MINUTES OF THE CRISP COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 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 Mickey Dunnavant, County Attorney Rick Lawson, Finance Director Sherrie Leverett and County Clerk Monica Irwin. Associate Pastor Tania Montero of Cordele First Church gave the invocation and County Administrator Mickey Dunnavant led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. Chairman Dowdy welcomed all in attendance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT

Chairman Dowdy asked for a motion from the Board to amend today's Agenda. Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to amend the Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to adopt the October 14, 2025 amended Agenda, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 9, 2025, the Called Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2025 and the Public Hearing Minutes of September 19, 2025, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF REPORT

Colonel Joey Arzola reported the following:

Warrants:	Received	154	Served	128
Civil Papers	Received	218	Served	175
Subpoenas	Received	212	Served	159

Court Hours	101
Total Court Man Hours	274
Total Prisoners transported for court	70
Traffic Division/Road Patrol	685
Total Citations Written: Warnings	361
Arabi Citations:	0

City of Cordele Citations			21	
Juvenile Citations			0	
Superior Court Citation			13	
Probate Court			651	
Total DUI'S			2	
Total Drug Arrest			5	
Accidents Worked/CCSO			22	
Inmate Housing				
US Marshals	total days:	625		$ 31,875.00
Cordele PD	total days:	52		$2,184.00
City of Arabi	total days:	34		$1,428.00
Wilcox Co SO	total days:	77		$2,695.00
			Total	$ 38,182.00

PROCLAMATION 2025-018

County Administrator Mickey Dunnavant, stated, the Proclamation represents Red Ribbon Week and this year's theme is "Paws-itively Drug Free." Mrs. Monica Simmons, Cordele Chamber of Commerce President, stated, the Red Ribbon Week kick-off will be October 27th at 8:00 am at the Crisp County High School and a "road stop" to tie red ribbons on vehicle antennas will be held on Hwy 41 South October 24th from 9:00 am to 9:30 am. Mr. Dunnavant read the Proclamation. **Motion was made by Commissioner Crenshaw to adopt the Resolution proclaiming October 27th – 31st as Red Ribbon Week for Drug Awareness, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

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

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, this is just a letter received from GDOT stating Crisp County was awarded an additional LMIG award for $54,977. This doesn't require any signatures.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, the Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation & Farm Service Agency) lease amendment needs to be ratified. Mr. Dunnavnat read the lease amendment. The current rental rate $13.05 a square foot has been amended to $24.00 a square

foot. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to ratify the United States Department of Agriculture Lease Amendment, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, he would like to ask Mr. Ron Rowe, with ACCG Retirement Services, to speak in reference to the additional retirement service offered to Crisp County by ACCG. Mr. Ron Rowe stated, most employers now days have the Roth option available to employees to be able to invest, if they choose. This is not an adoption of a new plan but just checking a box allowing this option under Crisp County's current retirement plan. This is an allowance adoption which gives employees flexibility in their retirement options because some want to do pre-tax retirement. With the Roth option, if it's a qualified distribution, after age 59 ½ and it's been in the account 5 years or longer there are no taxes on anything in the Roth account later. This helps employees manage their tax burden later in life. This is no cost to the county. It is a Resolution and Amendment to check a box in the plan to say we will allow that option.

ACCG 457(B) DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, read the Adoption Agreement. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Agreement Amendment #1 to the ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan for Crisp County Employees, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION 2025-017

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, read the Resolution. **Motion was made by Commissioner Nance to adopt the Resolution for the Agreement Amendment #1 to the ACCG 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

CRISP COUNTY AIRPORT

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, this is a request for the Board's approval of the 5 year Cordele/Crisp Capital Improvement Plan which is basically funding the budget for future airport capital improvements. Coming up in 2026 will be construction of a five unit box hangar. **Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to approve the Crisp County Airport 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.**

FINANCE REPORT

Finance Director, Sherrie Leverett, stated, today is preliminary report for the first quarter of FY 26. Revenues and expenditures for the County's General & three major Special Revenue Funds combined are reporting a FYTD shortfall of -12% after the first 90 days of -$3.2 million. As you are aware, a resolution setting the 2025 Ad Valorem Tax millage rate was approved on September 19th. Following that meeting the digest package was completed, submitted, and has now been approved and accepted by the Ga. DOR. The Tax Commissioner has advised that the 2025 tax notices should be mailed out this week. The Water Fund ended the quarter with a net loss of $-4,182. Water consumption billed for the month was 7,218,000 gallons to 1,549 customers. The USDA Bonds principal balance is current at $993,859. The Landfill Fund is reporting an accrued net YTD income of $138,242. The total tonnage received for the month of September was 5,193.01 & the balance on the one remaining GEFA loan is current at $296,891. (Matures 12/26, original $2.8, 2011) Cash Report: The General and special revenue funds combined ended the

month just under $13.4 million; The proprietary funds with $12.6 million and the SPLOST and TSPLOST funds at $17.9 million; bringing County wide total to $43.9 million. SPLOST Report Summaries: Expenditures from the 2017 SPLOST Issue have now reached $21.9 million; Distribution #20 under the 2023 Issue came in at $535,695, which is up by 24% over this same period one year ago and it also exceeds the six-year average for retail sales during the month of August from the 2017 issue; brings issue to date collections up to $9.8 million while expenditures & encumbrances came at $5.5 million. Projects benefiting from our Special Local Option Sales Tax penny during the month were the Airport, Public Works, Solid Waste, CCSO, the Detention Center and the cities of Arabi and Cordele for a total amount expended of $726,856. TSPLOST Fund: The September distribution brings the Issue to Date monthly average to $92,884 and revenue collections up to $2,972,293. Combined with other funding sources, over $9.4 million in local road project cost expended or obligated utilizing TSPLOST funds. Local Option Sales Tax Distributions: The regular monthly distribution is up 24% from twelve months ago. Last report is the 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. As of Sept. 30th, everyone should be at or below 25%. As of this report, the General & Special Revenue Funds Combined are at 24%, the Water Fund is at 28%, and the Landfill finished the month at 19%.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, last month was a busy month. I attended the Georgia's Joint Agriculture Committee meeting held at the Perry Fairgrounds and had the opportunity to speak with Senator Russ Goodman who is the Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee and Senator Robert Dickey who is the Chairman of the House of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. I also spoke with our very own Senator Carden Summers who is a member of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee. We spoke at length about additional LMIG for Agriculture community's road paving repairs and the use of LMIG to spot gravel dirt roads. As you know, the truck weight sunset July 1, 2025, allowing trucks weighing 88,000 lbs. to ride on our county roads which are rated for a little over 54,000 lbs. We are waiting for quotes to start repairing/repaving the roads from the FEMA storm drain work and to re-stripe some of our county roads. I learned from River Valley Meeting that Windstream and Star Link have received grants for fiber work. Interviews will be Friday, October 17, 2025, for the two candidates applying for the position of Planning & Zoning Director. Also, working with the Sheriff's Office concerning mental health patient transports. State Law states the county is responsible for arranging transport, not necessarily doing the transport. I have asked for data concerning the transports that we currently do to see if it is cheaper to contract a transport service. Property tax notices are in the process of being mailed this month. Public Works Director, Carl Gamble, received a new Massey Ferguson Tractor to use for ROW mowing. I also attended the ACCG Legislative Conference last week. The three policy priorities that ACCG will pursue this upcoming legislation session will be Implementation of Next Gen 911 Systems, Long Term Transportation Funding, and Electric Franchise Fees. One of the hot topic sessions at the conference was titled A Tax Reform is Brewing in Georgia, are You Prepared? We were provided a questionnaire with numerous questions pertaining to property tax and sales tax. We will be working to answer all of those questions and meet with Representative Noel Williams and Senator Carden Summers to discuss. Roughly 46% of our General Fund Revenue comes from Ad Valorem Taxes; the balance comes from fees, fines, sales tax, and special service district. Mr. Dunnavant also attended several meetings last month.

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to go into Executive Session at 10:17 am for Personnel and Litigation, seconded by Commissioner Farrow, motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Felton to come out of Executive Session at 11:32 am, seconded by Commissioner Crenshaw, motion carried unanimously.

ANIMAL SERVICES BOARD

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, he received a letter of interest from Mrs. Sherry Smith to serve on the Crisp County Animal Services Board. Mr. Dunnavant read the letter. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to appoint Sherry Smith to serve as a member of the Crisp County Animal Services Board, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, the Visitation Center and Airport Hangar at the State Park is in need of some repairs/updates. The state is applying for a grant and has asked for in-kind work from the County to off-set some of the costs. Carl Gamble, Public Works Director, has estimated a value of $189,500 for site prep work. **Motion was made by Commissioner Farrow to allow Public Works to provide In-Kind Work totaling $189,500 at the Visitation Center and Airport Hangar located at the Georgia Veterans State Park, seconded by Commissioner Felton, motion carried unanimously.**

Superior Court Judges

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, House Bill 85 was passed this year which basically pays the Superior Court Judges salaries. The total for all three Superior Court Judges is $200,000.00. The supplement we were given was $20,000 per Judge. This amount will stay in our budget. No action needed just wanted to share this information.

County Administrator, Mickey Dunnavant, stated, a Land Bank discussion is on-going and what I am looking for is a vote from the Board to remain a member of the Cordele Land Bank or to leave the Land Bank. **By common consent, Commissioners agreed to remove Crisp County Board of Commissioners as a member of the Cordele Land Bank.**

By common consent, Commissioners agreed to hold the Crisp County Board of Commissioners November Regular Meeting on November 20, 2025 at 9:00 am.

ADJOURN MEETING

By common consent, Commissioners adjourned the meeting at 11:42 am.

James R Dowdy, III, Chairman

Mickey Dunnavant, County Administrator