

Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
April 20, 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 Monday, April 20, 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: Dr. Brad Vasa, Gregg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. The following City Officials were present as well via Zoom: Interim City Administrator Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, Paramedic Manager Andrew Snodgrass, Commissioner Gloria Glover, 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 13, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Bryan Bequette moved the approval of the Board of Health April 13, 2020 meeting minutes as provided. David Lacy seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. David Lacy, Gregg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa, 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.

Gregg Goebel with Emergency Management provided an update. He noted currently there are 1,511 positive cases (up by 37 cases) and 28th deaths. There is not a lot of change except in the States surrounding us; IA, MO, KS numbers have increased.

Dr. DeFreece noted the hospital has been calm/not a lot of change. They are focusing more on telehealth visits over the past week; they want to meet the healthcare needs of the community in different ways besides face to face visits. Some concern by limiting contact, we are actually foregoing healthcare that people may need. Want to find avenues using technology for them to be able to at least visit with their providers in some way. Then help determine whether they need to come in or not based on those discussions. Plus reassure the public that the processes we have put in place are for safety of the public as well as our own staff; if they do need to come in we are glad to see them. Moreover, we are trying to figure out the best way to meet the needs of the community given the situation we are in. Otherwise, we continue to do the same preparation we have for the last several weeks by monitoring the situation in other counties, hospitals, and being available to help in any way we can.

City Physician, Dr. Brad Vasa noted status quo; he had no updates at this time.

Chief David Lacy provided an update as well. He noted on Sunday morning, there was an incident to where one of his officers had to give a warning to a business for violating the DHM; no citations were issued. Most seem to be following the rules. The Saturday night drive around was well attended. Mayor Bequette asked the question on whether the State will open the Academy. Lacy noted he just received notification this afternoon the Training Centers will be pushed back 2 weeks, the officer who was supposed to start on the 3rd will now start on the 17th; will end on same date however. He's assuming that means they will be training during the weekends as well.

Andrew Snodgrass provided an update for Rescue noting not much change. Their run volume had been fairly steady; this last week picked back up overall. A lot of sick people recently; interesting to look at how many runs they normally run compared to now. PPE wise doing well; he sent out an email to all Department heads to compile a list of everybody's needs; heard from most, waiting on a few. Needs we don't have currently are spray type disinfectants. Will put a request through DHHS and see what they can get. The Mayor asked Gregg on Grant Brueggemann; he noted their board is having their meeting this evening, correct? Goebel replied they will be addressing the policy to allow them to make decisions as far as the Counties go for DHM's and that type of process in the future.

Marty Stovall noted status quo for the City offices; we haven't added any new measures. Folks seem to be playing by the rules and being courteous.

Commissioner Wehling provided an update for the Parks Department. He noted no changes at this time, maintaining current dates/timelines given so far.

Donna Kruse noted the Library has added an additional layer of protection for staff. Materials as they are returned are being quarantined for 2 weeks. They will remain on patron's accounts; however, they will work around it and take care of fees and fines. Also, they are now closed on Saturdays.

Jeff Kohrs noted status quo for Utilities; operations going on as normal.

Amy Allgood of NCTC, noted for Arbor Day, they have had about 90 people sign up for the virtual run. About half of that amount from Nebraska City. The virtual children's program was sent out to all of the schools; feedback thus far is exceptional. She noted as far as the parade is concerned, they will present plans at tonight's City Council meeting on fate of parade.

The Mayor asked if there are any Tasks outstanding:

Drew Graham noted status quo... However, he added at some point we will have to consider updating the length of the DHM. We can wait for the State's example; looking at the calendar have about 3.5 weeks to make a decision. He hopes the State will take action 1st; then we can consider matching our dates to theirs. The Mayor noted one of the tasks he's aware of came up in the Wednesday meeting with Mayors and the Governor. The State is looking at finalizing and putting out some guidance on the pools. Some Cities have already taken action and won't be opening their pools for the summer. He noted if the State were to put out guidance it could be as late as July 15 but that would depend greatly on how things ramp down by slowing the curve. They potentially will put out broad guidance and locally each area will respond. He noted it seems to make sense to see how things go, how the weather factors in, etc. He is starting to get a few emails about pools so definitely a task on everyone's mind. Commissioner Wehling noted he communicated with Scooter trying to figure out the date that is out there right now, Syracuse had mentioned July 19 per the Governor; however, he couldn't find anything substantiating that. He didn't find anything past June 1 or is it back to the May date? Wehling asked do we have any clarification on what that date is right now that would not allow the pool to open. Mayor Bequette replied right now it's the gathering dates that are in the DHM's; he believes the 15-19 dates came about in that if the State board were to have to issue guidance right now, they would probably issue something stating no earlier than July 15. He isn't aware that it's been issued in writing. They are trying to watch all the variables in light of the situation before they do that. That said, the pool opening is quickly coming upon us in 5-6 weeks. Wehling

reiterates we are still sticking to June 1 right now; discussion had with Scooter on timeframe to fill pool, training, etc.

Amy Allgood noted this might be a good time to talk about Farmer's Market; she noted according to the new guidelines for the Farmer's Market we could possibly open (Potentially May 7); going through the guidelines making sure we can follow all of them. Allgood will speak more with Chris Gress, their Market Manager. Mayor Bequette brings up point can Farmer's Market location be changed to accommodate the required spacing? Allgood asked question on how far apart parking stalls are? They would normally put people in every stall but could perhaps do every other stall. Still logistics that needs to happen on communicating with vendors, etc. Allgood asked the Mayor if he has another place in mind. Mayor Bequette noted since traffic is down in City grid area along Central/1st Corso, we could spread out without having as large an impact on traffic. Allgood noted she will think about it; if others have ideas please send her an email communicating same. Commissioner Wehling added maybe use the Parking Lot and the Street; due to Construction he noted last year we just used the Street. Allgood agrees; she is unsure on number of Vendors at this time. She further asked how many feet is a parking space. Stovall replies 8 ½ feet wide. Directions note they have to be at least 10' between booths and 6' between customer and Vendor; wiping things down regularly. Allgood further stated would work out details and provide more information later. Wehling asks question on whether that is considered a gathering of 10 people as a whole... Allgood adds she has a call into the new food inspector; her guidance does talk about the rule of 10; asks do the Vendors count in that number. She has heard the Omaha market is not opening until June; she doesn't know if this is even a good idea at this point. Mayor stated Drew could do more research and see if they fall into category as grocer. Allgood stated she has reached out to Rex Nelson for help; he's been a good resource for her; if we do this she wants to insure we don't put anybody at risk, especially the Vendors who are trusting us to know all the rules before they come. Allgood asks should she update this committee or bring it back to Council. Mayor noted probably best is to keep working the research side of it here; then put package together and take to Council but having input from City Physician, Medical, Emergency Management, along with the Board then once firmed up, take to Council. Allgood added she will try and have firmed up for next week then.

Fire Chief, Rob Schreiner when asked noted no new updates for the Fire Department.

Mayor Bequette asked if there are any other tasks? Logistics other than what Andrew provided. Snodgrass added the golf department reached out earlier; sounds like they are running low on disinfectants for Carts, etc. He noted they haven't received their supplies; potential option would be bleach solution which was discussed a couple of meetings ago. He added the Mayor had mentioned community members had reached out asking how they could help; this might be a great opportunity for that. Donna requested the same thing as well; Donna noted we still are holding our own for now but we didn't have a 4-week supply when you sent out email. Lacy mentioned as well.

Lacy added they did receive another gallon from the SE Health District last week; he feels they are ok. Question though of Drs DeFreece and Vasa on using corn based alcohol as a disinfectant. He thinks of Everclear; is that something you can distill and use? Vasa adds it would work if legal to distill; he further noted for CDC requirements he believes he saw where alcohol based would kill the virus.

Mayor noted we have question for Dr. Vasa on testing availability and how being handled; Vasa deferred to DeFreece. Dr. DeFreece noted he just received an update from their lab; the process of testing as far as getting results back has improved significantly of recent. Bergan/CHI Health is one of the sites approved by the State to do testing. Problems still remain with the swabs used to collect the samples as well as the reagents they use to run the tests. Hotspots for the State are where the testing is being utilized (Grand Island, Lincoln, Omaha). He noted we are testing our high risk population (nursing homes, first responders, healthcare workers, significantly ill people in the ER, or patients hospitalized); however, still not recommending testing the general public. Idea being whatever surge we are experiencing throughout the State, we will have enough supplies available to be able to test. Once get through that the testing will be available for the return to normalcy plan you hear about.

DeFreece further elaborates on anti-body testing; he adds the medical community is getting closer to having that available. He cautions there are a lot of not good CoVid tests or not good anti-body tests people are trying to sell. Those can really do harm if we don't use FDA approved type of testing. Anti-body tests will show who has immunity or who's possibly been recently infected. Hopes within next month or so will have good anti-body tests that are accurate. Mayor Bequette asked question if someone met the guidelines for testing, they could be tested locally, correct? DeFreece noted we can test here, have supplies available to collect the test. However, we don't run on site. It would go to a core lab in Omaha. That's done via courier on a daily basis; can receive results back in 24-48 hours.

Snodgrass had a follow up question. Hypothetically, if we had a 1st responder potentially exposed, now that we know we can do the testing here, there is obviously some logistics needed to be worked out on what to do with the responder (obviously don't want them to go home to families, have to wait for 48 hours and multiply it). Perhaps need to work in a plan or policy in case it happens so not shooting from the hip per se. The Mayor adds locally, Whispering Pines, Jeanna Stavas, has volunteered her location to house 1st responders or medical personnel if this ever came to fruition. Mayor asked Wendy Snodgrass to update group about the State program. Wendy noted she believes there is an online request form that is available for 1st responders who have either been exposed or have someone at home who are at high risk. The form is for hotel rooms to be covered during this time. She believes once tested, don't go back to work for up to 72 hours; it may be another opportunity to apply for those hotel reimbursements; actually not a reimbursement, no money should be out of pocket/up front. Mayor noted if we fall under this, we need to start working with the State to see if any of our Vendors locally would be covered under the program. A. Snodgrass adds logistically meals, etc. would need to go under that as well. He discussed hotel rooms, perhaps, DHHS has worked out, need to know what kind of disinfectant procedures are in place; have they been trained in that area. Mayor adds from the Governor, has a hotline number for our 1st responders that we can call and make sure those test results get expedited quickly (State can help prioritize test). A. Snodgrass noted he can work with Drs. Vasa/DeFreece on logistics of that. Goebel adds he just sent a URL of the form W. Snodgrass was discussing out to all through chat. He adds the SE District Health Department has been working with the State setting up those hotels to have that available. He further added several hotels in the SE Region have stepped up and actually have offered rooms.

Mayor asks if there is anything else on logistics. For communications, he added he wanted to give a shout out to Patty Moore, she is doing a great job on the minutes (very thorough and keeping track all that is said). He asked Goebel if he is continuing to have the Unified Command Call on Tuesdays at 9:00; Goebel noted yes they plan on having it tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Mayor further adds Governor Ricketts is continuing to meet with the Cities of the 1st Class Mayors every Wednesday; if there is anything that needs asked, he will take notes and pass it on. He adds we are going to continue to have the Board of Health meetings every Monday. Lastly, starting tomorrow he is going to join B103 at 9:00 a.m. for call in to discuss anything people might have on their minds; where he can get concerns and pass on to the right people or get the right answer to folks who might have concerns or issues out there.

Mayor asked if anything else on communications or other items from the Board of Health. Asked A. Snodgrass if anything pending from the virtual audience? With no additional questions, he ended the meeting answering a question from the last meeting. An individual was unable to keep distance because they needed a shopping guide. The Mayor contacted Walmart and Fairway; the Managers are aware of it and they have no problem understanding the situation and are more than happy to assist, not providing a guide, but to assist in making sure their shopping guide and them can make it through the store okay while not maintaining the 6' distance; they understand that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer