating another investigator position and moving another person into the traffic division under the drug squad. Citations continue to increase and the jail is currently at capacity with 224 inmates. Inmate housing for the month of July was \$64,000. Due to increased insurance deductions, vehicle purchases have increased significantly. The Sheriff's Office is currently paying anywhere from \$36,000 to \$42,000 for a vehicle versus \$28,000 in previous years. We are currently changing-up our fleet and designating Malibu's to non-pursuit sworn officer positions instead of a patrol package vehicle. Trying to be frugal with the money, the recent vehicles purchased were bought with asset forfeiture money and SPLOST. Crisp County Sheriff Office has also entered into a contract with Crisp Academy, similar to that of the Public School. The Sheriff Office will be providing a School Resource Officer to the school and the school will be providing funds to the county for the service as well as a supplement for the vehicle used each year. School Resource Officer is becoming one of the biggest divisions in our operation. We currently have 7 full-time School Resource Officers. Sheriff Hancock also stated the E911 Division is also taking applications for vacant dispatcher positions.

GEORGIA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Mr. Marty Fore, stated he will be retiring September 1, 2024 with 37 years of service. Mr. Fore stated Mr. James Shingler, a current ranger, will be applying for the position. Mr. Fore stated he has enjoyed working for Crisp County and he has enjoyed assisting the people of Crisp County and thanked the Board

for everything they have done for the Forestry Commission. The Crisp County Board of Commissioners also thanked Mr. Fore for his hard work and dedication to Crisp County throughout his career. Mr. Fore gave an annual report as follows for the past year:

- 614 permits issued
- 8,000 acres burned for the county
- 12 landowner assists helping burn a total of 1000 acres
- 27 wildfires, totaling 64.57 acres

PUBLIC HEARING

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the first public hearing is a rezoning request from Laporte Holdings to rezone approximately 14 acres from Rural Residential to General Commercial. The property belongs to Laporte Holdings, LLLP, and is currently located on the west side of Greer Street while traveling south from the intersection 8th Avenue and stopping north of Seaboard Coast Railroad track. Crisp County Planning and Zoning Director, Mickey Dunnavant, stated Mr. Laporte is actively trying to sell the property. Mr. Dunnavant stated this request is to match other property located in the area. No decision to be made at this time.

No Opposition

Public Hearing Closed 9:21 am

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the second public hearing is a rezoning request from LF McKinney, Jr., Estate to rezone approximately 162 acres from Rural Residential to Industrial for the purpose of expanding Stella Jones Wood Product and Preservation Industry. The property belongs to LF McKinney, Jr., Estate and is currently located on the north side of Stella Jones approximately 1650 feet of Pateville Road and a driveway easement is located at the north intersection of GA HWY 300 South and Byrd's Mill Road. Steve Bryan, Stella Jones Representative, stated the rezoning of the 162 acres will allow them to expand for storage use and also for future development of the plant. Grant Buckley, in charge of Economic Development for the community, spoke in favor of the rezoning request. Mr. Buckley stated the company's utility pole division is leading the company in growth. Mr. Buckley also stated he has encouraged Stella Jones for 9 years to purchase the additional property for future growth. Mr. Buckley stated he strongly encourages the Board's consideration for the rezoning request. No decision to be made at this time. Christy Bozeman, Georgia Department of Economic Development, also stood and stated she was present in support of the rezoning for Stella Jones.

No Opposition

Public Hearing Closed 9:25 am

NEW BUSINESS

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

APPROVAL OF MILLAGE RATE FOR ADVERTISEMENT

Tabled at this time

RESOLUTION 2024-011

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the resolution is to authorize an intergovernmental contract with the town of Arabi to provide fire protection services. Crisp County funds the costs of providing fire

protection services to the unincorporated areas of Crisp County with the proceeds of the insurance premium tax and the levy of an ad valorem tax on all Crisp County property within the special service tax district. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to authorize the resolution of an intergovernmental contract between Crisp County and the City of Arabi for fire protection services, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

LICENSE TO SELL BEER AND WINE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's approval for a beer and wine license for off premises consumption for Eva 2010 LLC, doing business as Quick Buys Bait and Tackle located at 2456 Hwy 300. Mr. Harrell stated the owner is Kaushik Patel and Mr. Patel has satisfactorily completed all requirements for these licenses. Mr. Harrell also stated it is not a new location for the sale of beer and wine but new ownership. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the off consumption beer and wine licenses for Quick Buys Bait and Tackle located at 2456 Hwy 300, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

LICENSE TO SELL BEER AND WINE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board's approval for a beer and wine license for off premises consumption for Family Dollar Stores of Georgia, LLC#33808 located at 2434 Hwy 300. Mr. Harrell stated the manager is Sheteria Mason and all requirements for these licenses has been satisfactorily completed. Mr. Harrell also stated this is a new location for the sale of beer and wine. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the off consumption beer and wine licenses for Family Dollar Stores of Georgia LLC#33808 Hwy 300, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION TITLE VI PROGRAM

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Federal Transit Administration Title VI Program for Crisp County has to be updated annually. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's approval for the 2024 update. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to update the 2024 Federal Transit Administration Title VI Program, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

2024 LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT BID AWARD – PAVING PROJECTS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the bid award is for the 10.26 miles of roadway that will be resurfaced portions of Williford Crossing, Dockweiller Road, Penia Road, and Twin Pines Road. Bids were opened on August 1, 2024. The lowest bid came in at \$2,199,440.00 from Reeves Construction. Mr. Harrell stated his recommendation is to award the bid to Reeves Construction. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to award the bid to the lowest bidder, Reeves Construction, to proceed with the much needed resurfacing portions of the above listed roads, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – OFF SYSTEM SAFETY PROJECT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the county was notified July 10, 2024, by Georgia Department of Transportation of available Safety Action Plan money for Crisp County. Crisp County was awarded \$333,333.33. The requirement is to complete 1 of the 2 listed below:

- (1) Widen up to 10 miles of roadway
- (2) Restripe 47 miles of roadway

Mr. Harrell stated he recommends using the funds for road re-striping. GDOT will bid the project, supervise the project, and see the project through to completion. The county's responsibility will be to clip the shoulders of the road. GDOT sent a list of roads to consider for the re-striping project. This list of roads have all had some type of accident or fatality occur. Mr. Harrell asked the Board to allow him to pursue this GDOT SAP Grant project for Crisp County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to accept the Safety Action Plan money from the Georgia Department of Transportation and allow the County Administrator, Clark Harrell, to proceed with this project using the given list of roads from GDOT to be re-striped, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

2025 LOCAL MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT REQUEST

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated every year as of July 1st several documents have to be completed and submitted in order to receive the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant. This year through the formula given by the state, Crisp County's 2025 LMIG Fund is \$674,113.95. In order for the funds to be released to Crisp County, the county must submit a list of the roads intended to be improved with the grant money. Mr. Harrell requested the support of the Commission in submitting the 2025 LMIG application to resurface parts of Scenic Route, Lincoln Pinch, and to receive 4000 tons of rock to be used on Rock Road in Arabi for future paving. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to support the submittal of the 2025 LMIG application to be used to resurface the above named roads and receive the rock needed future paving of Rock Road in Arabi, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FENN ROAD BID AWARD – PHASE 1

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Fenn Road is another current project. Bids were open August 8, 2024. The County received three bids. The lowest bidder on Phase 1 for Fenn Road was Griffin Grading and Concrete for \$1,899,609.24. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's authorization to award the bid to Griffin Grading and Concrete. This project consists of widening the road from the railroad tracks to Macedonia Church Road, street and gutter improvements, and creating a turn lane. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to award Griffin Grading and Concrete the bid for Phase 1 of the Fenn Road project, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

SURPLUS PROPERTY

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked the Commission's approval to surplus a 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe used as the Fire Chief's vehicle during Chief Ray Lunsford's tenure as Crisp County Fire Chief. The Tahoe has 208,000 plus miles as well as electrical issues. Mr. Harrell recommended listing the vehicle on Gov Deals. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to surplus the 2006 Chevrolet Tahoe and list it on Gov Deals to sell, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2024-012

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board the Resolution is to establish a second board of equalization at the request of the Clerk of Court, this is done on a yearly basis. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to establish a second board of equalization, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary executive summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County after just one month of the new fiscal year. First, the financial summary report for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds are showing a net -5% shortfall of -\$1.2 million after the first thirty one days of FY25. Nothing alarming here, our revenue stream runs pretty lean and we depend on reserves for support of daily operations until the 2024 tax revenues begin to flow in. The Water Fund, a preliminary net income here of \$8,811 at July 31st. Customer usage billed for the month was 9,793,042 gallons to a total of 1,509 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.1 million. The Landfill Fund ended the month with a net income of \$35,992. 4,763.69 tons of municipal solid waste was delivered to the Landfill during the month of July. Approximately 35% of that was delivered under the commercial waste contract, 8% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 4% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$586,529 thousand. The cash on hand report as of July 31st, ended the month with \$16.2 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined; \$12.1 million in the proprietary funds; and \$12.7 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$43.2 million.

Following are SPLOST reports: The only change for the 2017 Issue would be that monthly activity brings the actual expenditure total here to \$19.8 million. Distribution #6 on the 2023 Issue came in at \$521,168, exceeding last year by about 3% and it also exceeds the six-year average for the months of June from the 2017 issue. It brings issue to date collections up to \$2.8 million while expenditures & encumbrances are at \$1.9 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of July were County Roads, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$169,924. Included next is an issue to date reports on the TSPLOST Fund. Including LMIG and GDOT Revenues, we have expended and/or obligated almost \$5.0 million in local road maintenance and capital road projects through the 2022 Transportation Tax. Following is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions. Similar to SPLOST this month's distribution of \$255,341 exceeds last year by 3.25%. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, currently have five loans with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million. The final report is the revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the first month of FY 25. All departments and divisions should actually be at or below 8% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers show the general and special revenue funds along with the water fund are slightly over at 9%, the Landfill is just under at 7%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Rock Road railroad project is ongoing. Norfolk Southern made the decision to close the Musselwhite crossing at the end of August. The county closed on the purchase of 50 acres of land from Daryl Lewis for cover dirt at the landfill. We are now in the process of obtaining the necessary permits from GA EPD for surface mining. Mr. Harrell also reminded the Board of the ongoing road projects. (1) 2024 LMIG resurfacing should begin soon, (2) Fenn Road phase 1 from CSX RR to Macedonia Road; based on your decision today to award the bid, we will notify Griffin to

proceed, (3) Notification will be made to GDOT for LMIG 2025 and upon receipt, and we should have the funds transferred to Crisp County. We will go ahead and order the rock for Rock Road after receipt of funds, (4) GDOT SAP will consist of 47 miles of road re-striping. Federal funds will be used. The county will be responsible for "clipping" the shoulders and GDOT will bid, manage, and oversee the completion of the project. Mr. Harrell continued to report to the Board the residential garbage service issues within the county. Citizens have gone three weeks or longer without garbage pick-up services. Mr. Harrell stated the services need to be bid out by issuing an RFP and another provider, other than Waste Management, needs to be considered for Crisp County. Mr. Harrell stated he needed to address the commission in an executive session concerning potential litigation on this matter. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings during the month.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into Executive Session for potential litigation, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:01 am.

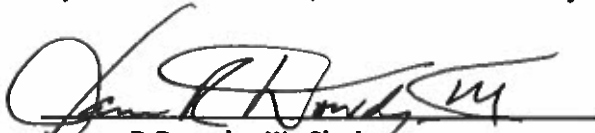
COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 10:54 am, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he will proceed to put out a bid for new trash services beginning January 1, 2025.

ADJOURN MEETING

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


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator