

Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Regular Session, September 16, 2020, 9:00 A.M.
Closed Session, September 16, 2020, 10:00 A.M.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Commissioners:

Present: Chairman Daniel B. Leeper, Commissioners Justin Taylor, Aaron C. Bell, Pat Edwards, and Thomas R. Ford.

Other Officials Present: Michael S. Mullin, County Attorney/County Manager and Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager.

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

Official Agenda Summary:

Audience Input: Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

RS200916 - 9:04:20 Mr. Mullin advised that citizens wishing to speak to the Board live during meetings can attend via Zoom or can submit an email to comments@nassaucountyfl.com and for the individuals to provide their name and address. If anyone wishes to participate using Zoom, they can use the "raise hand" feature. He advised that if anyone would like to be called during the meeting to call 904-530-6009 and leave a message with their name, phone number, address and topic of discussion for **(Tab A)** Non-Agenda Items and **(Tab B)** Agenda Items.

RS200916 - 9:16:34 Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department, came forward to provide a public health report related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). For the past week September 8th through the 14th, there were a total of 1,962 cases of COVID-19 in Nassau County; of those, 437 were non-residents. Of the total number of cases, 1,488 have been released by public health which

leaves an active case count of approximately of 337. The percent positivity over the past week has come down to 5.7 percent of testing done. There were an additional 10 hospitalizations in the past week and six additional deaths. There will be another mobile testing site at the Journey Church in Yulee tomorrow from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Her key message is to prepare for hurricane season and plan ahead for sheltering if you are currently under isolation or quarantine. She encouraged flu vaccines.

RS200916 - 9:19:05 Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director, came forward and stated that the County Emergency Management continues to support the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) in their mission to put out information for One Nassau. They were also privileged to be able to provide logistical support for the State Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) testing bus. They provide support for the entire county for first responders and anyone in need of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). The Detention Center has one active COVID-19 case due to be released from isolation today. In reference to the tropics, there are six names storms.

CONSENT ITEM(S) :

RS200916 - 9:22:38 Approve the following: **(Tab D)** Insurance Committee's recommendation to continue current Health Insurance with Aetna, Dental Insurance with Humana, Vision Insurance with EyeMed, and Life/LTD Insurance Plans with The Standard; and authorize the Chairman to sign the Humana renewal letter. **(Tab E)** Authorization for the Chairman to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with the Nassau County Health Department, Contract No. CM2914, for the County Medically Indigent Program (CMIP) for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. **(Tab F)** Authorization for the Chairman to sign Contract No. CM2913 between the Board of County Commissioners and State of Florida Department of Health for operation of the Nassau County Health Department for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. **(Tab G)** Authorization for the Chairman to sign the Cooperative Agreement with the City of Jacksonville, Contract No. CM2912, for Medical Examiner Services for the period of October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2023. **(Tab H)** Minutes from the regular sessions held on July 13, July 15, July 16, July 20, and July 28, 2020; regular and special sessions held on July 6 and July 27, 2020; special sessions held July 1, July 2,

July 8, July 22, July 29, and July 31, 2020; and the workshop session held July 14, 2020.

Motion: Approve Consent Items Tabs D, E, F, G, and H.
Maker: Commissioner Taylor
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager, OMB, Finance, Human Resources, Health Department, Fire Rescue, Clerk Services

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

RS200916 - 9:22:56 (Tab I) Monthly status update on Building Department activities

CODE ENFORCEMENT

RS200916 - 9:23:59 (Tab J) Monthly status update on Code Enforcement activities.

FACILITIES MAINTENANCE BUSINESS:

RS200916 - 9:24:01 (Tab K) Monthly status update on Facilities Maintenance/Parks and Recreation activities.

FIRE RESCUE BUSINESS:

RS200916 - 9:24:04 (Tab L) Monthly status update on Fire Rescue activities.

Discussion: Fire Chief Grady Rigdon stated that in May 2020, Fire Rescue applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for decontamination equipment. They were awarded that grant in the amount of \$28,000.00. Also in May, Fire Rescue applied for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant which is a three-year grant to hire nine people. He received an email this morning that Fire Rescue was awarded the grant totaling \$1.7 million for the County. In addition, as a part of a 5-Engine Strike Team from the Northeast Florida region, they are ready to send one engine west in the event the hurricane hits the Gulf Coast.

PUBLIC WORKS BUSINESS:

RS200916 - 9:26:07 (Tab M) Monthly status update on Road Department activities.

NEW BUSINESS:

RS200916 - 9:26:09 (Tab N) Discussion of County Attorney's annual performance evaluation.

Discussion: Ashley Metz, Human Resources Director, reviewed the results of the annual performance evaluation.

RS200916 - 9:27:40 (Tab O) Discussion of County Manager's annual performance evaluation.

Discussion: Ashley Metz, Human Resources Director, reviewed the results of the annual performance evaluation. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation of Mr. Mullin for his outstanding work during his dual role of County Manager and County Attorney.

RS200916 - 10:42:15 (Tab P) Consider approval of the Employment Contract between Taco Pope and the Board of County Commissioners for the position of County Manager.

Discussion: Ms. Metz reviewed the request. Mr. Pope addressed several issues regarding the agreement.

Public input: Commissioner Elect John Martin came forward to state his confidence in Mr. Pope and felt the contract should be executed as presented. Commissioner Elect Klynt Farmer came forward to request that the Board not change the contract.

Motion: Approve verbiage changes to the Employment Contract between Taco Pope and the Board of County Commissioners for the position of County Manager to reflect that Sections 4(b) and 5(a) state that a vote by a "super majority" instead of "majority of the full Board" in order to terminate. The term will run from September 16, 2020 through December 31, 2023, with an option to renew for two years.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Ford

Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Nay: Commissioner Bell
Follow Up: Human Resources, County Manager

RS200916 - 11:14:00 The meeting recessed and reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

RS200916 - 11:23:25 The Board reviewed the changes to the Employment Contract for Taco Pope for County Manager.

Discussion: Commissioner Edwards commented regarding the funding and methods associated with the recent election for County Commissioner. He explained the importance of the "super majority" to terminate Mr. Pope. The Board members expressed their confidence in Mr. Pope as County Manager and thanked Mr. Mullin for the excellent job he did during his dual role as County Manager and County Attorney.

Motion: Approve to accept the Employment Contract between Taco Pope and the Board of County Commissioners for the position of County Manager with the recommended changes to Sections 4(b) and 5(a).

Maker: Commissioner Edwards
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor.

RS200916 - 11:12:50 (Tab Q) Cancel or reschedule the Wednesday, October 21st and Monday, October 26th meetings due to the Supervisor of Elections utilizing the Chambers for the General Election.

Motion: Cancel the Board meetings scheduled for October 21, 2020 and October 26, 2020 and reschedule if there are items to address.

Maker: Commissioner Bell
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor

Follow Up: County Manager

RS200916 - 11:13:56 (Tab R) Approve a Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida due to COVID-19.

Motion: Approve Tab R as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-156 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Ford

Second: Commissioner Edwards

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

Follow Up: County Manager, Emergency Operations Center, Health Department, Fire Rescue

EXPANSION ITEMS:

RS200916 - 9:05:57 (1) A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioner of Nassau County, Florida, recognizing the Yuwnus Asami for his contribution to the American Beach Community. (2) Mr. Mullin to address department heads and Constitutional Officers during his time as County Manager.

Motion: Expand the meeting to consider two (2) items as stated above.

Maker: Commissioner Ford

Second: Commissioner Edwards

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

Follow Up: County Manager

RS200916 - 9:21:43 Expansion Item #1: A Resolution of the Board of County Commissioner of Nassau County, Florida, recognizing the Yuwnus Asami for his contribution to the American Beach Community.

Discussion: Commissioner Bell read the Resolution.

Motion: Approve expansion item 1 and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-155 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: County Manager

RS200916 - 9:06:41 Expansion Item #2: Mr. Mullin to address department heads and Constitutional Officers during his time as County Manager.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin explained that as his time as County Manager, he realized that the job was joint venture with the Constitutional Officers and he acknowledged the great works performed by Vicki Cannon, Supervisor of Elections; John Crawford, Clerk of Court; John Drew, Tax Collector; Mike Hickox, Property Appraiser, and the Sheriff's Office. The Constitutional Officers came forward to thank Mr. Mullin for his time as County Manager and also wish Mr. Pope much success in his new position.

RS200916 - 9:33:09 Mr. Mullin acknowledged the following department heads for their great work for the County: Doug Podiak, Public Works Director; Keith Ellis, Building Official; Robert Companion, County Engineer; Ashley Metz, Director of Human Resources; Megan Diehl, Office of Management and Budget Director; Brady Rigdon, Fire Chief; Taco Pope, Assistant County Manager; Josh Stillwagon, Nassau Amelia Utilities; Dawn Bostwick, Library Director; Tim Maguire, Director of Animal Control; Cameron Henson, Director of Road Department; Thad Crowe, Director Planning Department; Norm Kennedy, IT Director; Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director; and Billy Stonebreaker, Director Facilities Maintenance. Mr. Mullin also acknowledged County Manager and County Attorney staff. He also thanked Dave Sproles for all his work to ensure the meetings are broadcast.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

RS200916 - 11:31:13 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Congratulated Mr. Pope on his new position and thanked Mr. Mullin for his service in both roles of County Manager and County Attorney.
- Stated that Nassau County has the best Constitutional Officers in the State and the department heads are great and very responsive.

RS200916 - 11:32:13 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Echoed Commissioner Taylor's comments that Nassau County has the best Constitutional Officers and

department heads that insure the citizens receive excellent service.

RS200916 - 11:32:39 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- The Constitutional Officers and department heads are "unsung heroes". With all the recent heavy rains, the Road Department has answered all the calls. He has a scheduling conflict for September 30, 2020 and requested a later afternoon start time.

Motion: Change the time of the September 23, 2020 special meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Maker: Commissioner Ford

Second: Commissioner Bell

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

RS200916 - 11:35:09 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Thanked all the department heads and staff for the great job helping Mr. Mullin succeed in his dual role of County Manager and County Attorney.

RS200916 - 11:34:28 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

- Requested clarification of the date of Mr. Pope's contract. Mr. Mullin advised that it take effect immediately.
- Congratulated Mr. Pope as County Manager and Mr. Mullin as County Attorney.

ADDITIONAL MEETING(S):

EC200916 - 10:03:38 The County Attorney explained that the meeting would be an executive closed session pursuant to Florida Statute Chapter 286.011(8), for the County Attorney to conduct a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners to seek advice concerning Joseph J. Wolf and Marcia A. Wolf v. Nassau County, Florida, Case No. 2018-CA-93; and, the subject matter will be confined to settlement negotiations; and, the Attendees will be: Justin M. Taylor, District 5 County Commissioner, Daniel B. Leeper, District 1 County Commissioner, Aaron C. Bell, District 2 County Commissioner, Pat Edwards, District 3 County Commissioner,

Thomas R. Ford, District 4 County Commissioner, Michael S. Mullin, County Attorney, Logan McEwen, Esquire, Mars Gray, P.A., and a Court Reporter with Hedquist & Associates Reporters.

The meeting will commence at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter, as possible as an open meeting, then will be closed will reopen for any motions required.

EC200916 - 10:06:03

Motion: Approve to close the meeting.
Maker: Commissioner Edwards
Second: Commissioner Taylor
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor.

The Deputy Clerks turned off the recording devices, locked the doors, and exited the room. The meeting continued in closed session.

EC200916 - 10:40:09 The meeting reconvened in open session.

Motion: Approve to accept the settlement agreement by outside counsel, Logan K. McEwen, Marks Gray, P.A. in the amount \$50,000.00 of all claims from No. 2018-CA-93, Joseph J. Wolf and Marcia A. Wolf v Nassau County, Florida.
Maker: Commissioner Bell
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Ford, and Ford.
Nay: Commissioner Edwards
Follow Up: County Attorney

There being no further business, the regular and executive closed sessions of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk