

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
May 18, 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 18, 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: Gregg Goebel and Wendy Snodgrass via Zoom; and David Lacy, Mayor Bryan Bequette in person. Dr. Brad Vasa was not in attendance. 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 11, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Bryan Bequette moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 11, 2020 as provided. David Lacy seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Wendy Snodgrass, Gregg Goebel, David Lacy 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, noted currently there are 10,348 cases/123 deaths. In the SE District which includes Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties there a total of 15 cases; 6 which are in Otoe County. Currently no evidence of any community spread. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether he's heard since last Wednesday if there has been guidance from the State on events like pool openings, parades, etc. Brueggemann stated he knows there are groups of task forces who are meeting to address these specifics but nothing has come out yet. Question asked from zoom audience; how did testing go in Nebraska City and do you believe it will be a future site for additional testing. Brueggemann noted testing went well for a total of 169. First few hours averaged 70 per hour; if future testing becomes available he would like to revisit the location as well. Traffic seemed to flow fairly freely, didn't see much congestion. As of this morning he had 227 lab reports in their system; which included other infectious diseases. He noted he didn't get a chance to see how many of those were related to Nebraska City, however, he adds they have received the majority of the tests. Mayor Bequette noted it is his understanding an individual from another test site was informed they tested positive

before the Health Department was made aware. Has that been addressed by the State and are we double looping on that now to where hopefully the health department is finding out at the same time or before the individual is. Brueggemann pushed that through to his channels up to the State leadership; he added there was an issue with the commercial laboratory system with the State reporting system. All the back log data has supposedly been reported to them, there are still some delays in that system with other labs but not to the same extent as it was last week.

Gregg Goebel, Emergency Management Director provided an update. He noted for surrounding States, IA has 14,995 positive cases with 355 fatalities - Fremont County having 3 positive tests; MO has 10,945 positive cases with 605 fatalities; and KS has 8,340 with 173 fatalities. He added the County is status quo on how things are being handled at the Courthouse. They continue to have their unified command meetings and Tuesday will discuss future plans on what that looks like for the Courthouse to open.

Dr. DeFreece provided an update on CHI St. Mary's. He noted they are seeing increased activity at the clinic, outpatient, routine care. Not seeing much illness. They are doing pre-op testing and getting back to normal.

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

David Lacy noted they are continuing to maintain their social distance with the public unless necessary. They did receive additional PPE so have a stock pile of hand-sanitizer, disinfectants, etc. They are running low on substance used to mix anti-bacterial with (aloe vera). No other additional information to provide.

Rob Schreiner noted they have had a couple of transfers. Nothing new to report other than used the squad so continue doing their due diligence with the UV light/sterilizing; he doesn't believe anybody has had COVID-19. A. Snodgrass added via prompt from Schreiner, we had a few transports last week who were potential candidates but he has not received notification of them testing positive. He added not all lived here either so unsure how that part works. After the last meeting he worked with Dr. DeFreece, on the steps to make sure we are notified. Again, if out of CHI system then will be; however, still trying to work on other avenues of being notified. Mayor Bequette asked question when taking ambulance out on potential case, what kind of turn around for getting it ready to go again. A. Snodgrass noted once back to station, the UV light takes about an hour; wiping down, etc. takes about 5-10 minutes. Mayor Bequette further asked question, between Chief Lacy and 1st Responders do we have a system set up yet with dispatch letting us know positive cases of addresses. Chief Lacy responded adding we have put out a request to be notified; he knows our local in house dispatcher, if someone were to call and say they have a medical emergency who couldn't get through on 911 or whatever, she asks whether they have any fever, etc. that could be a concern. They shared that with the Sheriff's office and they have their own guidelines they follow as well. He believes with rescue calls they were going to be asking patrons questions on whether they have any COVID-19 symptoms. A. Snodgrass adds from the Health District we don't receive their physical address but adds that is something they can build into their CAD system. Mayor Bequette adds with the numbers where they are right now not too concerned but something to work on in the future.

Marty Stovall noted for the City we are still operating status quo; no changes to date.

Jeff Kohrs noted operations continue as usual; noting their offices remain closed to the public as well as the building facilities to keep their employees as safe as they can at this point.

Donna Kruse noted the Library continues to serve the public out of their lobby; people can call in and request items.

Commissioner Wehling gives an update for Parks and Recreation. He handed out COVID-19 parks/rec updates as well as policies and procedures for baseball/softball games. The public could get a copy of same, if requested. Wehling added he and Scooter have been going over the policies and procedures and want to get same in the hands of coaches. He added with the State opening up play June 1 and games June 18, they wanted to give direction for coaches to give to parents, etc. He went over direction briefly on what is expected

on the City side/bathrooms/disinfecting dugouts, etc. As far as COVID update, for golf, they have begun their Men's league. Golf staff are organizing, trying to get teams to call ahead so they don't start as a group, all go to their individual wholes to start their play, Ashli will then blow an air horn for everyone to start at the same time. Normally, for the league all would start at the clubhouse. They take beverage and food orders prior to them arriving so they can pick those up upon arrival and disburse without going into the clubhouse. In terms of the rec department/parks department we are trying to do our best to follow the mandate the Governor has put out. June 1 the bathroom at the softball complex and the 2 bathrooms at Steinhart Park will be open for when practice begins. They will be cleaned through the week with the normal cleaning process that is already in place with the City; however, we have put out a job application search to hire someone temporarily to clean bathrooms on the weekends. He adds their goal is to clean them before and after games (twice a day) on the weekends. He further adds that's 3 bathrooms but that still leaves 3 additional bathrooms that are still closed (Public Restroom, Knuckles Square, and Wildwood). He figures we will be fielding questions once the ballfields open up on what we are doing with the taped off play-ground equipment. He requested advice from Board of Health on whether we should remove the caution tape; and if we do that he feels the additional bathrooms should be opened. If we don't believe the playground equipment should be opened up then no need to open the other bathrooms. With this, we need to discuss Park Shelters as well. We have currently suspended park reservations but would be hard to open if 10 person rule doesn't change. Lastly, need to discuss the pool. He adds they are still trying to figure out the best option to open the pool; the Governor is giving zero direction on the pool beyond July 15. He further adds we need a solid 2 weeks to prep, clean, and order concessions. Tentatively discussed June 15 date; will need to make that decision by June 1. Mayor Bequette asked Brueggemann to discuss playground equipment thoughts in relation to re-opening, cleaning, and asked Graham if it is use at your own risk or what. Brueggemann added if you open it, you almost have to assume someone is going to contaminate surfaces so want to insure it is disinfected more regularly. Also, with the gathering limits, there has been discussion on increasing the number, but that number has not been agreed upon by any of the Health Departments or the Governor. He added he hopes that will change in coming months, but for the specific quantity he doesn't know what that will be. To that end, if you open it up how do you insure you maintain the social gathering restriction and limit groups of people with the social distancing factors that have been implemented to encourage the prevention of the virus. Commissioner Wehling adds he doesn't feel it's feasible to attempt to clean the equipment; his thoughts are to keep it closed for now. He doesn't know what that looks like but he does understand parent's concerns of needing an outlet for their kids. Mayor Bequette adds his thoughts are we have a lot of stairs/hand rails across the City too. He further adds if we get a demand high enough perhaps we can look at opening one playground and following suit with others. Wehling asked of Brueggeman is the 10 person rule still set to expire on the 31st. Brueggemann noted it expires May 31 unless revised or extended by the State; he feels it will be revised and extended. For Park Shelters Wehling noted he also says no until we meet that number. Mayor Bequette adds if families less than 10 want to rent a shelter there may be room to bend. Mayor Bequette adds further they are not trespassing if they are on it right now; Wehling agrees. It's just a matter of the reservations. Wehling moved onto discussing the pool and thoughts on it. The big decision is going to be based on what that number is going to be; if it's anything less than 50 it's not doable. 50 is even a stretch, we've ran through some different scenarios in terms of what we can or can't do. If 50 is the number, potentially reserving the pool is 2 hour increments; sanitizing in between. Discussion is had on disinfecting yourself by going into pool. However, getting up to the slide, bathrooms, etc. could be concerning. He discussed email received by Marty on opening, not opening, undecided, and only 4 of the 67 were opening; the rest either not opening or undecided. We fall in the undecided category.

Amy Allgood of NCTC stated they are still open and fielding phone calls on tourism questions on what's open and what's not. They are still answering those daily, and emails and messages through our social media platforms. She added they do have limited staff in the office. For Tourism, they are still planning on events but know that we have DHM's daily to follow. The Farmer's Market is the only active thing going on right now.

A. Snodgrass added we were able to get about 90 gallons of hand-sanitizer from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A portion of that was Otoe Counties as well. The parks department received 50 gallons of it in anticipation of the ballgames, etc. To that end, have about 10 gallons extra to distribute around City as needed.

Mayor Bequette noted he doesn't have a situation update for the Governor's meeting; the Governor has decided he can attend every other Wednesday and this was the 1st week he wasn't there. Moreover, the Municipality Mayor's still met and the discussion mostly centered around opening baseball, pools, parks, etc. and the effect it could have on City liability. Ex: Skate-park, we used to have a poster that said you have to use equipment to skate (elbow pads, helmet, etc.). If you are not enforcing, you can't say must. Thus the signage should change to should to be prudent. Perhaps should put up a sign on the playground equipment and say it's open, we're not spraying it, disinfecting it, you can bring, spray, etc. Moreover, those types of discussions are going on across all municipalities along with the League of Municipalities attorneys. They are trying to find out as much information as possible, the legislature is looking at different bills, not only for municipality liability but business liability. That kind of is a transition into tasks.

Drew Graham noted as far as specific tasks he doesn't have anything at this point. He would agree however that the issue of municipal liability is definitely going to get a little more complicated as more and more stuff opens up or attempts to open up. Off the top of his head, he's not sure if a sign that says "Use at your own Risk" is going to be sufficient; we'll have to look into it. He added the League is looking to provide more guidance there. Mayor Bequette further added along with that discussion, the Executive Order allowing for videoconference teleconference opens meetings act expires at the end of the month as well. The Municipality has asked the Governor's office to consider extending that. The Mayor believes as far as the Board is concerned we are in support of that as far as continuing to meet. The question is it should only be done as a matter of health, not necessarily for matters of convenience, and due to our meeting space size and the social distancing aspect, Zoom allows you to meet in a bigger room (virtual and physical). For another task, next Monday night is Memorial Day; he added typically when we have a Council meeting, by Ordinance we meet on the Tuesday after. For the other Board members, would you recommend meeting on next Tuesday or skipping a week and going to the next Monday. David Lacy said if everything is status quo, we could meet and go home. But if it blows up then would have to schedule a special meeting. He added, he would move to have it Tuesday night as normal. Gregg Goebel and Wendy Snodgrass both agree to meet Tuesday. Drew Graham added he would recommend meeting on Tuesday as well because the next meeting would have actually been June 1 which would take you outside of the Directed Health Measures. Additionally, with the Governor's Executive Order for the ability to conduct these meetings online, even if that were to expire and not be extended by the Governor, realistically we could still hold the meeting for the public online so long as access was allowed in person; however, any Board member who wanted to participate and vote, for a quorum the members would have to be in person at wherever that location was designated. We could potentially continue to offer virtual access to members of the community.

Mayor Bequette moved from Tasks to Logistics and asked A. Snodgrass does he have anything further to add. A. Snodgrass noted he found out about a vendor out of KC who sells PPE; they were able to purchase a sizeable order of Masks that should arrive in 2-3 weeks. He added Gregg Goebel did the same for the County. From the disinfect side of things sitting pretty well.

Mayor Bequette noted for communications we've already set the meeting for next week, tomorrow, he will be on B103 again; he was joined last week by Dr. DeFreece and he appreciates that. He confirmed with Gregg they are having their unified command meeting tomorrow morning as well. This Wednesday should be the Mayor's meeting with the Governor.

David Lacy noted he was informed if you have PPE and you have limited masks, the officers are now carrying zip-lock bags. They are saying every 3 days that virus is no longer alive inside that bag, is that correct? A. Snodgrass added he can't speak on the bag side of things but they can sanitize the masks by using their UV cabinet in a matter of 5-10 minutes. Dr. DeFreece is unaware but can reach out to infectious disease doctors if you have something specific. He noted is the question will the virus die after sitting 2 hours in the bag if PPE was thrown in that bag. Lacy confirmed question. DeFreece agreed with Andrew and noted if they have the opportunity to use the UV light then he would suggest that. A. Snodgrass added he will coordinate with Lacy tomorrow to set up process.

W. Snodgrass noted she has a question/comment/concern all wrapped into one and perhaps Brueggemann or Dr. DeFreece can advise. She added when you are driving around town you see a lot of employees at fast food restaurants/grocery stores wearing latex gloves. It's kind of concerning how people may think this is a safety protection measure to help them prevent getting sick when in reality it's more unsanitary to wear these gloves versus having bear hands where they sanitize or wash regularly. There is guidance on the CDC website and the SE Health District did post on their Facebook page about not wearing these gloves when out in public, just when you are cleaning or disinfecting and caring for someone who is sick. She further added she didn't know if this was something the Board of Health could send out information, just guidance to the public on getting this information out to people. Mayor Bequette noted if Wendy has that news release we can put in on the Cities page as well. W. Snodgrass stated she thought it would be good to share with fast food restaurants and grocery stores in town. Dr. DeFreece reiterated concern to Snodgrass; she added correct. More discussion is had. Brueggemann noted he would see if he could find the SE District post and provide for us to share with the community. W. Snodgrass further added the CDC has a nice fact sheet on when to wear gloves as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer