

**Nassau County Board of County Commissioners
Special Session, January 7, 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, Klynt A. Farmer, and Jeff Gray.

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

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

Official Agenda Summary:

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

SS210107 - 10:01:00 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:

SS210107 - 10:02:35

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

SS210107 - 10:02:44 (Tab C) Discussion of current Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccinations in Nassau County, Florida.

Discussion: Greg Foster, Emergency Management Director, regarding how to use the County's COVID-19 vaccine online

"ticket" reservation plan through EventBrite for the public distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine. Emergency Management staff has been manning the Citizen Information Center phone lines to assist those who were able to secure a "ticket" reservation online and to help those individuals who do not have access to a computer. He also pointed out that the demand for the vaccine far outweighs the supplies. He responded to suggestions posed by the Board such as instituting a waiting list, developing a call center manned by County employees, and the use of County buildings as vaccine sites. Director Foster advised that individuals can sign up for alerts for available vaccines by texting Nassau Safe to 888777.

Public Input: The following citizens addressed the Board:

- An individual identified as MEM joined the meeting via "Zoom" to inquire whether there was a way to prioritize the vaccination for the percentage of people who reside in Nassau County over the age of 65. Dr. Seidel responded that the availability of this vaccine is jurisdictional; however, people who are accessing the EventBrite network to obtain the vaccines may reside in other counties. As this is a Federal vaccine, any United States citizen meeting the criteria may be administered the vaccine.
- Email received from JSK Amelia recommending establishing registration system and to consider registering senior adults on a wait list.
- Renata DiGregoria, First Coast News Reporter, joined the meeting via "Zoom" to inquire when the next series of vaccinations would be available. Mr. Pope replied that he would like to meet with legal counsel, Director Foster and Dr. Seidel in order to develop a plan and bring back to this Board for consideration.
- Steve Kimmel joined the meeting via "Zoom" commenting about his unsuccessful attempt to schedule a vaccination appointment through the EventBrite "ticket" system. Dr. Seidel commented that eventually private pharmacies and pharmacists will have the ability to enroll to provide vaccinations to the public.

- Kevin Desfosse joined the meeting via "Zoom" requesting that the Board consider establishing a provision to allow couples to receive vaccinations together.
- Bill Smiley joined the meeting via "Zoom" inquiring whether Nassau County was receiving a fair proportion of vaccinations due to their inability to maintain cold storage. Dr. Seidel explained that Nassau County has the Moderna vaccine which do not require refrigeration. She explained the challenges associated with the second dose of the vaccine. Mr. Mullin advised that he reached out to Senator Aaron Bean regarding the problems associated with the vaccination distribution system.
- Mr. Kimmel inquired whether the County could administer and if the County had enough capacity and personnel if there was an unlimited supply available of the vaccine.
- Len Kreger, City of Fernandina Beach Vice Mayor, explained his experience in using the EventBrite site to receive his vaccination. Citing the large senior population in the City of Fernandina Beach, the City would provide whatever assistance it could to help to provide vaccinations. Mr. Kreger requested the County send a letter to the City Commissioner regarding their assistance.
- Janet Ancrum, Director and CEO of the Nassau County Council on Aging (COA), thanked Dr. Seidel and Director Foster for all their help. The COA will assist with the application process, scheduling the appointments and providing transportation for those seniors who cannot do so themselves. Ms. Ancrum offered the COA building as vaccination site and the COA health care staff to help administer the vaccinations and the COA buses to transport seniors to their vaccination appointments.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

SS210107 - 11:07:41 Commissioner Bell's Business:

- Expressed appreciation for the leadership of Dr. Seidel and Director Foster during these unprecedented times. Indicated that the major setbacks in not having enough vaccines for the overwhelming demands. He thanked the community for pulling together during this pandemic.
- Thanked residents for providing input and encouraged to continue the dialogue.

SS210107 - 11:09:40 Commissioner Farmer's Business:

- Echoed Commissioner Bell's sentiments.
- Suggested that Nassau County Health Department and Emergency Management create a list of available healthcare providers who can assist with the vaccinations process.
- Encouraged everyone to be responsible by wearing masks and practice Center for Disease (CDC) pandemic mitigation procedures.

SS210107 - 11:11:03 Commissioner Martin's Business:

- Looking forward to hearing the feedback from Director Foster, Dr. Seidel and the County Manager regarding efforts to expedite the vaccination process.

SS210107 - 11:11:59 Commissioner Gray's Business:

- Thanked Dr. Seidel and Director Foster for all they have done.
- Encouraged citizens to follow the CDC guidelines in order to slow down the possible spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Request prayers for Nassau County citizens, fellow commissioners and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SS210107 - 11:12:44 Commissioner Ford's Business:

- Expressed appreciation to Dr. Seidel, Director Foster and county staff for their quick response and putting together this special meeting.

There being no further business, the special session of the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Thomas R. Ford, Chairman

Attest:

John A. Crawford, Ex-Officio Clerk