

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, April 8, 2020, 10:00 A.M.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order

Commissioners:

Present: Chairman Daniel B. Leeper.

Present via speakerphone: Commissioners Justin Taylor, Aaron C. Bell, Pat Edwards, and Thomas R. Ford.

Other Officials Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Manager/County Attorney, and Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager. Also present via speakerphone was Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department; and Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director.

Staff Present: Megan Diehl, Office of Management and Budget Director, and Brenda Linville and Peggy Snyder, Deputy Clerks.

Official Agenda Summary:

SS200408 - 10:01:05 Mr. Mullin advised that if anyone watching this meeting online wished to have their comments read into the record, they can do so by e-mailing their comments to comments@nassaucountyfl.com. If a person wishes to be telephoned during this meeting, they can e-mail their contact information and topic for discussion to the same e-mail address. Voicemails may also be left at 904-530-6009 and the call will be returned during this meeting. He also advised that the occupancy in the Commission Chambers has been reduced to 35 people to provide the six-foot social distancing separation should a member of the public wish to attend.

CONSENT ITEM(S) :

SS200408 - 10:06:59 Approve the following: (A) Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida, due to COVID-19 through April 15, 2020. (B) Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, proclaiming the week of April 19 through April 25, 2020 as "National Library Week". (C) Authorization for the Chairman to sign the Library Use Agreement with Florida State College of Jacksonville, Contract No. CM2834, for shared space for the Yulee Library Branch for the period of January 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. Funding source: 01716571.

Motion: Approve Consent Items Tabs A, B, and C.

Maker: Commissioner Taylor

Second: Commissioner Bell

**Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards,
Ford, and Taylor**

Follow Up: Finance, OMB, County Manager, Library

EXPANSION ITEM(S) :

SS200408 - 10:07:22 Mr. Mullin referenced the telephone conversation with the Chamber of Commerce this morning.

SS200408 - 10:07:42 Dr. Seidel provided an update regarding the COVID-19 and urged the Commissioners to continue to follow the Florida Department of Health's dashboard for the latest updates. Nassau County is currently up to 27 cases with a total of five new hospitalizations.

Mr. Mullin read an e-mail received from Ron Crews who thanked Dr. Seidel for her service and leadership for Nassau County, and he asked the following two questions:

1. How many and which version of the rapid tests for COVID-19 are currently available in Nassau County. Which facilities have them? If none are available in Nassau County, when will they arrive and which facilities will administer them? What/who determines the allocation of the rapid test to facilities in Nassau County?
2. What is the current turnaround time in Nassau County for receiving results of the traditional test for COVID-19?

Dr. Seidel explained that there are rapid tests available which screen for active viral infections. These tests are being prioritized by the state and will be going to the areas of greatest need. Antibody tests are available commercially; however, their results are not tracked. Labs are receiving swab samples from practitioners. Testing and recording times will vary among commercial and public labs.

SS200408 - 10:11:23 Director Foster reported that his department will be putting out a poll via Facebook this afternoon with questions regarding unmet needs in the community. His department will respond to ways people can fulfil these unmet needs. Alternate care facility sites are being explored as well as possible sheltering at the local hotels in the event of a mass quarantine. This plan is in the process of receiving approval from FEMA for a reimbursement, if necessary. His department remains in constant communication with the Department of Health (DOH) and continues to monitor first responders.

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200408 - 10:13:07 (Tab D) Discuss/receive Board direction regarding the agreement with the Commercial Range at Amelia, LLC, and relocation of the recycling center.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin reviewed the request.

Motion: Approve the Board of County Commissioners to accept the amount of \$9,888.00 instead of work being performed as listed in the original agreement with the Commercial Range at Amelia, LLC, due to the change in the scope of work.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Ford

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor

Follow Up: Finance, OMB, Road Department, County Manager

COUNTY MANAGER BUSINESS:

SS200408 - 10:13:48 Mr. Mullin advised that earlier today, he had a telephone conversation with members of the Amelia Island Chamber of Commerce and Chairman Leeper, Mr. Pope and Ms. Diehl. The Chamber was requesting information regarding loans to help local businesses financially. Mr.

Mullin had requested more specific information from the Chambers as the number of businesses, both Chamber and non-Chambers, that should be included on the list of requests. Mr. Mullin has also asked for VyStar Credit Union to call him this morning as VyStar had partnered with the City of Jacksonville to handle their loan requests. Staff will review the lists provided by the Chambers of Commerce for consideration of those grant and loans. He will also reach out to the City of Fernandina Beach and the Towns of Callahan and Hilliard to see if they are going to consider any aspect of the grant and loan program. Mr. Mullin will be bringing a recommendation back to the Board when they complete the initial stages of this discussion.

Mr. Mullin advised that the Board of County Commissioners has given the Council on Aging (COA) \$100,000.00 in relief funds to aid senior citizens with dire needs during this pandemic. He has also had conversations with the COA and Dr. Kathy Burns, Superintendent of Schools, about ensuring that the school children are fed. Staff is currently reviewing dollar amounts to provide food distribution through the fall should the virus linger. He will bring back a recommendation to the Board for consideration in a special meeting, if necessary.

Mr. Mullin advised that Governor DeSantis may be issuing an executive order that would eliminate the seven-day mandatory extension of the State of Emergency meetings. If the Governor approves this, meetings would be in thirty-day increments.

Mr. Mullin thanked Director Foster and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staff, Sheriff's Department, Dr. Seidel and her staff, healthcare workers, fire, rescue and frontline workers as well as county employees diligently working to ensure operations of government continue safely according to CDC guidelines. He thanked the Constitutional Officers who have been helpful and the Board members for being readily available and the Deputy Clerks who attend each meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200408 - 10:23:16 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Thanked all the County employees, Dr. Seidel, and Director Foster for all their hard work and the County IT department for setting up this meeting.
- Thanked the citizens for practicing social distancing and staying home.

SS200408 - 10:23:49 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Thanked County staff, Dr. Seidel, and Director Foster for all their hard work.
- Agreed that the beach reopening should be addressed as soon as possible.

SS200408 - 10:24:20 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Agreed with the statements of his fellow commissioners.
- Urged everyone to buy locally and to buy take-out food from local restaurants to support local economy.

SS200408 - 10:24:54 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Echoed what the other commissioners have stated as well as a shout out to medical workers putting their lives on the line.
- Agreed that the beaches needed to be reopened.
- Expressed hope that the loans for small businesses will move quickly.

SS200408 - 10:20:41 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Thanked County and public safety employees, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals.
- Addressed the numerous phone calls related to reopening the beach. There have been various opinions and the Board will revisit this issue in the near

future. He was aware that there are currently neighboring beach communities that have their beaches open for limited hours for people to exercise only without coolers, chairs, tents, or umbrellas. If enforcement is an issue, it may be time for the Sheriff's Office to enact their drone technology to identify the beachgoers not adhering to the social distancing. He pointed out that hiking and biking trails on Amelia Island are being used.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk