

Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
April 13, 2020
Virtual meeting through the Zoom Platform

The Nebraska City Board of Health (BOH) met in regular session via Zoom at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 13 2020. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting in at least three public places, the designated method for giving notice, as shown by the Certificate of Posting Notice attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in advance to the media, the Mayor and Board of Health members of this proceeding and said meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Bryan Bequette called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. The Mayor publicly stated he is required by law to inform the public that the meeting is being conducted under the Open Meetings Act and under Governor Ricketts Executive Order Number 20-03 *Coronavirus Public Meeting Requirements Limited Waiver* as of March 13, 2020. This Executive Order allows us to conduct the meeting by video conference or teleconference and to do so we are using the Zoom platform, as published in our meeting notification. This meeting is also being recorded. If you are in our Zoom audience please keep your microphone muted. For those who are wanting to comment, please do the following: for those joining us via the Zoom app, or through their computer please click on the "Raise Hand" button, for those joining us through the call-in feature, please press *9 (star nine). This will notify our moderator, Andrew Snodgrass, that we have a comment from one of our virtual attendees and he will let me know that you wish to speak. I will then have him unmute you. When you speak, please first state your name and address. You can find information on: The Open Meetings Act at <https://ago.nebraska.gov/open-meetings> and Executive Order 20-03 at [Governor.Nebraska.gov](https://governor.nebraska.gov).

Upon roll call the following answered present via Zoom: Gregg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Dr. Brad Vasa logged in for the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and David Lacy logged in at 5:30 p.m. The following City Officials were present as well via Zoom: Interim City Administrator Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Paramedic Manager Andrew Snodgrass, Commissioner Gloria Glover, Commissioner Paul Davis, Commissioner Patrick Wehling, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Moore.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1st item of business is the approval of the Board of Health April 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Bryan Bequette moved the approval of the Board of Health April 8, 2020 meeting minutes as provided. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Gregg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor noted the 2nd item on the agenda is discussion/action regarding a status update on the CoVid-19 situation; potential tasks, logistical needs and communication.

Mayor Bequette handed over the meeting to Grant Brueggemann of the SE District Health Department Director. He provided an update for the State noting there are currently 814 cases/17 deaths. For the SE District region which includes Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Richardson, and Nemaha Counties, there are 3 confirmed cases and 0 deaths. Otoe, Johnson, and Nemaha each had 1 case per County. The individuals from Nemaha & Otoe Counties have recovered. In terms of Statewide response, the test capacity is still contained to increase; and he expects it to continue to increase over the next few weeks. The National Guard has been testing West of Lincoln and will continue to test (pilot test sites), to continue to see if we can get a picture of what's going on across the State. In terms of percentage positive cases, 7.4% of those tested across the State are positive for Coronavirus. There may be some pockets in different regions of the State that have a higher percentage. The Mayor asked if the Nemaha and Otoe County individuals who have recovered are now part of the NE recovered number. Brueggemann will check to verify; unsure at this time. Mayor noted when he's looking at charts it's hard to know what is a new case or an old case based on what's being provided. Brueggeman reiterates there have been no new cases since the Johnson

County case was confirmed but will check on his question. No additional questions asked by Zoom audience.

Dr. DeFreece via the Zoom platform provided an update. He reiterated they continue to prepare for what may or may not happen. However, an interesting side note, not only have we flattened the curve on CoVid but on other illnesses too. Normally see a spike in other types of illnesses but with social distancing see very little illness in general. Again, continue to prepare, whether a local increase in Coronavirus activity or being able to help with bigger Cities if they have increases. Continue to cross-train staff by running through different phases of scenarios based on what we may be asked to do or need to do. He noted Grant mentioned testing, there is a lot of research going on in the medical world in regards to testing (i.e. antibodies); we stay abreast of that. Lab Directors and experts out of Omaha with CHI Health, UNOC, will stay on top of that and will be ready to go when the guidelines and recommendations come out for potentially increasing testing... many believe having that capability is going to be the way we start to open back up our economy (i.e. businesses, schools, etc.). Continue to monitor labs closely as well.

Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management provided an update through Zoom. He noted Cyber Security is becoming a tag in Homeland Security. With NEMA, the amount of fraudulent email, sites on Facebook, and sites trying to get people to sign in and release information for utilities, checking accounts, stimulus checks, that type of thing. The CISA website is pushing a lot of information out about the warnings of being careful with all of your instances using cyber.

Dr. Brad Vasa, as City Physician, through Zoom noted no new updates at this time. Mayor Bequette brings up question on masking/not masking; he believes the guidance is if you are going out wear the mask if you think you need to protect other people from you. Dr. Vasa noted it's a controversial recommendation. The CDC initially said you shouldn't, then said you can, he believes you are going to see that push going forward. The recommendation is all over the place. Mayor added at Fairway/Walmart he believes about 10%+ are wearing masks.

Marty Stovall provided an update via Zoom for the City of Nebraska City. He noted we are status quo but we have started to implement, maybe not do home inspections with our building inspector. Do more photos and Facetime if possible.

Jeff Kohrs provided an update via Zoom for Utilities. He noted about the same status as last week. However, a couple of other points, he noted they have started to encounter some blockage issues at their Waste Water Treatment plant; encouraging folks to only flush toilet paper, not the alternatives folks might be resorting to (i.e. flushable wipes, paper towels, facial tissue). Those kind of things don't lend themselves well to a waste water facility. To Gregg's point, 2nd round today, they've been receiving a lot of calls from their customers saying they've been getting calls from them demanding payment or risk Utilities being disconnected. They are getting calls from all over the Country, believes 402 numbers are being targeted. Utilities has been posting it on social media that is fraudulent and not give out that kind of information.

Via Zoom, Andrew Snodgrass provided an update for Fire and Rescue. He noted kind of like others have stated, same as last week. He noted same as Dr. DeFreece, numbers are lower than normal this time of year. He noted they have had some really sick people this last week; working with hospital, a few patients have met the criteria of the CoVid-19 from the recommendations, they have been transported to other facilities and haven't heard back. He assumes due to timeframe they were most likely negative.

Mayor Bequette goes over additional numbers. He noted Fremont County, IA still at 0; per Grant, Johnson at 1, Nemaha at 1, and Otoe at 1. Pawnee and Richardson are still both at 0. Cass has 3 cases and pretty much hold there. Gage County has been going up, last meeting were at 9, now at 26 cases with 1 reported death. Lancaster went from 32 cases to 54 with 1 reported death. The State had its biggest reported increase today of 100+.

The Mayor asked if there are any tasks. The Mayor noted Wednesday night we passed our Directed Health Measure (DHM); the State sent theirs out on Thursday and went into effect Friday morning. It was pretty much the same DHM as we put in place. No other tasks addressed. Mayor further noted, at this point, he is not aware of any citations that have been issued.

The Mayor asked if there are any logistics needed in any of our departments or services related to CoVid. Mayor asked Andrew if EMS doing ok. Snodgrass replied our PPE levels are really good at this time, currently have 6-8 weeks of PPE in stock at current usage rate. He further noted all of our personnel are wearing either a surgical mask or N95 mask. For all responses they are wearing gloves, which is standard, and eye protection. They are placing a surgical mask on every patient as appropriate.

The Mayor asked Gregg Goebel how things look with the County on logistics. Goebel replies all looks pretty good. He noted they were able to secure about 20 gallons of hand sanitizer; they will pick-up tomorrow and deliver to the Fire and Rescue departments in the County. They also have a line of another shipment of gel hand sanitizer which might come in if held true to shipment agreement (2 weeks). The Mayor asked on PPE, are we on a regular 2-week ordering process now (items going through NEMA)? Goebel refers question to Brueggemann. Mayor asked who handles, NEMA or Health Department. Goegel replied last change is now being channeled to the Health Department. Went from every 2-weeks to every 3rd day, and he believes it changed again this morning. Mayor Bequette stated Grant the question was continue like the normal ordering & re-stocking, what the cycle is, and is there different cycles for different areas right now with the Health Department? Grant noted his understanding is it's changed about 4 times in the past week. We are accepting requests up until Friday or Saturday and then that is sent up to DHHS, they approve the request and fill it to what they can, then it is sent down to them for distribution. Timeline: Goes through the local health department, up to the State Health Department, then back down. The National Guard will be making deliveries to the Health Department on a weekly basis to fill those needs. The entities should be making requests for what it would take for up to 4 weeks of usage. Obviously that can change when we start to get a surge in cases and when not. The Mayor noted at the level we are right now, it sounds as if we are stocked, so we shouldn't be making orders for supplies. Snodgrass noted the only thing we have outstanding that we haven't received yet is service disinfectant to hand out to ourselves and the other State departments for disinfecting counter tops, ourselves for ambulances, have a very limited stock on that. They have been using a bleach solution but has far as commercial grade we haven't been able to get any of that in yet. It's on order but hasn't arrived yet. Per conversation with a vendor recently their best guess for shipment to arrive is 2-3 weeks out. He's unsure how other City department supplies look. Mayor asks Kohrs on how the Waste Water production of bleach looks. Kohrs responds by noting it depends on how diluted we would need to make the concentration; the last he knew we could produce it, the cell is up and operating, would just be the logistics and liability that would go along with distribution of said product. We could make that available to City departments if the need arose. The Mayor asked Snodgrass on quantity on hand. Snodgrass noted that's correct, we have some on hand. We are saving the commercial grade wipes specifically for the ambulance. For equipment, they use bleach solution or other types of solution that they can generate on surfaces trying to clean door handles, etc. Guesstimating he believes they have 2-3 weeks of supply of that in stock.

The Mayor asked the City Attorney, if there are any tasks/outstanding matters that need to be addressed. The Mayor noted our DHM was published and provided to Grant of DHHS for translation in Spanish. Asks Graham if anything outstanding. Graham replied he doesn't believe there is anything to add but noted after the adoption of the DHM, the State adopted language that was fairly similar, they still didn't go ahead and make the 6' the requirement but did identify a handful of businesses that were no longer allowed to operate. Graham feels it would be great if the DHM were translated to insure the public has as good an opportunity as possible to comply. Graham noted he believes PD has been providing education to the applicable businesses so they are aware of the requirement and advised on how to comply with the requirement. He further noted he hasn't received questions from local businesses so unsure how it's working out in the community. Mayor noted he hasn't received any concerns lately either. Brueggemann advised via Zoom he did send the DHM to the State for translation; he received a message it had been received. He is unsure on timeline however.

Mayor Bequette asked if there is anything on communications. He noted as of last Wednesday's teleconference with the Governor, he intends to continue to meet with the Mayors from Cities of the 1st Class every Wednesday afternoon. Grant dials into that as well. If there are any issues that the Board has or that the City has that we need to address with the State, please provide before Wednesday afternoon. He again reiterates is there anything else from the Board on communications.

Tim Morgan, 2013 Central Avenue, Nebraska City called in via Zoom. He noted he and his wife are both visually impaired and his concern has to do with their shopping at Fairway/Walmart. He noted they have been warned about the 6' concern from each entity. One of his questions is how are they going to comply; he's even asked for a shoppers helper. Mayor noted he can reach out to the managers of both stores; both have attended the BOH meeting at different times. He will make sure they are aware that folks in town who are visually impaired might need a guide; no way you can shop and stay at the 6' separation. He reiterated he will see if they have a store policy or something in place that can assist with your concerns. Second question Morgan had was whether we are taking temperatures for those attending town meetings. Mayor noted we haven't in the past, but upon the City Attorney's recommendation that's why tonight we have gone completely Virtual since the Executive Order allows us to do it. He advised the 6:00 p.m. City Council meeting following this meeting will be Virtual as well so that nobody is actually at a physical location and 6' of each other. The Mayor further noted when we were having physical location meetings we moved the meetings to the Rowe Building so we could maintain the 6' rule.

Dan Swanson of B103 Radio, via Zoom, asked a question of Dr. DeFreece. Swanson noted when Dr. DeFreece was talking about a healthier community in general, does he have statistics or can he elaborate more on what they are seeing. DeFreece noted he doesn't have any specific statistics just noted in general with less of the other usual colds, sore throats etc. Moreover, it's just a general observation. Swanson follows up and asked if he'd say it was a significant number/slight number or pretty traumatic at this point. DeFreece noted he doesn't have any specific numbers, we've just generally noticed that we've seen less illness than we normally see this time of year.

Chief David Lacy is logged in through the Zoom platform and addressed questions by the Mayor on adherence to guidance in the community since the Board of Health issued the DHM. He stated the following day we did find one business that was open; they do have products they sell for retail however, they did have 1 person who was receiving personal attention for a haircut. That was terminated after he got there and after he advised business of DHM. Other than that, it appears everyone is complying.

Mayor Bequette asked if Amy Allgood of NCTC had any questions or concerns for the Board. Amy advises no new updates since the City Council meeting last week.

Mayor asks the Board if there is anything else we need to be doing as far as communication and getting the word out to where we might see a void of information to the Community. Mayor Bequette specifically asked each board member question? All advised not at this time.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer