
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 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, Sam Farrow, 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. Commissioner James Nance 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 Crenshaw to adopt the agenda for the October 8, 2024 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 10, 2024 as well as the called meeting minutes of September 24, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff Hancock congratulated and thanked everyone for their hard work during hurricane Helene. Sheriff Hancock expressed how thankful Crisp County is that Helene turned away from the original path which would have hit Crisp County with the brunt of the storm. Our neighboring counties are still recovering from Helene and some places are still without power. The Sheriff's Office has provided escorts for loads of equipment to go to Barrien County and Nashville, Georgia. We've also had deputies working inside Toombs County to help due to lack of man power. Sheriff Hancock also reported the Sheriff's Office will be assisting the National Red Cross and GEMA in opening a shelter in Crisp County around 5:00 pm today. The shelter will be opening at the First Methodist Church. As far as the Sheriff's Office, jail population as of today is 205 inmates, last month 212 warnings and 549 citations, and 105,000 patrol miles traveled throughout the month of September. The bills keep coming with inmate medical never ceasing to amaze me. The office just received an inmate medical bill from 2019 for \$50,000.00. The county is responsible for any medical treatment for an incarcerated individual. The Sheriff's Office did receive a \$29,476.00 grant through the Georgia Office of Highway Safety. Also, received \$10,000.00 from the state to keep the gang activity prosecution program running, a half-cash match on all bullet proof vests which is about \$9000.00 a year, and a \$80,014.00 Victims Of Crime Act grant. Inmate Housing check for the month of September was \$59,741.00.

NEW BUSINESS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Commissioners of only one item under new business needing their consideration:

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, introduced Crisp County's new Agriculture Agent, Mr. Jack Quayle. Mr. Quayle stated he is the new Ag Agent in Crisp County and is excited about the opportunity. Mr. Quayle continued to say he is originally from Orlando, Florida and he always knew he wanted to be in agriculture. Mr. Quayle attended ABAC College where he worked at the Tifton campus for a few years with a doctor growing vegetables. Mr. Quayle stated he found this extension opportunity and jumped right on it. Mr. Quayle said he intends to be open and available for everyone as well as make a presence for the community and 4-H in addition to AG.

NATIONAL 4-H WEEK

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Proclamation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Proclamation observing the week of October 7-12, 2024 to be Crisp County 4-H Week, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

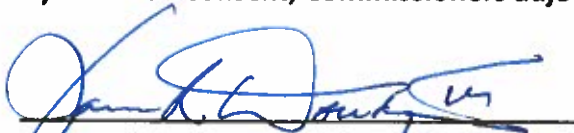
FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the first quarter of FY 25. The revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Fund combined are reporting FYTD revenues received of \$3.8 million and YTD expenditures at \$7.7 million leaving a -15% shortfall after the first 90 days of the fiscal year of -\$3.9 million. As you are aware, a resolution setting the 2024 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate was approved on September 24th. Following that meeting the digest package was completed and submitted and has now been approved and accepted by the Georgia Department of Revenue. Tax notices should go out later this week. The Water Fund ended the quarter with a net income of \$4,987. Water consumption billed for the month was 7,396,035 gallons to 1,513 customers. The USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1,048,657. The Landfill Fund is reporting an accrued net YTD loss to -\$319,020 at 9/30/24. The total tonnage received for the month of September was 3,832.23 and the balance on the one remaining GEFA loan is current at \$524,240. (Matures 12/26, original \$2.8, 2011) Cash Report for September 30, 2024, General and special revenue funds combined ended the month just over \$14.0 million; The proprietary funds with \$11.9 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at \$14.4 million; bringing a County wide total to \$43.1 million. The SPLOST Report Summaries - Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue have now reached \$21.5 million. Distribution #8 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$431,056, which is up by about 3.2% over this same period one year ago. It also exceeds the six-year average for retail sales during the month of August from the 2017 issue and brings issue to date collections up to \$3.7 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at \$2.5 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny during the month were the Airport, County Roads, Public Works, EMS, Solid Waste, CCSO and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$277,983. Issue to date report on the TSPLOST Fund September distribution brings total revenues up to \$1.8 million. Combined with other funding sources, there is over \$7.5 million in local road project cost expended or obligated under the 2022 TSPLOST Fund. The Local Option Sales Tax regular monthly distribution is also up 3.2% from this time a year ago. The summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. As of September 30th, everyone should be at or below 25%. As of this report, all funds are reporting overages; the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are at 29%, the Water Fund is at 27%, and the Landfill finished the month at 33%.

Mr. Harrell stated Fenn Road contracts with Griffin and Grading have been signed for the phase 1 portion of the project. Crisp County has received \$1 million dollars for this project from Georgia Department of Transportation. The county is currently in the process of relocating infrastructure such as power lines, gas lines, phone lines, etc. Rain has caused a two week delay in the beginning of the 2024 Paving Project from the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant for the portions of Williford Crossing, Dockweiler Road, Penia Road, and Twin Pines Road. Reeves Construction should begin work by mid-October. We are working through the FEMA process to be gain access into the Public Assistance program. The program will allow reimbursement for expenses. Reimbursement damages are estimated at approximately \$187,000.00. Mr. Harrell also stated he will be meeting with Army Corp Engineers to further the potential flood plain study for Gum Creek and Cedar Creek. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings during the month.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator