

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners  
Special Session, January 4, 2021, 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 Thomas R. Ford, Commissioners John F. Martin, Aaron C. Bell, Jeff Gray, and Klynt A. Farmer.

**Other Officials Present:** Michael S. Mullin, County Attorney, and Taco Pope, County Manager (via Zoom).

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

**Official Agenda Summary:**

**Audience Input: Non Agenda Items**

**SS210104 - 10:01:14** Kurt Wilson with JEA came forward and advised that on December 8, 2020, JEA's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Jay Stowe, expressed his commitment to work with surrounding counties and communities and to ensure strong interlocal agreements. In 2002, JEA entered into an interlocal agreement with Nassau County to provide water, wastewater, and reclaimed water service to portions of the County with parameters set forth in the agreement. He reviewed JEA's investment in infrastructure and projected improvements that would benefit Nassau County. Mr. Wilson referred to a letter sent to the Town of Callahan regarding their ability to provide services to the proposed Crawford Diamond Industrial Park adding that if they are unable to provide for this area, another municipal utility could. On December 14, 2020, a meeting took place in these chambers to begin resolving some gray areas of the interlocal agreement. Mr. Wilson emphasized that JEA is committed to working with the County to address any and all outstanding issues. Discussion followed.

**Audience Input: (Tab A) Non-Agenda and (Tab B) Agenda Items:**

**SS201221 -\_10:06:10** Mr. Mullin advised that citizens can provide feedback, in-person or attend via Zoom by app or phone call. The link is available on the Agenda, under Tabs A or B, the County website, and the County Insider blog. Individuals are allotted three minutes to speak and must begin by stating their name and address for the record.

**EXPANSION ITEMS:**

**SS210104 -\_10:07:18**

None.

**PRESENTATION(S)**

**SS210104 -\_10:07:18 (Tab C)** Dr. Eugenia Ngo-Seidel, Nassau County Health Department, came forward to provide a health update related to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. As of January 3, 2021, Nassau County had a case count of 5,041 of which 4,719 are residents and 322 are non-residents. There have been 536 new cases since the previous week. The percent positivity for the past week increased to 18.64 percent. The next mobile testing event will be January 5, 2021, at the First Baptist Church of Callahan from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and January 7, 2021, at Journey Church in Yulee from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. She explained that Baptist Nassau Hospital is at peak census which is a shortage of beds and staffing. Discussion followed.

Next, Dr. Seidel provided an overview of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) Vaccination Plan noting that the priority group in Phase 1 would be residents and staff of long-term care facilities, hospital and direct care workers, and adults 65 years of age and over. There will be an opportunity to schedule appointments online or by telephone. She responded to questions posed by the Board members regarding overcoming barriers for older adults. Discussion followed.

**SS210104 -\_10:45:12** Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director, provided an update regarding COVID-19 vaccine online "ticket" reservation plan for the public distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. He explained the

process to register for the opportunity to make an appointment for the vaccination, reserve a time and date for the vaccination, and obtain further information on the vaccination process. He explained that a system has been put in place to register through the Nassau County Emergency Management website [www.onenassau.com](http://www.onenassau.com) and follow the link to the Everbrite page to obtain a virtual ticket along with the necessary paperwork. Director Foster also advised that a citizen's information hotline has been formed which is manned by Sheriff and Emergency Operations Center volunteers to help the citizens. The phone number is 904-548-0300. He also outlined how messaging would be handled through social media, press releases, and media coverage. He responded to questions posed by the Board members regarding telephone access to obtaining the "ticket" and necessary forms; institute a standby or wait list system in order to prevent any vaccine waste; and rare potential for reinfection.

**Discussion:** Janet Ancrum, CEO of the Nassau County Council on Aging (COA), came forward to inquire if there is a plan to provide the vaccine to seniors who cannot leave their homes. Her concern was also the inability of seniors to access computers. She offered her staff to help with telephone calls, use of the COA building to administer vaccines, use of their COA buses to transport seniors to the vaccination sites, and use of their nurse to help administer the vaccines. She appreciated any help that could be provided to help seniors. The Board members thanked Ms. Ancrum for her help with seniors and offered assistance.

**Discussion:** Len Kreger, City of Fernandina Beach Vice Mayor, stated that the City has over 35 percent of the population over 65 years old. The City will assist in any way possible.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SS210104 - 11:12:35 (Tab D)** Consider a Resolution extending the local State of Emergency in Nassau County, Florida due to COVID-19, from December 28, 2020 through January 4, 2021.

**Motion:** Approve Tab C as stated above and authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2021-001 regarding same.

Maker: Commissioner Gray  
Second: Commissioner Bell  
Action: Aye: Commissioners Martin, Bell, Gray, Ford, and Farmer  
Follow Up: County Manager, County Attorney, Emergency Management

**APPOINTMENT(S)**

**SS210104 - 11:12:57 (Tab E)** Consider appointment of Shane Weddle as the District 3 representative on the Conditional Use and Variance Board for a term beginning January 4, 2021 through October 2022.

Motion: Approve Tab E as stated above.  
Maker: Commissioner Gray  
Second: Commissioner Bell  
Action: Aye: Commissioners Martin, Bell, Gray, Ford, and Farmer  
Follow Up: County Manager, Planning Department

**COUNTY MANAGER BUSINESS:**

**SS201130 - 11:13:23** Mr. Pope advised that resources will be made available for Dr. Seidel and Director Foster as requested by the Board in order to assist with the COVID-19 vaccinations.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**SS210104 - 11:14:00** Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Wished a "Happy New Year" to all of Nassau County citizens.
- Thanked the Health Department, Emergency Management and County staff for working through the holidays to get the COVID-19 vaccination program rolled out and operational.
- Explained that the limiting factor is the amount of vaccine doses the County is given.

**SS210104 - 11:15:19** Commissioner Farmer's Business:

- Wished everyone a "Happy New Year".

- Encouraged everyone to pray for their country, state and county and to be kind and courteous.

**SS210104 - 11:15:41** Commissioner Martin's Business:

- Expressed thanks to Dr. Seidel and Director Foster and staff for their hard work.
- Thanked Mr. Pope for his performance with the pandemic even while he was on vacation.
- Requested anyone wishing to serve on the Conditional Use and Variance Board in District One to send a resume to the County Manager's office. There will be an opening in January 2021.

**SS210104 - 11:16:49** Commissioner Gray's Business:

- Wished everyone a "Happy New Year" with the hopes that that the year 2021 will be better than 2020.
- Echoed his fellow commissioners in thanking Dr. Seidel and Director Foster for all their help with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Thanked County staff for working diligently over the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

**SS210104 - 11:17:35** Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Echoed the sentiments of his fellow commissioners in thanking the Health Department, Emergency Management, and County staff for their hard work.
- Thanked Janice Ancrum and the COA for their hard work in caring for the County's seniors.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

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Thomas R. Ford, Chairman

Attest:

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John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk