

Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
May 11, 2020
Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex

The Nebraska City Board of Health (BOH) met in regular session inside the Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex, 1518 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, NE via Zoom at 5:00 PM on Monday, May 11, 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 BOH 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 to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. Also he noted it is available 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, there is 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 answer present: Wendy Snodgrass, Gregg Goebel, and Dr. Brad Vasa via Zoom; and David Lacy, Mayor Bryan Bequette in person. The following City Officials were present as well via Zoom and in person: Interim City Administrator Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, Commissioner Gloria Glover, Commissioner Patrick Wehling, City Clerk Randy Dunster, 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 BOH May 4, 2020 meeting minutes. David Lacy moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 4, 2020 as provided. Gregg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa, David Lacy, Gregg Goebel, 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 requested a situation update. Grant Brueggemann, Director of SE District Health Department, was not available but asked that Andrew Snodgrass relay there are no new cases in the districts to report at this time. He added they will be having a drive through testing event on Wednesday, May 13, 2020 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Nebraska City Street Department at 1902 4th Corso (first-come- first-served basis); only have 250 tests available, open to the public, and you don't have to create an appointment. Although on day of event are asking that you register at <https://is.gd/covidtest>. Tests are given by the National Guard and results will be back in 2-3 days. Mayor Bequette asked question on parking concern for potentially 250 cars; per Andrew's understanding, the State Patrol and National Guard are in charge of that. Goebel confirms same. A. Snodgrass elaborates on traffic flow; come down Central Avenue to 19th; then South to Street Department. More discussion is had on how to handle; question further asked on how many tests per vehicle. A. Snodgrass confirmed they can do multiple.

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director provided an update. He noted for NE, we currently have 8,315 positive cases with 98 fatalities; IA has 12,373 positive cases with 271 fatalities; MO has 9,918 positive cases with 488 fatalities; and KS has 7,116 with 158 fatalities. As far as Counties surrounding us, Fremont has 1 positive case that was identified a few days ago.

Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted he has nothing new but did ask question of A. Snodgrass on how test results by National Guard would be handled. A. Snodgrass deferred to Geobel. Goebel added once tests are done they will be sent back to the Health District; they will then disseminate via their normal process.

Dr. DeFreece provided an update on the hospital. He noted today they've resumed their elective procedures. Processes are going well. He further added they are seeing a small increase in illness. He stated there is the National Guard testing that is happening on Wednesday and there is also testnebraska.com which the Governor is promoting; confirms with Goebel these are 2 separate processes. He encourages the public to do the testing through testnebraska.com if they can't get the test done through the National Guard testing. Also, they can test as well via CHI, if need be. Mayor reiterates that through testnebraska.com he has now gotten a 4th email after he was tested; moreover they follow up. A survey is sent out about every 72 hours.

David Lacy noted they have received additional PPE so as far as disinfects are concerned they are doing well. No other additional information to provide.

Wendy Snodgrass noted she has nothing new to report for the State.

Marty Stovall noted for the City we are still operating status quo; only new update we are trying to prepare for staff to have the capability to work from home. At this point, more of a thought process on thinking through what that would look like.

Rob Schreiner noted right now doing our due diligence with the UV light, sterilizing the living quarters upstairs, working on one of their squads right now and all of their PPE is in place. They are working on contingency plans in case any of their Engineers go down.

A. Snodgrass noted they received the PPE from the State, supplies have been disseminated. In addition, he received more PPE today from the SE District Health Department. Adds more disinfectant is supposed to be here tomorrow or Wednesday so can get out as needed. He further added PPE at this point is in good shape. Also, as Rob has alluded to working on contingency plans the best we can to prepare for the worst. They have had a few transports recently that have met the criteria of the COVID-19 virus and some 911 patients so they have been taking special precautions by using their dedicated ambulance; he doesn't know if anyone has tested positive/negative. Mayor Bequette asked if we have a mechanism for tracking if we transport and they are positive; do we get feedback. Snodgrass adds per Ryan White Act, whatever facility they take patient to and if they test positive, they are supposed to be notified by law. Mayor Bequette confirms it's the responsibility of that facility. Snodgrass agrees. Rob reiterates what Snodgrass said in relation to dedicated squad but did discover a communication glitch that they are now working on to resolve. He added they are going through squad as we speak and will sterilize/run UV light tonight. He added further there were underlying issues there but also patient met the criteria. Mayor Bequette elaborates further by noting if we transport to CHI St. Mary and from there patient is transported somewhere else both should be notified, correct? Snodgrass noted they should be; the way he understands it whoever orders the test and runs the test have the burden to notify. Mayor Bequette asked how do we know if there are upstream medical notes in that line, just from the file. Snodgrass stated when they take someone to the hospital it is noted who brought them in, what time they were brought in, etc.; all documented in the medical chart. When they get transported out of the facility, the medical records follow them. Snodgrass asked Dr. DeFreece if that is the correct train of thought. DeFreece noted that is correct as long as going to a CHI health facility we are all on the same network so following the patient through; however, if going outside of facility unsure how that is documented. He further added he doesn't believe they are printing anything to go with patient currently. Dr. Vasa added we usually get access to the other ADHR; not as seem-less as if going to another facility. Mayor Bequette would

like a feedback loop so we are notified if someone has tested positive. Dr. DeFreece asked Snodgrass to send him a note offline to discuss how they can address the feedback loop to ensure first responders are notified.

Jeff Kohrs noted nothing new to report; business as usual. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether the wastewater has been tested; he read where this is taking place in different Cities just to see if the antigens are there. Kohrs added to his knowledge that hasn't happened but they are taking all precautions as far as PPE goes while working around that facility.

Donna Kruse noted they are just keeping up with different reports from different Library systems on what they are doing to phase in opening. She added they don't really have a plan to open any time soon because of the size of the building and the possibility of just browsing is not in the loop. Since we never really closed totally we are already at the 3rd step of these other Libraries who have been totally closed. They are still serving the public, circulating materials through contact list delivery at their lobby, and still quarantine returned items for 2 weeks.

Commissioner Wehling gives an update for Parks and Recreation. He added it's been a busy afternoon; they are discussing options for the Pool and still not getting definitive information from the Governor other than suggestion of July 15. Other Cities through survey put out there, 67 Municipalities have been asked whether they are opening up pool, not opening pool, delaying pool opening, or undecided. Of those 4 are opening, 19 not opening, 10 with delayed pool openings, & 34 who are undecided. He further added, right now we are in the undecided category. Discussed further options with Scooter and Tori and June 1 is not a comfort date; however, if 10 person rule is lifted to a minimum of 50 they would consider June 15 as an opening date. Of course, all depends on what happens over the month of May and being able to meet deadlines on filling the pool, etc. Discussion will be had at the City Council Monday night meeting for more guidance to see if June 15 will work. Wehling mentioned the Governor did open up youth sports; they can start practicing on June 1 with games starting as early as June 18. They are following that instruction and will open restrooms up on June 1. Will need to figure out a solid disinfecting plan; can't have games without the bathrooms open.

Mayor Bequette provided an update noting with the weekly teleconference with the Governor on Wednesdays, this past Wednesday the Governor reiterated to the Mayors the goal is to flatten the curve, doesn't believe we can change the area under the curve but we can flatten which we have done, we have slowed it down. As of Wednesday, 49% of hospital beds in Nebraska were available; 44% of ICU was taken up; and there have been fewer admitted to the hospital since April. The focus is now on how we can loosen up, the steps we are going to do, the ramping up testing, and asked to encourage everyone to go to testnebraska.com. As of last week they have tested 10,000, they have 6 State teams that are trained to do contact tracing (200-300 trained); hope to get that number up to 1,000. The open meetings act executive order that we met under tonight goes through the end of the month; the Governor will be looking at whether to extend or not. The Governor brought up celebrations and noted Nebraska Land days is canceled for June, July; he doesn't see it being big gatherings. For Memorial Day talked about keeping it less than 10; the State will have their observance with 2 folks on at a time at the Capital. The Governor said maybe August, looking around the 100 number or so. Bequette added, as Wehling mentioned, the loosening up for team sports they are looking at June. For swimming pools recommendation is mid-July but added if you are going to train staff, lifeguards, and can find smart ways to do that, individuals swimming lessons, etc. can do as long as it's small numbers. The 6' rule is in effect due to the respiratory virus and cough droplets. The Governor was asked about Husker football and he noted yes come October will probably look different with measures in place. He was asked about parades; Governor will come out with guidance noting possibly people would stay in their cars to watch the parade. The road use tax was addressed as well; noting gas prices are low which drives the percentage price down on what Municipalities receive as well as people aren't driving as much. That said, he will look at revenue and try and come up with some ideas on how that will be affected as well. The 4th of July celebration was addressed; Mayor Bequette noted more guidance will come from the Governor. Ideas would be to provide a larger area where more people can spread out, etc. Perhaps they would watch from their cars. Our situation is not ideal with filling up a baseball field to watch the celebration; more guidance to come on that however.

Mayor Bequette added moving on to tasks, we did receive a lot of concern over social media about a certain employer having a case, a lot of people felt the City should be releasing more information on the health department. Moreover, he asked Drew to address the concern on minimum need to know information and what are limits are as far as a Government entity. Drew Graham noted generally when you think about a test result, that's going to be protected health information under HIPPA. As a Government entity, the local health districts and the SE Health districts, the City of Nebraska City, the State of Nebraska, all are entities that have access to that information or have a right to have that information reported to them in order to protect the public's health. However, beyond that, Graham believes it's in the best interest of all those entities to make it known there is say a positive test but for the entity to identify information he doesn't believe that's necessary nor wise to distribute that information be it the employer, exact location of the individual, naming the individual, he doesn't believe there is any public health reason to support the distribution of that information. Mayor Bequette added the Health Departments are reporting by the resident's County not where the individual works. Moreover, someone may work at a business, may have a job here in Nebraska City, but if they live in say Lancaster or Cass, that's the County that is going to be counted against as far as that case. The Mayor further added in this particular case, the Health department informed him, he informed our 1st responders the minimal amount of information needed. Bequette asked if others have comments to where they feel we should act otherwise in the future because that's basically how we are going to do it. The minimal amount of information needed to go to our 1st responders, if need be. In most cases it is a positive case in the County, a positive case in the City. If more information is needed for urgent contact tracing he assumes the health department will put that out. Graham adds it is his understanding further distribution or contact tracing isn't going to be released to the public at large. As the regulations and statutes are written, further distribution will be to health care professionals or the individual themselves to contact them. The individual hasn't necessarily given that authorization but the healthcare professional or the City probably has the right to contact them to ask questions on whereabouts, contacts, etc. Where again you wouldn't normally have a healthcare entity sharing that information with a health district or a City or 1st responders; it may be necessary for 1st responders to have that information so they know, as discussed tonight, whether the ambulance has been sterilized and ready for the next patron. Mayor Bequette further adds a good example from what he has read through the Civil Liberties office of the Federal HHS; sample you just gave, its fine for a dispatch center to keep a list of addresses of positive case results. A dispatch office can't share that entire list with EMS or with the Police Department but they can cross-reference that list when they get an address to notify the 1st responders that there has been a positive test result at that address. Dr. DeFreece notes he concurs; his opinion is to utilize the public health department to help monitor that. As mentioned earlier, they are hiring 1,000 people to do contact tracing that individually wouldn't have the capacity to do. For the good of the public he believes we should let the health department do their job and get into the business of notifying other people; proper avenue for notification/tracing. Mayor Bequette reiterates that the Health Department will do the contact tracing. He noted in March he contacted retired doctor, Dean Thompson, who noted he would be more than happy to call some folks; Grant told Mayor Bequette people who potentially will be hired for the contact tracing positions will have to have the HIPPA training, etc. to be eligible. Mayor added Dean called six others who are retired who potentially could be candidates; most contact will be by phone versus in person. He asked Dean if they could get those folks trained so we would have folks here in Nebraska City and/or SE District. Grant to check on that. Dr. DeFreece adds we are all willing to help.

Graham added the Board can also go back and make things more restrictive otherwise we will just keep watching what the State's guidance is, the Governors press conference to see what the State is issuing as best practices.

David Lacy asked question on whether testing will be done for 1st responders. A. Snodgrass addressed the question and noted through talking with Brueggemann today on this specific subject, there are 2 different avenues, if we think there is a known exposure and they are a 1st responder, we do have an avenue through Dr. DeFreece via CHI St. Mary's to get them tested that route. 2nd route, we can contact Dr. Vasa, as the City Physician, he can order a test, and it gets priority testing through the public health laboratory as a 1st responder so results are back within 24 hours. Or they can do a public testing... if they do the large public testing, they don't know if you are a 1st responder so no high priority in place. If it is someone we know is a 1st responder that has that exposure; through meeting with Dr. DeFreece have a plan in place for that. A. Snodgrass added

there is a way to note that it is a priority test; after discussion determined that has to happen through the health department and A. Snodgrass will follow up with Brueggemann on how works/looks like. General public take about 48 hours turn around for test results.

For logistics, A. Snodgrass brought up 2 items. For PPE, sitting pretty well for Fire, EMS, and Lacy confirmed same for PD. Rest of the City received a box of supplies from the health department. 1/3 of what was requested received. All departments have been distributed to. With the opening of public restrooms, etc., that may affect supplies at that point. 2nd item after talking with Marty and Dr. Vasa, they felt it was it our best interest to start screening all City employees. Thermometers are in so hopefully he can get an email sent out tomorrow where all employees will do a fever check. He discussed alga-rhythm that he and Dr. Vasa /Dr. DeFreece created; don't want anyone being exposed. PD is on the forefront, they have been doing it now for a while. He added they will have a written policy on the process as well. Parks in general will have 1 device this year. Disseminate among departments. Mayor Bequette added he doesn't have a problem being screened. Discussed voluntarily asking for temperature checks to the public meetings; however, will keep the Zoom meetings going through at least May.

Mayor Bequette adds communication wise we will continue to meet on Monday evenings with the Board of Health throughout May. He added the Council at the last regular scheduled City Council meeting decided they would stay with the 1st and 3rd Monday; they are no longer holding special meetings following the Board of Health meeting unless something were to arise. Mayor Bequette will be on B103 again tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. The County is having their unified command Tuesday morning call. The Governor will continue through May teleconference with Mayors on Wednesday afternoon. Mayor Bequette reminded all tomorrow is Tuesday, Primary day. If you go in person please adhere to the 6' rule; encourage wearing a mask; and look out for the poll workers.

Tim Morgan, 2013 Central Avenue, logged in through zoom and noted his concern with the Farmer's Market on no masks/gloves being worn by vendors; same for patrons; 1 person per family was not being enforced; and some social distancing concerns as well. Mayor Bequette noted he will get in touch with NCTC and knows they are working to make sure the vendors have the masks, he doesn't know if they can demand it. As far as the public, they can't demand it but they can encourage it as well as the 1 family member.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:51 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer

