

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 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, and Finance Director Sherrie Leverett. Pastor Larry Rollins 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 amended agenda for the September 10, 2024 Commission Meeting, adding the Power Purchase Agreement with MEAG, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 13, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff Hancock reported 198 warnings and 476 citations was issued last month. The Drug Squad is doing a great job! This morning at 5:00 am the Drug Squad rolled out to execute warrants. The squad is doing what is needed to keep our community safe. A contract with Crisp Academy has been prepared and signed regarding a School Resource Officer. I briefly spoke on this at last month's meeting. I will meet with the Crisp Academy Board this week to explain the contract and ensure understanding of details. The School Resource Officer is on the grounds and doing well. Man power is still good, only a couple bodies shy of full staff. We did hire a new detention officer this week and they quit yesterday. The jail is not quite what everyone thinks it is. Animal Services Officer is now in place. Jason Vogel has accepted this position and for those who do not know, Mr. Vogel is the brother of Tyee Browne. Mr. Vogel was sworn in as a civilian employee under oath. Sheriff Hancock also stated 104,000 miles was traveled for transports last month. Inmate Housing check for \$66,000 was given to Mrs. Leverett this morning. Sheriff Hancock stated he spoke with the School Board last night regarding the numerous school shootings that have taken place across the United States. The threat Friday along with the bomb threat Monday was used through an app the Sheriff's Office is not familiar with, the app is called text now. Mr. Hancock stated the School Resource Officers did a tremendous job as well as the school personnel. All suspects, which were students ranging from age 11 to 13, have been arrested and spend the night in the juvenile detention center. The use of cameras and metal detectors used by the school system helped determine that the threats was just an isolated hoax, but protocols have to be followed to a certain point before being able to determine if threats are real or not. I pray the trend begins to lessen, our community is no different than others. As of last night, 15 children from age 17 to age 11 have been arrested in the state of Georgia since the Apalachee School System was targeted.

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board ratify the contract, which the Board has previously signed, for a School Resource Officer at Crisp Academy. **Motion was made by Commissioner**

Nance to ratify the contract for a School Resource Officer at Crisp Academy, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ORDINANCE 2024-014

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the ordinance is to amend the zoning map and the land use regulations of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. The rezoning property is located on Greer Street, rezoning request from single family residential to general commercial. Mr. Harrell read the Standards for Rezoning and the Ordinance. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Ordinance rezoning the Greer Street property from single family residential to general commercial, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

ORDINANCE 2024-015

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the ordinance is to amend the zoning map and the land use regulations of the unincorporated area of Crisp County. The rezoning request is from Stella Jones, rezoning request from rural residential to industrial. Mr. Harrell read the Standards for Rezoning and the Ordinance. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt the Ordinance rezoning the request from Stella Jones to rezone property from rural residential to industrial, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2024-013

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Resolution is to authorize the filing of FY26 5311 Transit Program Funding Application with the Georgia Department of Transportation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the Resolution approving the application filing for 5311 Transit Program Funding, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

2023 SALES RATIO APPEAL

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Georgia Departments of Audits and Accounts looks at the yearly sales in Crisp County, such as Residential, Agricultural, Industrial, etc. Crisp County's sales ratio must be within the 36% to 44% thresh hold. This year the sales ratio is 37.11%, which is within the required thresh hold, however; it's below 38%. Being so, this affects the amount of money the County receives from public utilities. The higher the ratio percentage the more money we receive from public utilities. There is a process to appeal the sales ratio. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's approval to appeal the 2023 preliminary sales ratio study and authorize Sean Sammons, Crisp County Chief Appraiser, to represent Crisp County in the appeal. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve moving forward with the appeal and authorizing Crisp County Appraiser, Sean Sammons, to represent Crisp County in the appeal, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

2024 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, requested the Board ratify the 2024 property tax digest with the five year history. Mr. Harrell stated the first public hearing will be held tomorrow at 10:30 am. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to ratify the 2024 property tax digest and five year history, seconded by Commissioner Felton ,motion carried unanimously.**

ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT UPDATE WITH CITY OF CORDELE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell stated Mrs. Redding, with the City of Cordele, contacted him several weeks ago regarding the animal contract between Crisp County and the City of Cordele. Mrs. Redding stated the current contract is out dated and she would like to update it. The pricing for housing the animals per day has not changed, it is still \$35.00 per day but the dates of the contract have been updated. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's approval for the Chairman to sign the updated contract. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to allow the Chairman to sign the updated Animal Control Contract between the City of Cordele and Crisp County , seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated this is the third amendment to the power purchase contract between Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (MEAG), Crisp County Power Commission, and the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Harrell requested the Board's support of the contract and for the board to authorize the chairman to sign the power purchase agreement. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to authorize the chairman to sign the third amendment to the power purchase contract between MEAG, Crisp County Power, and the Crisp County Board of Commissioners, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the first two months of FY 25. The report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, are reporting a YTD net shortfall of about -14% which equates to a -\$3.7 million. The Water Fund ended the two-month period in a negative position of -\$3,099. Water consumption billed for the month was 7.6 million gallons to 1512 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1,053,143. As of this report, the Landfill is showing an accrued YTD net loss of -\$358,240. Total tonnage for the month came in at 4,588.32. 35% of that was delivered under the commercial waste contract, 8% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 3% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$568,038. The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$14.6 million; The proprietary funds at \$11.8 million and the SPLOST & TSLOST funds at \$12.7 million. Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue have now reached \$21.5 million. Distribution #7 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$505,457, which is actually down by about -2% from last year. It does however exceed the six-year average for the months of July from the 2017 issue and it brings issue to date collections up to \$3.3 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at \$2.3 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny during the month of August were the County Roads, Public Works, Public Safety, CCSO, Solid Waste, Recreation and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$223,945. Included next is an issue to date report on the TSPLOST Fund. The August distribution brings total revenues up to \$1.7 million. \$5.8 million in local road projects have been expended or obligated with additional sources of

funding coming from LMIG, GDOT & SPLOST Revenues. Following that is an updated schedule on our L.O.S.T distributions. The actual distribution here of \$247,671 which is based on retail sales for the month of July is down slightly, less than -1% from this same period last year. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, total outstanding balance for the five remaining loans was \$1.9 million at the end of August.

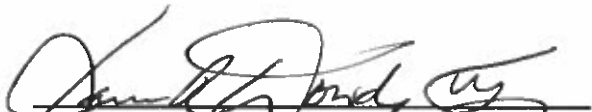
The last report is the revenue by fund and expenditures by department report. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Following two months into the new fiscal year everyone should be at or below 17%. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are over at 23%, The Water Fund is slightly over at 19% and the Landfill Fund is also over at 28%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated a public hearing will be held September 11th at 10:00 am and at 6:30 pm regarding the millage rate. A final public hearing will be held on September 24th at 11:00 am followed by a called meeting to set the millage rate. This year's millage rate will remain the same as last FY – that is the proposal. Continuing to work with Georgia Department of Transportation on the road striping approved last month. All paperwork has been submitted and the 2025 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant funding should be sent within the next few days. Notice to proceed has been given to Reeves Construction for resurfacing of the 2024 paving list. Fenn Road notice to proceed is forthcoming and the easement paperwork is in the hands of Helena. As soon as the funds are available from the 2025 Local Maintenance Improvement Grant, we will order the rock needed for Rock Road. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings during the month.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator