

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 13, 2026**

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 Mickey Dunnivant, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Monica Irwin. Pastor Isai-Machado gave the invocation and County Administrator Mickey Dunnivant 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 January 13, 2026 Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION/APPOINTMENTS

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, it's time again to elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman to lead the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Dunnivant stated, the floor is open for nominations for the election of Chairman for the 2026 term: **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to nominate James Dowdy, III, as Chairman for the 2026 term, Commissioner Nance moved that the nomination be closed. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, he has a nomination for James Dowdy as Chairman, and a motion from Commissioner Nance to close the nominations, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, Commissioner Dowdy has been duly elected as Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, the floor is open for nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman for the 2026 term: Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to nominate Larry Felton as Vice-Chairman for the 2026 term, Commissioner Nance moved that the nomination be closed. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, he has a nomination for Larry Felton as Vice Chairman, and a motion from Commissioner Nance to close the nominations, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, Commissioner Felton has been duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Crisp County Board of Commissioners. Mr. Dunnivant congratulated Mr. Dowdy and Mr. Felton. Mr. Dunnivant turned the floor over to Chairman Dowdy. Chairman Dowdy asked for nominations of County Clerk for the 2026 term. Commissioner Nance offered a motion to re-appoint Monica Irwin as the County Clerk for the 2026 term, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously. Chairman Dowdy asked for nominations of County Attorney for the 2026 term. Commissioner Nance offered a motion to re-appoint Rick Lawson as the County Attorney for the 2026 term, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

Sheriff Hancock, stated, the Sheriff's Office received 176 warrants, served 117; court hours totaled 208 hours and transport hours totaled 57 hours. Total Citations written last month was 680. Federal Inmate Housing Contract has been completed and our federal inmate number has been increased for housing. Total last month for inmate housing was \$43,359.00, this included U.S. Marshals, Cordele P.D., City of Arabi, and Wilcox S.O. Vehicle cost per mile last month was \$0.23 per mile. Sheriff Hancock also stated, the Crisp County Sheriff Office has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cordele Police Department. This will be presented at next month's Commission Meeting. Sheriff Hancock stated, in short term, the MOU states County Deputies will assist when needed in the City and City Deputies will assist when needed in the County. This allows for a greater force of unity in Law Enforcement working together. Sheriff Hancock stated, he hopes the new City Board and the new Police Administration is able to work hand –in-hand with the Sheriff's Office and the MOU bridges the gap and allows us all to work together within the City and the County.

Chairman Dowdy recognized Pastor Corbin with the Senior Center. Pastor Corbin thanked the Board for the repairs completed at the Senior Center and he also complimented the Crisp County Maintenance Department and he also stated, the department did an excellent job and the Senior Center looks real nice.

Chairman Dowdy also recognized Chris Hewitt from the Crisp County Power Commission. Mr. Hewitt stated, trying to wrap-up the substation in courts and finished up all scheduled maintenance & repairs on the hydro facilities. Mr. Hewitt also stated, he spoke with the Data Center developer after Christmas and is expecting to move forward the first of the year.

Chairman Dowdy recognized the new Editor, Josh Windus, with the Cordele Dispatch.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, Justin Elliott, with Mauldin & Jenkins CPA's and Advisors, is here to give an update on the 2025 Audit. Mr. Elliott, stated, as a part of the audit it is their responsibility to express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Government Auditing Standards and other applicable standards of the state. Mr. Elliott stated, he is happy to say, that they were able to issue an Unmodified Opinion also known as a Clean Opinion, which is the only Opinion you want in an audit. This is the highest level of assurance we can offer. This basically means your financial statements are considered to be presented fairly, which is a good thing. Highlights of the financials, mainly sticking to the General Fund where majority of your operations are; majority of revenues is property taxes and various other taxes which is 50% or more of revenues. General Fund expenses, majority is in the Public Safety function. Revenues are also sufficient for operating expenses in both water system and landfill funds. Mr. Elliot thanked Mrs. Leverett, Finance Director, and her team for all of their hard work during the audit process. Mr. Elliott reiterated the audit producing a Clean Opinion, which is the highest level of assurance.

PUBLIC REQUEST

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, Danny Flick, from Rock the House Ministries, is wanting to do a week of prayer in April at the Crisp County Courthouse. Mr. Flick stated, Rock the House

Ministries is teaming with the International Bible Reading Association and planning an entire Bible reading marathon. This is the first time in Crisp County that the entire Bible is being read out loud publically. Mr. Flick stated, he is asking permission from the Board to have Friday, April 10th through Friday, April 17th to hold the Bible Reading Marathon at the Crisp County Courthouse. Mr. Flick stated, he will have a sign-in sheet for volunteers who would like to read and encourages volunteers from the community to sign-up. Mr. Flick stated, he brought with him to the meeting Ms. Jerri Tuck to give an idea of the Marathon. Ms. Tuck has been holding a Bible Reading Marathon in Bleckley County for 22 years and it has been successful & changed lives. Ms. Tuck stated, the Marathon is held on the Friday preceding the National Day of Prayer and ends with a ceremony on the National Day of Prayer. We have had various opening night speakers and it has been an amazing success with lots of hard work. For the third year in a row we have had over 400 people reading. Ms. Tuck also stated, 7 years ago she started a state wide Bible reading where she divided the Bible into 159 equal readings. For 7 years she has had Representatives in every County from the State of Georgia reading a portion of the Bible on July 14th in connection with 2Chronicles7:14. Ms. Tuck stated, she is excited about Crisp County doing the Bible Reading Marathon. Mr. Danny Flick stated, his contact information is listed on Linked-In and on Facebook.

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, this morning we have a Public Hearing on the FY26 CDBG Pre-Application. Mr. Dunnivant asked all in attendance to sign the sign-in sheet. Mr. Dunnivant read the following statement:

A Public Hearing has been duly advertised to discuss and make the public aware that the County is considering requesting a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$1,000,000 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). These funds must be primarily used to benefit low and moderate income people. These funds can be used for activities in the areas of housing, public facilities, including water, sewer, streets and drainage, and economic development. This Public Hearing is for any citizen to ask questions or provide comments. We invite citizens to visit a survey website that has been set up to solicit comments and feedback on potential projects. It can be accessed by scanning the QR Code (we will provide copy) or by visiting our website at www.crispcounty.com. This survey will be linked on the County's website. We will be glad to answer any questions from the Board or the public at this time.

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY26 CDBG PRE-APPLICATION
9:00 AM**

Present:

James R Dowdy, III, Chairman; Larry Felton, Vice Chairman; Commissioners Sam Farrow, Jr., Mark Crenshaw & James Nance. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant; County Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett; County Attorney, Rick Lawson; County Clerk, Monica Irwin. (Sign-in sheet attached)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to make the public aware that the County is considering requesting a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) of up to \$1,000,000 from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA). These funds should be primarily used to benefit low and moderate-income

people. These funds can be used for activities in the areas of housing, public facilities, and economic development.

Comments:

There were several people in attendance (sign-in sheet attached). The only comment came from Mr. Herbert Gladin. He inquired as to if any of the funds would be available to improve housing in the City. County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, responded that our plans are to use the funds for infrastructure improvements in a low to moderate income neighborhood area.

Adjournment:

The Public Hearing closed at 10:15 AM

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2026-001

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, the Resolution is to set the 2026 Qualifying Fees. This is basically a Resolution to fix and ordering the publication of qualification fees for each County office to be filled in the General Primary Election to be held May 19, 2026 or a date that is set by the 2026 Georgia General Assembly. The notice of each County office to be filled in the General Primary Election and the qualification fee will be published in the Cordele Dispatch as required by Georgia Law O.C.G.A. 21-2-131. Mr. Dunnivant read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution by the Governing Authority of Crisp County setting qualifying fees for the 2026 election and authorizing publication of the same, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2026-002

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, the Resolution is naming the Airport Terminal after Fixed Based Operator, Dub Cooper. Mr. Cooper has served 66 years at the Crisp County-Cordele Airport. Mr. Dunnivant read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to adopt the Resolution naming the Crisp County-Cordele Airport Terminal after Fixed Based Operator, Dub Cooper, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

PROPOSED BUDGET/AD VALOREM TAX CALENDAR

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, the 2026 Proposed Budget/ Ad Valorem Tax Calendar has significant dates concerning taxes. The calendar is laid out with different dates and times in order to work on the 2027 budget and ad valorem taxes ending June 30, 2027. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the 2026-2027 Proposed Budget/Ad Valorem Tax Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, stated, this month's executive summary report includes a preliminary report of revenues and expenditures at the midway point of this fiscal year for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds. Combined, these funds are reporting year to date revenues of \$13.1 million, less expenditures of \$12.5 million leaving a positive 2% position of \$612,000 at 12/31/25. As of this report, the Finance Department has received about 55% of the ad valorem tax revenue projections for this fiscal year. The proprietary funds, December activity increased the Water Fund net income to \$110,130 for the year. Water consumption billed for the month was 5,575,000 gallons to 1,552 customers and The USDA Bonds are current at \$984,514. The Landfill Fund, accrued revenues and expenses at 12/31/25 increased the net gain here to \$363,503 YTD. The total tonnage received for the month of December was 5,441.40. 28% of that being received under the two main commercial accounts, 7% under the City of Cordele residential contracts and 5% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA loans are current at \$258,134. Cash report, The General and Special Revenue funds combined are reporting cash on hand of \$16.8 million; The proprietary funds \$13.2 million and the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds \$17.7 million. SPLOST Report Summaries: Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue as of Dec. 31st totaled \$21.8 million. Distribution #23 under the 2023 Issue came in at \$506,793, which is up slightly, less than 1% from this same reporting period from one year ago. Issue to date collections have reached \$10.3 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at \$6.4 million. \$325,537.71 was spent in Special Local Option Sales Tax Pennies during the month. Projects benefiting were Roads, Public Works, and Solid Waste, County Buildings, the Detention Center, and the Cities of Cordele and Arabi. Issue to date report on the 2022 TSPLOST revenues: In summary, collected \$3.3 million since January of 2023 under this ten-year Issue. Combining that with other State and Local Revenue Sources, currently have over \$10.4 million in Special Transportation Tax dollars programmed for local roads capital and maintenance projects. Local Option Sales Tax Distributions, similar to SPLOST, this month's distribution is up less than 1% over this same reporting period last year. The 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. Because this report is preliminary all expenditures should be at 50% or below. As of this report, overall, the General and Special Revenue Funds combined were at 46%, the Water Fund was at 42% and the Landfill Fund came in at 33%. The FY25 Audit Report has been completed and was timely submitted to the State Department of Audits and other agencies as required. It is also available for public review on the County's website.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnivant, stated, he has addressed road and driveway issues throughout the county. Public Works Director, Carl Gamble, has been using the magnet on Rock Road. Cameras have been purchased and placed in locations where people have been dumping illegally. Pictures are being turned over to the Sheriff's Office for prosecution. Mr. Dunnivant also stated, concerning grant funding for new infrastructure improvements, he has had meetings and phone conversations with Senator Summers, Representative Williams, Rebecca White from the Department of Community Affairs, and Christy Bozeman from Georgia Department of Economic Development. Mr. Dunnivant also met with Joe Dan Thompson to discuss on-line training for employees and met with Ben Bray from Motorola to discuss radios. Mr. Dunnivant stated, he met with Sara Rowley of Sunbelt Consulting and Greg Bacon of Lanier Engineering to establish a questionnaire for CDBG. Mr. Dunnivant also stated, he asked City Manager, Angela Redding, for a letter of support when we applied for the CDBG Grant and she & I discussed having the County Planning & Zoning Department meet with the City

Planning & Community Development Department to discuss upcoming projects. Mr. Dunnivant stated, he also met with City of Cordele Planning & Community Development Director, Mary Darby, along with Community Advancement Director, Maurice Hill, to discuss infrastructure and Interstate Exits. Mr. Dunnivant also attended several meetings last month.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into Executive Session at 11:00 am for Personnel, Litigation, and Property, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to come out of Executive Session at 11:41 am, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to re-appoint J.C. Clark to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.

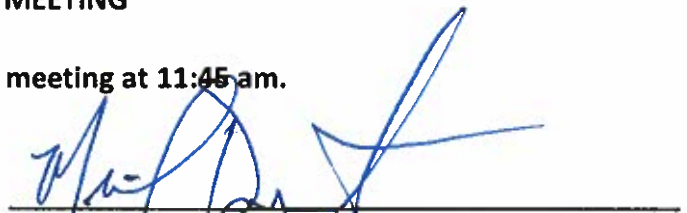
REGION 6 ADVISORY COUNCIL: MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

Chairman, James Dowdy, agreed to serve as interim on the Region 6 Advisory Council for Mental Health Development until the Board is able to appoint a permanent member.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:45 am.


James R Dowdy, III, Chairman


Mickey Dunnivant, County Administrator