

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

**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 Kody Franks 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 Felton to adopt the agenda for the February 11, 2025 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

**APPROVE MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 14, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

**SHERIFF REPORT**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Sheriff Hancock is unable to attend the Commission meeting but he did send a \$57,005.16 check for inmate housing along with a copy of his monthly report for each of you.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2024**

Justin Elliot, with Mauldin & Jenkins CPA & Advisors, presented the highlights of the audit and the audit process. Mr. Elliott stated there was no issues with the financial statements. He also stated as the auditor's responsibility, the Independent Auditor Report is to express an opinion on the County's financial statements based on the audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Government Auditing Standards, as a result auditors were able to issue an unmodified opinion (a clean opinion) which is the highest level of assurance external auditors can provide. Basically, this means the financial statements are considered to present fairly for the final position and the results of the County operations for the year ended June 30, 2024. The General Fund, essentially revenue funds, both are nearly \$20 million. The majority of the revenue is property taxes, nearly 46%. Expenditures, vast majority is public safety, nearly 55%. From 2019 to 2024 revenues are exceeding the expenditures, which is good. The fund balance (equity) increased nearly \$2.9 million over the last five years. The Water System and the Landfill are related to business funds. These operate somewhat as a private business enterprise. Everything seems to be running smoothly, revenues are covering operating

expenses. Single Audit Report, which is basically an audit of federal expenditures. Crisp County had over \$2 million, no issues were found. Mr. Elliot thanked Sherrie Leverett and her team for all their hard work in getting everything to Mauldin & Jenkins in a timely manner allowing auditors to quickly issue the audit in a timely manner.

#### **RESOLUTION 2025-001 BANK ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the Resolution is for a Probate Court Bank Authorization. The Bank Authorization designates certain employees and officials as authorized signatories on accounts. Mr. Harrell read the Resolution and requested the Board's consideration in approving the Bank Authorization. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to approve the Resolution allowing bank account authorization for the Crisp County Probate Court, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **JUDICIAL ALTERNATIVES OF GEORGIA CONTRACT FOR SERVICE**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the contract will mirror the Probate Court contract for sentencing offenders to Probation Services. This contract is at no cost to Crisp County. Expenses are paid by the offender. This contract allows the Magistrate Judge the opportunity to place an offender on probation instead of sentencing to serve time in jail. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to table the Judicial Alternative of Georgia Contract for Service , seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

#### **CRISP COUNTY AIRPORT FIXED BASED OPERATOR SERVICES**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Crisp County is currently constructing a 75x75 hangar at the airport. FAA monies involves a lot of red tape, part of this has had to be bid out for the fixed based operator services. Only one bid has been received and it was from Eric Richter, who is currently doing most of the hangar work and managing the airport. Mr. Harrell asked the Board's approval to continue the contract with Richter Aviation, LLC and Mr. Richter continue as the fixed based operator for the airport. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the bid from Richter Aviation, LLC allowing Mr. Richter to continue as the fixed based operator for the airport, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously**

#### **FINANCE REPORT**

Mrs. Leverett's preliminary report of revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Fund YTD Revenues exceeded expenses at January 31<sup>st</sup> by about 16% leaving a positive revenue over expenditure balance of about \$4.3 million. The proprietary funds, monthly activity for the Water Fund pushed the Fiscal YTD net income for this fund up to \$91,308. Water consumption billed for the month was 8,690,000 gallons, a total of 1,524 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1,030,588. The Landfill Fund, monthly revenues less expenses reduced the YTD net loss slightly to -\$198,591 at 1/31/25. Total tonnage for January was 3,625.21 tons. Approximately 39% of that was received under the local commercial contracts, 8% under the City's residential contract and 6% under the County's residential curbside service contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$449,436. The Cash report, General Fund and special revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$18.5 million; The proprietary funds \$12.2 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds \$14.4 million. The SPLOST Report Summaries,

Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue total just under \$21.0 million as of this report. Distribution #12 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$526,381, which is up about 8.0% from this same reporting period from one year ago. It also exceeds the six-year average for the month of December from the 2017 Issue. Issue to date collections have reached \$5.8 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at \$3.3 million. Detail list of all the SPLOST Expenditures for the month of January; \$193,308 spent in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies, projects benefiting were the Airport, County Roads, Public Works, Sanitation/Solid Waste, the Sheriff's Department and the cities of Arabi and Cordele. The 2022 Issue, in summary, after 24 months under this issue our collections are up to \$2.2 million. To date, including all transportation revenue sources, we have programed \$7.1 million in local road maintenance and improvement projects. The Local Option Sales Tax Distributions representing December retail sales, same as SPLOST, also shows an increase of just over 8% from this time last year. The last report included is preliminary 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. Expenditures should be at 58% or below. With the General and Water Funds at 52% and the Landfill at 51%, all major fund categories are within budget at this time.

### ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

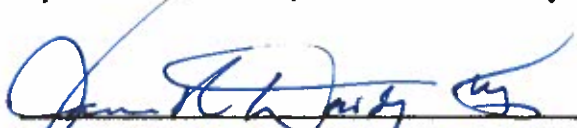
County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated the 2024 Paving Project - Local Maintenance Improvement Grant with road resurfacing continues. Currently working on the shoulders of the roadways, stop bars, and rumble strips with 85% completion. Construction work continues for the 75x75 maintenance hangar at the airport. Mr. Harrell also stated the City of Cordele voted to opt out of House Bill 581. Mr. Harrell stated he has requested a copy of the City's Resolution. The School Board was supposed to vote last night. Our legislative delegation is requesting a letter from the Board of Commissioners, signed by each County Commissioner, requesting to opt back in the City of Cordele through local legislation. The Propel group met in Athens this past week and continues to move forward with three main initiatives: (1) Downtown Redevelopment, (2) Children and Youth, and (3) Infrastructure. The infrastructure piece is what I am most involved with. In short, extending of water and sewer lines for future development. Funding is the main issue. Loan/Grant funds are available through GEFA, One Georgia, DCA, and Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into executive session at 10:00 am for Personnel, motion seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to come out of executive session at 10:20 am, motion seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

### ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

  
James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

  
Clark Harrell, County Administrator