

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 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, Sam Farrow, Larry Felton and Mark Crenshaw in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, County Attorney Rick Lawson and Finance Director Sherrie Leverett. Pastor Phil Streetman 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 Farrow to adopt the agenda for the December 10, 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 November 12, 2024 seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff, Billy Hancock, stated he had the opportunity to teach at the new Sheriffs Elect Academy a few weeks ago and the main thing he harped about was the great relationship between the Crisp County Sheriff Office and the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. There were 39 Sheriffs present and most stated the relationship between the Sheriff Office and County Commission was not so great. On another note, an inmate has been in the hospital since November 28, 2024, and of those 13 days a deputy has had to sit with this inmate around the clock. Totaling almost \$10,000 in overtime. Not to mention, the cost of the medical bills. This is really frustrating the amount of time the hospital has kept this inmate and in my opinion, for unnecessary reasons but I have to follow the Doctor's orders to avoid a law suit. Other than this, things are rocking right along. Today, a \$127,351.00 check was given to finance for current funds and also some funds due from last month. The Sheriff's Office received over 750 papers, 557 of those served and 74% of those are served under the Traffic Division. The Sheriff's Office had 723 contacts last month, which is up considerably. Federal Inmates currently housed is around 34 inmates per day. The jail population this morning is 203 on average. For the month, 133 inmates were booked, 131 inmates were released and 94 incidents, with only one use of force recorded for review, was reported inside the jail. This consists of conflicts between inmates or either conflicts with inmates and jailors. Over 8149 miles were traveled by officers for the month, including 139 inmates transported to and from the courthouse. Three vehicle accidents reported for the month, 2 accidents involving deer and one involving an officer running a stop sign and striking another vehicle. Sheriff Hancock also stated the 911 center is becoming more of a concern for him. Calls for service at 911 is involving more and more non-emergency functions, such as license checks, wrecker service, alarms, etc. Sheriff Hancock stated officers are patrolling 292 miles of Crisp County answering calls and keeping the citizens safe today. On average, response time within Crisp County is 8 minutes. Considering the load on deputies and calls for service, Sheriff Hancock stated the Sheriff's Office is doing a fantastic job.

CRISP COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE – TRUCK ISSUE DATE

Assistant Fire Chief, Russell Ayotte, stated a mobile technician from Fire Line evaluated both GMC trucks which had electrical issues and pumping issues. The mobile technician fixed the electrical issues, pumping issues, and completed a pump test on both trucks which was passed by both trucks. Mr. Ayotte also reported the mobile technician found on a third truck, a bad fuse holder that melted and the technician was able to fix this issue as well. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, asked Mr. Ayotte if these corrections now have Crisp County Fire & Rescue up to date for the 2025 scheduled ISO Audit. Mr. Ayotte responded with a confident yes, stating the Crisp County Fire & Rescue is prepared for the 2025 ISO Audit. Mr. Ayotte also stated the Crisp County Fire & Rescue as of today, has answered 1044 calls with most of these calls being medical.

NEW BUSINESS

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

2025 CRISP COUNTY EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he would like to make one amendment to the 2025 employee holiday schedule, being Christmas Eve and Christmas Day observed on Thursday and Friday instead of scheduling the holiday for Wednesday and Thursday. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the 2025 Holiday Schedule with the amendment, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

ROCK ROAD BID AWARD

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated 4000 tons of aggregate rock will be placed on Rock Road, 24 feet wide and 4 inches deep. Through the bid process, 5 different companies entered a bid with the lowest bid being from Circle S. My recommendation is to award the bid to Circle S at \$20 per ton. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the bid award to Circle S, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett gave a preliminary report for the period of July through November, 2024. Report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined, are reporting YTD revenues received of \$8.6 million and expenditures at \$11.4 million leaving a negative -11% expenditure over revenue shortfall position at November 30th of -\$2.9 million. Reserves are sufficient to support cash flow until these numbers begin to even up. The Water Fund is reporting an YTD net profit of \$41,732. Water consumption billed for the month was 7,391,734 gallons to 1,515 customers and the USDA Bonds principal balance is current at \$1,039,647. The Landfill Fund, accrued YTD revenues less expenses leave this fund with net loss of -\$273,002. The total tonnage received for the month of November was 3,762.82 tons. Of the total tonnage received, 45% was received from the commercial contract, 8% under the city's residential contract and 3% under the county's curbside contract. The principal balance on the GEFA loans is current at \$486,959. Cash Report: The General and special revenue funds combined ended the month with \$14.7 million; The proprietary funds at \$11.9 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds at \$14.4 million. SPLOST Report Summaries: Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue as of Nov. 30th totaled \$20.1 million. Distribution #10 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$514,221

which is up almost 11% over this same reporting period from one year ago; it exceeds the six-year average for retail sales during the month of October from the 2017 issue as well. Issue to date collections are up to \$4.7 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at just under \$2.9 million. SPLOST Expenditures: \$219,333 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month of November. Projects benefiting were the Airport, the Sheriff's office, County Roads, Public Works, Sanitation & Solid Waste & the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. In summary, have collected \$2,024,923 since January of 2023 under the new TSPLOST Issue. Combining that with 2012 TSPLOST and other State and Local Revenue Sources, currently have over \$6.9 million programmed for local roads capital and maintenance projects. This month's distribution, Local Option Sales Tax of \$251,966 also represents an increase over last year of just under 11%. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts is eight outstanding loans with a total balance due of \$1.4 million. Lastly, the revenue by fund and expenditures by department summary report shows the expended percentage of appropriations for each individual department and the total for each fund. Because this report is preliminary, expenditures should be below 42%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are slightly over at 43%; the Water Fund is good at 40% and the Landfill is right on target at 42%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

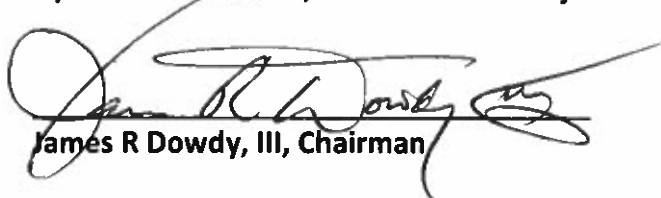
County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated utilities are being moved for Phase 1 of Fenn Road. The 2024 Paving Project - Local Maintenance Improvement Grant with road resurfacing continues. Initially, a leveling surface was placed on the roadways and now the actual smooth surface asphalt is being laid. This resurfacing project is 10.26 miles of roads (for portions of Williford Crossing, Dockweiler, Penia, and Twin Pines Road). ISO has given Crisp County the date of January 22, 2025, as the of our next ISO inspection. Crisp County Fire & Rescue is working to present the best information to at least maintain our rating, Class 5. Work has commenced on the maintenance hangar at the airport. A 75x75 hangar is being constructed by LRA. Mr. Harrell also stated, HB581 still seems to be of concern. The commission has the right to opt out, however, this would not be my recommendation as the electorate voted overwhelmingly for it statewide. In summary, this will cap values of Homestead property. FLOST is also a component which will have to be voted on next year. I expect additional guidance on this. Each governmental entity has the right to opt out (city, school board, and county). The law takes effect January 1, 2025, and automatically includes everyone. If any of the governmental entities chooses to opt out, they would have to have 3 public hearings. Rock Road work continues, and I am working with Mr. Lawson's office to finalize the closure of the old Rock Road. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

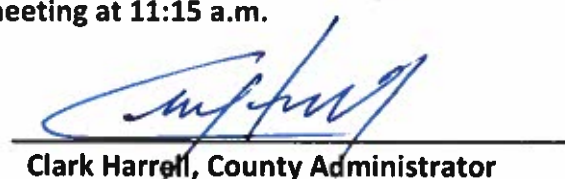
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into executive session at 10:30 am for Personnel, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of executive session at 11:15 am, motion seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator