

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, September 23, 2020, 4:30 P.M.
Commission Chambers, 96135 Nassau Place, Yulee, Florida**

Call to Order

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.

Taco Pope, County Manager appeared via Zoom.

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

Official Agenda Summary:

Audience Input: Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

SS200923 - 4:32:38 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. 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.

There was no public input.

SS200923 - 4:34:52 Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department, came forward to provide a public health update related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. As of September 23, 2020, the County had a total of 2,053 positive cases of which 1,912 were residents. Department of Health has released 1,633 cases under quarantine. There are 279 active cases. The positivity rate is 5.22 percent in the last fourteen (14) days. There are currently three (3) new hospital cases since last week

and ten (10) additional deaths. The key messaging is to continue mitigation measures and even though there are improvement the mitigations measures are working. She encouraged everyone to get a flu vaccine. She stated that the free testing opportunities within the county are at the Journey Church to be held September 24, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.; and the Callahan Health Clinic to be held on September 28, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

SS200923 - 4:37:01 Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director, came forward and stating the Emergency Management continue to support the Department of Health mission to fight the pandemic. There is a continue push of messaging for the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health regarding mitigation measures. He advised that the tropics have slowed down considerably with no fronts or waves that will affect the Florida.

SS200923 - 5:07:52

Motion: Adjourn as the Board of County Commissioners and convene as the American Beach Water and Sewer District.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

SS200923 - 5:08:02 (Tab C) Consider a Resolution of the American Beach Water and Sewer District of Nassau County, Florida, relating to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) State Revolving Fund (SRF); adoption of the Water and Wastewater Facility Plan for the implementation of potable water and gravity sewer system improvements; providing an effective date.

Discussion: Steve Spratt, Florida Governmental Utility Authority (FGUA), provided presentation via Zoom. He reviewed the water/sewer significant events, and the State Revolving Fund (SRF) facilities plan requirements.

Oscar Duarte, Engineer with Wade Trim, provided presentation via zoom. He reviewed the implementation of the requirements for the Facilities Plan. He explained that the first requirement is to show the benefit for the community. There are two projects for American Beach which are drinking water and clean water (wastewater). He

reviewed the second requirement which is the environmental review which was conducted on July 16, 2020. The environmental review focused on endangered species, wetlands, undisturbed natural features, any impacts to human health or environment, and the historical areas. Mr. Duarte reviewed the results from the environmental review. The third requirement is to provide project alternatives and costs. He reviewed the three alternatives for each project including maps that reference the proposed locations for each project. He reviewed the alternative cost comparison and the Capital Financing Plan.

Mr. Spratt stated that approval of the Facilities Plan will not approve the project, commit to a loan, impose a special assessment, nor mandate a connection to the facilities. The Facilities Plan will put the County in line for the best source of state funding based upon the priorities with the plan being a requirement. He reviewed the water/sewer schedule moving forward. He recommended the adoption of the Facilities Plan as presented.

Public input: Joyce Jefferson came forward to express her appreciation for the support and diligent efforts underway for the American Beach community.

Motion: Approve Tab C as stated above and authorize Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-157 regarding the same.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Ford

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

Follow Up: Finance, OMB

SS200923 - 5:34:40

Motion: Adjourn as the American Beach Water and Sewer District and reconvene as the Board of County Commissioners.

Maker: Commissioner Edwards

Second: Commissioner Taylor

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

NEW BUSINESS:

SS200923 - 4:38:38 (Tab D) Approve Resolution extending the State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida due to

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic through September 30, 2020.

Motion: Approve Tab D as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2020-158 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Ford

Second: Commissioner Taylor

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

Follow Up: County Manager, Emergency Management, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue

SS200923 - 4:39:09 (Tab E) Consider the extension of Executive Order No. 16, regarding the mandatory wearing of face coverings.

Discussion: The group discussed their concerns with the mask mandate remaining in place, other similar counties that have not implemented a mask mandate, continued usage while in public meetings or buildings, and enforcement of the mandate.

Dr. Seidel came forward to respond to an inquiry from the Board and express her concern with removal of the mask mandate.

Public input: Bo Hodges appeared via zoom to express his concerns over continuing the mask mandate.

Motion: Approve to lift the mask mandate and encourage the use of face masks.

Maker: Commissioner Taylor

Second: Commissioner Ford

Noted: After further discussion the motion and seconded was withdrawn.

Motion: Approve (1) Executive Order No. 23, where every operator, employee, customer or patron, over the age of six, of a business establishment is encouraged to wear a face mask or covering at all times while indoors at that business establishments unless he or she is able to engage in social distancing; all persons are required to wear a face mask or covering while present in any County building or Constitutional Offices, effective at 12:00 p.m. on September 24, 2020 and

will expire thirty (30) days from the date unless extended by subsequent order.

Maker: Commissioner Taylor
Second: Commissioner Ford
Action: Aye: Commissioners Bell, Ford, and Taylor
Nay: Commissioners Leeper and Edwards
Follow Up: County Manager, County Attorney, Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, Fire/Rescue, Health Department

SS200923 - 5:42:02 (Tab F) Consider additional weekly special meetings to be held in October 2020.

Discussion: Mr. Mullin reviewed the request.

Motion: Schedule special sessions to be held at James S. Page Governmental Complex on October 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and October 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.; schedule special sessions to be held at Nassau County Emergency Operations Center on October 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and October 28, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Maker: Commissioner Ford
Second: Commissioner Bell
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager, Emergency Management, Health Department, Clerk Staff, County Attorney

EXPANSION ITEMS:

SS200923 - 4:33:53 (1) Presentation by David Jahosky, Government Services Group regarding Nassau CARES Act update. (2) Request the Board of County Commissioners to modify the parameters of the Individual Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program to [1] increase the maximum award for a household to \$15,000.00 and; [2] include costs of utilities when utilities are included as part of the lease/rent payments.

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

Maker: Commissioner Ford
Second: Commissioner Bell
Action: Aye: Commissioners Leeper, Bell, Edwards, Ford, and Taylor
Follow Up: County Manager

SS200923 - 5:35:21 Expansion Item #1: Presentation by David Jahosky, Government Services Group (GSG) regarding Nassau CARES Act update.

Discussion: David Jahosky, GSG, provided an update regarding the Nassau CARES Act. He advised that early this morning additional guidance was received from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) regarding the program. There is a report due on September 25, 2020 regarding the first twenty-five percent which has been completed in draft form for review. There is an expectation of an addendum to be released regarding the second allocation. He advised that Governor Ron DeSantis provided a press release that an additional 20 percent of funding will be provided to 55 counties, which require a plan to be filed with the state identifying the other factors. He explained that once the plan and addendum is submitted and executed the allocations will be released. He will provide an additional update next week. Mr. Jahosky provided the current status of the processed and approved applications for individual assistance and small business assistance. He requested that the Board consider an increase in the individual maximum award for individual assistance to \$15,000.00 per household. The second request is for utilities to be included in the rental assistance program.

SS200923 - 5:39:39 Expansion Item #2: Request the Board of County Commissioners to modify the parameters of the Individual Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program to (1) increase to maximum award for a household to \$15,000.00 and (2) include costs of utilities when utilities are included as part of the lease/rent payments.

Discussion: Mr. Pope reviewed the request.

Motion: Approve Nassau CARES Act modification to the parameters of the Individual Rent and Mortgage Assistance Program to (1) increase maximum award to a household to \$15,000.00; and (2) include cost of utilities when utilities are included as part of the lease/rent payments.

Maker: Commissioner Bell

Second: Commissioner Taylor

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

Follow Up: County Manager, Emergency Management, Health Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire Rescue

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS200923 - 5:44:59 Commissioner Taylor's Business:

- Thanked the Road Department for their work on Bismark Road.
- Reminded the Board of Resolution 2020-85 proclaimed September 24, 2020 as "Jacob David Bergland Day" in remembrance of Jake's birthday and asked everyone to wear gold in remembrance of him.

SS200923 - 5:46:18 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Thanked Road Department and Sheriff Office for assistance with the car that was abandoned at American Beach over the weekend.
- Thanked to Road Department for the replacement of a stop sign at American Beach.

SS200923 - 5:46:49 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Thanked Road Department for all the work they have done.

SS200923 - 5:47:07 Commissioner Edwards' Business:

- Echoed Commission Ford's comment.

SS200923 - 5:47:11 Commissioner Leeper's Business:

Request: Road Department to investigate a developing pothole located on the north side of Sadler Road at Citrona Drive.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

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Daniel B. Leeper, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk

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