

**MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 9, 2022**

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 A. James Nance, Jr, Larry Felton, Sam Farrow, and Mark Crenshaw in attendance. Others present were County Administrator Clark Harrell, Kimberly Reid (sitting in for County Attorney Rick Lawson), Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Monica Irwin. Rick Smarr 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.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 12, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sheriff Hancock was unable to attend the Commission meeting. County Administrator, Clark Harrell, presented a check totaling \$63,327.27 to Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, for July's inmate housing.

GEORGIA FORESTRY ANNUAL REPORT

Marty Fore reported fire activity and the number of burn permits issued this year is up compared to past years. Mr. Fore also advised the Commissioners and citizens of the guidelines for burning once a permit has been issued and also the types of burning allowed without a permit. He also stated the Crisp County Forestry has a new number 229-268-8608. Mr. Fore congratulated and thanked the Crisp County Fire Rescue for their support and the fine job done by all.

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Fire Chief, Michael Postell, reported the Training Officer position has been filled by Firefighter Willie Jackson. He also reported there are several candidates to be interviewed for the three open firefighter positions. Mr. Postell also gave an update on the firefighter injured during the July 23, 2022, Synergy Fire.

RESOLUTION 2022-015 TEN AND UNDER BASEBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution recognizing the Crisp County 10-Under Baseball Team as well as the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution commending Crisp County 10-Under Baseball Team and declare August 9, 2022, 10-Under Baseball All-Star Day, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTION 2022-014 SECOND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, read the Resolution for the selection of additional County Boards of Equalization by the Grand Jury in counties having more than 10,000 parcels of real property. Mr. Harrell stated the purpose of the Resolution is to remove any obstacles, wherever possible, to provide fair and equitable tax assessment on all property. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution to expedite the handling of tax appeals for the citizens of Crisp County by establishing a second Board of Equalization, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

FIVE YEAR TAX DIGEST

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, informed the Board of the hard work put into this year's budget and advised the Board a Public Hearing needs to be scheduled for the proposed millage rate. Mr. Harrell also advised the Board a Called Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 26, 2022, at 10:00am to adopt and set the millage rate for 2022. The millage rate for 2022 is 11.1180 mills. This will be advertised in the paper prior to the Called Meeting. It will also take place after the Board of Education meets to adopt their millage rate on August 25, 2022. The millage rate will need to be adopted and sent to the State of Georgia before September 1, 2022. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to advertise the new millage rate in the Cordele Dispatch, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX CERTIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board the Local Option Sales Tax comes up for renewal every ten years and 2022 is the renewal period. Mr. Harrell asked for the Board's support to continue the Local Option Sales Tax at the current rate agreed upon with the City of Cordele and with the City of Arabi. The current rate is 49% for Cordele, 49% for Crisp County, and 2% for Arabi. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to continue the Local Option Sales Tax at the current rate as agreed upon with the City of Cordele and the City of Arabi, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.**

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, advised the Board of a few citizens' requests to come before the Board:

DOWDY BUILDING – ROSIE WATKINS

Mrs. Rosie Watkins presented the Board with a packet containing many years of awards and recognitions received for her support and educational tutoring skills provided to the young people in the community. Mrs. Watkins requested help from the Board to resolve the issue with Family Connections not allowing her to continue occupying an office space in the Dowdy Building since her husband's passing. Mrs. Watkins' husband took care of the janitorial obligations for the Dowdy Building in lieu of rent for the office space. Mrs. Watkins explained to the Board that her age and health will not allow her to continue the original janitorial obligations made a few years ago between her, her husband, and Family Connections in lieu of rent. Shervia Koontz and Monica Robinson spoke on behalf of Family Connections explaining the rent requirements and stated they are more than willing to sit down with Mrs. Watkins and try to resolve the issue. **The Board is in agreement for the two parties to reach a resolution among themselves. No decision was made at this time.**

SIGN REQUEST – RICK WEHLITZ

Mr. Wehlitz requested recognition from the Board for Captain Ronald Ray, a Crisp County native, who received the Medal of Honor. In 1966, Mr. Ray was a Captain in the Vietnam War who threw himself on a grenade, becoming severely wounded, and refused to evacuate until all his men were evacuated from the area. Mr. Wehlitz asked for the Board to consider honoring the Crisp County Native for his heroism during the War by dedicating a plaque in his honor to be housed at the Veterans Park and to also put up a sign at the county line recognizing the Crisp County Native. **The Board unanimously agreed to research the options necessary to fulfill Mr. Wehlitz request. No decision was made at this time.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, gave a preliminary executive summary of the financial status on the major funds of the County after just one month of the new fiscal year. The General & three major Special Revenue Funds are showing \$984,000 in revenue collections for the month. Combined with \$1.8 million in expenditures leaves us with a -4% shortfall after the first thirty days of FY23 of -\$834,775. The Water Fund is reporting a preliminary net income of \$24,656 at July 31. Customer usage billed for the month was 5,782,300 gallons to a total of 1,465 customers and the USDA Bonds are current at \$1.2 million. The Landfill Fund ended the month with a net income of \$213,410. Due to the coal ash project, the total tonnage received is 15,785.94 tons for the month of July. Approximately 68% of that was coal ash, leaving 11% delivered under the commercial waste contract, 3% under the City of Cordele's residential contract and 2% under the County's curbside contract. The GEFA Loans are current at \$1.2 million. Cash on hand report as of July 31st is \$17.3 million in the General and Special Revenue Funds combined; \$9.0 million in the proprietary funds; and \$9.9 million in the SPLOST & TSPLOST funds giving a county wide total of \$36.3 million. Mrs. Leverett reported no change in the 2011 SPLOST over last month....Appropriations remain at \$23.1 million, leaving \$134,000 to close out this issue. The 2017 SPLOST Issue Report is good news again. Distribution No. 54 in the amount of \$497,985 is up about 7% over this same period one year ago. It brings issue to date revenue to \$20.3 million. Expenditures and appropriations have reached \$13.9 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny for the month of July were Public Works, the CCSO, Roads, Sanitation/Solid Waste, and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of \$148,194. The 2012 TSPLOST Fund issue to date collections have reached \$7.8 million. Combine that with LMIG and GDOT Revenue and we have expended and/or obligated \$11.3 million in local road maintenance and capital road projects through the Transportation Tax. L.O.S.T distributions this month of \$244,123 pretty much dittos the SPLOST in that it is also up 7% from this same time last year. We currently have eight CDBG Revolving loans with a total outstanding balance of \$1.8 million. All Departments and divisions Revenues by fund and expenditures by department preliminary report for the first month of FY 23 should actually be at or below 8% of their annual allowances. Overall, the preliminary numbers show the general and special revenue funds are on target at 8%, the water fund is under at 6% and the Landfill is also right on target at 8%.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Harrell reported property and right-of-way acquisition continues in the Meadow Park Subdivision pending CBDG. Next step is to put the project out for bid. Verbal agreements have been reached with the Road Rock Project. County Attorney, Rick Lawson, has completed a draft of the agreements with Alice Nutt and JLRC. Closing on the properties will occur soon after signatures. We are awaiting further non-disclosure agreements with N/S Railroad on this project. The Local Options Sales

Tax agreements have been made with the City of Cordele and Arabi. The split between the parties will remain the same for the next ten year period. Mr. Harrell also reported the LMIG 22 bidding process is forthcoming. A request has been made from the Museum of Aviation – Warner Robins, to acquire the F-13A aircraft so they can refurbish, display, and preserve it for the future. This aircraft has been entrusted to the citizens here since 1954. In exchange, DNR is offering to upgrade the existing aircraft display area with new fencing, ADA compliance, lighting, and other features to enhance the display. The U.S. Air force will make other aircraft available for loan and directly to GA DNR. Mr. Harrell also reported he attended several meetings last month and will be out of town August 16-22, 2022.

GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR LITIGATION AND PERSONNEL

Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to go into Executive Session for potential litigation and real estate, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to go into Executive Session at 10:47 am.

COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

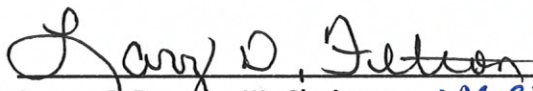
Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 11:11 am, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried with all Commissioners agreeing to come out of Executive Session.

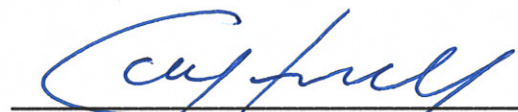
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

County Administrator, Clark Harrell, suggested to the Board a Memorandum of Understanding be established between the Community Council and Crisp County for the utility costs at the Dowdy Building. The County will not be responsible for utility expenses for the Dowdy Building effective July 1, 2022. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton, seconded by Commissioner Nance, motion carried unanimously.**

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.


~~James B. Dowdy, III, Chairman~~ *vice*
Larry Felton


Clark Harrell, County Administrator