

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 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, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Monica Irwin. Reverend 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 March 11, 2025 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 11, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Sheriff Hancock is unable to attend the Commission meeting but he did send a \$31,636.00 check for inmate housing along with a copy of his monthly report for each of you.

PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSIONERS

Davontae Hunt, Sr., Crisp County resident, thanked the Commissioners for allowing him to speak and stated he wanted to address the Commission about a particular situation involving a Crisp County employee, Mr. Joe-Joe Wright. Mr. Hunt stated following a Power Commission meeting the Chairman of the Crisp County School Board and employee of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners took to social media and decided he was going to request, someone unknown to me, to remove a picture of his grand-niece, who is the daughter of his niece, whom is also the Chairperson for the Crisp County Power Commission. At that time I shared with Mr. Wright that no one is concerned with his grandniece, his niece is in a position where she serves the public and in our eyes the relationship is immaterial. She is our chairperson and we are due the right to address her how we see such. In response, Joe-Joe decided that he was going to make comments that (1) is unbecoming of an elected official, (2) completely violates the social media policy that is in the Crisp County Board of Commissioners Handbook, and (3) is completely contrary to what I have inspected from the job description that Mr. Wright signed when he took on his role with Crisp County. There is also data that supports the mind frame he possesses and how Joe-Joe thinks his position with Crisp County as well as being an elected public official of the Crisp County Board of Education, allows him to use profanity and refer to a black man as a "boy." At this point, there has been several conversations where I was told Joe-Joe will be reporting to work at 12:00 pm today. In his position, and his responsibilities to provide our youth and adult programs through the Recreation Department, I am asking why the County Administrator has not already handled this

situation when he himself agreed Joe-Joe's actions were distasteful. I believe there were clear attempts to cover up Joe-Joe's actions based on the conversations I had with Clark and Monica. I would like this Board to make sense to me and to the people who are affected by the comments made by Joe-Joe because it's not equaling out to what is being asked by the Commissioners of the citizens for their votes versus the Commissioners' pledge to serve the citizens. I'm asking for clarity on this situation. Chairman Dowdy responded by saying the Board will not make a statement but will ask the Crisp County Attorney, Richard Lawson, to respond. Mr. Lawson stated it is a personnel matter and no need to discuss a personnel matter concerning an employee in an open meeting.

Kenya Williams, Crisp County resident, was not in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

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

CONTRACT FOR SERVICE: JUDICIAL ALTERNATIVES OF GEORGIA

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he presented the contract during last month's commission meeting. I have asked the Magistrate Judges to address the contract during today's meeting. Magistrate Judge, Brandon Rivers, introduced Scott Hawkins, the new Associate Magistrate Judge. Judge Rivers stated Mr. Hawkins has done a very good job and he is very pleased with him. Judge Rivers stated to the Board, if a person is convicted of a county ordinance violation the law allows Magistrate Court to divvy three separate forms of sentencing. (1) A probated sentence which is probation, (2) a fine, or (3) jail time. Maximum jail time is 60 days, maximum probation time is 6 months, and maximum fine is \$1000.00. Some instances can be both jail time and a fine. Magistrate Court does not have a contract with probation services. Therefore, if someone commits a County Ordinance violation and is unable to pay the fine that person goes to jail. Judge Rivers stated he does not believe a person should serve time in jail just because they cannot pay the fine. The only alternative to that would be probation. Probation allows the offender to pay a smaller monthly payment, including a probation fee, until the fine is paid in full. The probation service is at no cost to the county. The monthly probation fee will be paid to JAG Probation Services and the fine amount will be paid to the County. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to approve the Judicial Alternatives of Georgia contract for probation services, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

SURPLUS PROPERTY: CRISP COUNTY FIRE & RESCUE

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated he had a request from Crisp County Fire and Rescue to donate a shipping container to the City of Cordele Fire Department. The shipping container will be used to complete Burn Building Training. In return, the City of Cordele Fire Department has agreed to allow Crisp County Fire and Rescue use of the shipping container for Burn Building training as well. The City of Cordele Fire Department will also be responsible for transporting the shipping container. Mr. Harrell also informed the Board in 2018 Crisp County purchased three shipping containers, which are the CON-X type boxes, and they are located down at the Fire and Rescue Headquarters. The intent for the boxes was to build a live fire training facility but that has never occurred. The boxes were purchased at a price of \$2295.00 each. In moving forward, the two entities working together will save Crisp County money by not having to set-up a Burn Building training area. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to**

surplus one CON-X Box to the City of Cordele Fire Department for their Fire Training Facility, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Leverett's preliminary report and executive summary for the major funds of the County as of the end of February, 2025. The financial report shows the monthly and YTD activity for the General & three major Special Revenue Funds, combined, these funds ended the month with a 10% positive revenue over expenditure position of \$2.6 million. The Water Fund, February activity dropped net income down by - \$11,458 to \$76,667 YTD. Customer usage billed for the month was 4,170,000 gallons to 1529 customers. The USDA Bonds are current at \$1,026,040. The Landfill Fund, February activity decreased the YTD accrued net loss to -\$188,459. The total tonnage received for the month of February was 3,745.12 tons. 33% was delivered under the commercial contracts, 8% under the City's residential contract and 4% under the County's curbside contract. The one remaining GEFA Loan is current at \$430,583. The cash on hand report as of February 28, 2025, ended the month with \$18.9 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds; \$12.1 million in the proprietary funds; and \$14.2 million in the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds.

SPLOST Report Summaries: Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue totaled \$21.1 million as of this report. Distribution #13 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$450,627, which is up 3.4% from this same reporting period from one year ago. It also exceeds the six-year average for January distributions from the 2017 Issue. Issue to date collections have reached \$6.2 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at \$3.6 million. SPLOST Expenditures for the month of February: Spent a total of \$294,503 in Special Local Option Sales Tax pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were the Airport, Roads, Sanitation/Solid Waste, the Detention Center and Sheriff's office and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi.

Issue to date report on the 2022 TSPLOST revenues, both capital and operating projects supported by those funds, in summary, collected a total of \$2.3 million to date under this issue. Combining that with other revenue sources, the county has expended and/or obligated \$7.2 million in local road maintenance and capital projects using 2022 TSPLOST Funds. Updated schedule on our LOST receipts, same here as the SPLOST, this month's distribution is up 3.4% from this same reporting period last year. The CDBG Revolving Loan Fund monthly report, which includes the balance and status of all our CDBG Revolving Loan Fund Accounts, ended the month of February with a total outstanding balance of \$1.4 million for all these accounts. 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 67% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined are ok at 66%; the Water Fund is good at 62%; and the Landfill is also within budget at 56%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, stated Crisp County has a lot of projects going on, such as the 75x75 Hangar at the airport which was poured last week. Mr. Harrell stated it has been an honor and a privilege to work for the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. There are dedicated employees in Crisp County and you all should be proud of them and I know you are. Great elected officials here and I am extremely proud of the accomplishments that we all have made together over the last five years. Thank you for the honor and thank you for the privilege. Commissioner Felton responded to Mr. Harrell stating he has really enjoyed working with him, he has learned a lot from him and he will be missed. Mr. Harrell also attended several meetings last month. Commissioner Nance also responded by stating Mr. Harrell has been the best County Administrator he has worked with and he has done an outstanding job. Chairman Dowdy responded as well by stating the Board wishes Mr. Harrell well and he will be missed.

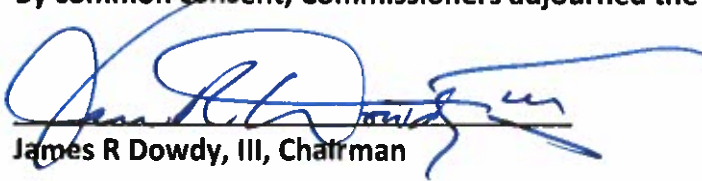
Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into executive session at 9:56 am for Personnel, motion seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to come out of executive session at 10:38 am, motion seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

Crisp County Board of Commissioners is in support of County Administrator, Clark Harrell's suggestion to appoint Michael Dunnavant as Interim Assistant County Administrator. By common consent, Commissioners agree to appoint Mickey Dunnavant as Interim Assistant County Administrator.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Clark Harrell, County Administrator