

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Special Board of Health
June 15, 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, June 15, 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 he required by law to inform the public that a copy the Open Meeting act is posted on the wall to your right as you come in the door of the Rowe Building Gary White Memorial room. This meeting is being recorded. If you are present and wish to speak please come to the podium and state your name, address, and speak directly towards the microphone the entire time you are addressing the Board. We're also conducting this meeting under Governor Ricketts Executive Order Number 20-04 Coronavirus Continued Limited Waiver of Public Meeting requirements as of May 19, 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. If you're 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 Executive Order 20-04 at Governor.Nebraska.gov.

Upon roll call the following answer present: Gregg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass and Dr. Brad Vasa via Zoom; David Lacy and 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, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, City Council members, Gloria Glover, Patrick Wehling, and Paul Davis as well as 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 June 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Mayor Bequette moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 8, 2020 as provided. David Lacy seconded the motion. After prompted by Mayor Bequette on further discussion, Wendy Snodgrass pointed out one correction, she noted on the bottom of page 1, it is stated that across the State there are 188 fatalities have been reported within the Southeast Health District, should that not be for the whole State. Mayor Bequette replied yes; he added within the State are 188 fatalities, scratch through "have been reported". Then it started "Within the Southeast Health District which includes those Counties, we are currently at 25 cases. With no further discussion as amended, upon roll call the following voted YES. Dr. Brad Vasa, 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. He noted, the director of the SE

District Health Department, Grant Brueggemann is on; Grant would you please give us a situation update.

Brueggeman noted, currently there are 16,725 cases across the State and 216 fatalities have been reported. Within the Southeast Health District, which includes Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties, there are 27 cumulative cases. We have 12 in Otoe County, 6 in Johnson County, 0 in Pawnee County, 4 in the Nemaha County, and 5 in Richardson County. A new map was recently published that shows the State's accumulative cases since the beginning. It shows more of a trend over the last 14 days. In reference to Otoe County, almost ½ of the cases have occurred of recent. TestNebraska was at Nebraska City last week; of the 300 tested, 1 person came back as positive.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. DeFreece to provide an update. Dr. DeFreece noted he doesn't have a lot of updates COVID wise but stated they are quite busy with their routine care. He added they get routine updates from their cohorts in Omaha, they are seeing a decrease in ICU and ventilator cases. They continue to monitor that due to a potential spill over.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for updates. Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted he has no updates but did advise on new guidelines coming out that will take us to Phase III. He added we do have to be prepared for the possibility it could change back. We need to still encourage people to do the social distancing, etc.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg Goebel noted Iowa has 23,959 positive cases with 652 fatalities; Missouri has 16,189 with 880 fatalities; Kansas has 11,419 with 245 fatalities. He noted they officially opened the Courthouse today. He added everything seemed to go very well; no problems, people respected the social distancing and the majority of people were wearing masks.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass (W. Snodgrass) if anything from the State. W. Snodgrass noted as Dr. Vasa said, the Governor announced today at a press conference Phase III and discussed Phase IV.

Per prompt from Mayor Bequette, David Lacy noted status quo on taking calls via phone as they can and PPE well equipped; officers have reported people are practicing social distancing with few arrests for places that have opened up to the public.

Mayor Bequette asked for updates from Marty Stovall. Stovall added no changes with the City at this time. He added he'll let Parks Commissioner Patrick Wehling speak on the pool opening, etc.

Jeff Kohrs provided an update at the prompt of the Mayor. He added no changes from their status last week. They continue to maintain closed offices, looking to open after protective equipment is in place. Mayor Bequette asked of Kohrs if there seems to be any issues with billing as far as folks not paying. Kohrs added we've had a few calls related to COVID but not many more than they would normally have this time of year.

Prompted by Mayor Bequette, Rob Schreiner provided an update for the Fire Department. Rob noted no new updates.

Andrew Snodgrass (A. Snodgrass) provided an update per prompt of Mayor Bequette. He noted no new updates at this time, PPE is adequate.

Donna Kruse at the prompt of Mayor Bequette provided an update on the Library. She noted, today we change the quarantine period for materials to 1 week so we can get materials out faster. She added we will be ordering face shield/desk shields. They have also developed the next phase which will include a small amount of browsing in the Kimmel gallery, with square footage have enough for 8-9 people. With staffing issues and getting signage approved, targeting July, 2020 for change.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Commissioner Wehling to provide an update. Wehling noted the pool opened today; he felt it went fairly smooth for the most part. He added ballgames are slated to be open this Thursday; with DHM requirements to be in place at that point. Signage will be provided. He noted at tonight's City Council meeting, they will discuss whether to open up the play-ground equipment. Again, appropriate signage will be put in place on the equipment stating the City will not be cleaning the equipment; along with that, Wildwood Park, Knuckles Square Park, and the downtown facility bathrooms will open as well. All of these will be cleaned on a daily basis. The weekend help will be cleaning the ballfield bathrooms on a 2 hours basis when games are in play. They will also clean the bathrooms daily when no games are in place.

Mayor Bequette added as far as opening more things up, are there any concerns from the Director of the Health District, Dr. Vasa, or Dr. DeFreece. Dr. Vasa asked of Commissioner Wehling whether we will have the tools available for people to clean; Commissioner Wehling added basically working on signage with the help of Drew on play at your own risk. It would be too cumbersome in terms of manpower available. He is open to recommendations from Board of Health. Dr. DeFreece followed up on where signage is going to be posted? Wehling added we've ordered 100 custom made yard signs. Will post as many as possible around each area so whatever direction they might come upon said park could visually see signage; it's not a perfect scenario but trying to hit most entry points. They will replace signage if it disappears so ordered extra for preparedness. Other questions were had on other whether other communities were opening up their playground equipment. Wehling noted DHM didn't direct Cities to close them. He added Omaha/Lincoln closed theirs a few months back, we decided to close ours as well trying to mitigate any type of exposure. Again, he is willing to listen to Board of Health on suggestions. DeFreece noted he doesn't have any problem with it just had a few questions on the subject matter. We can always close again if issues arise or numbers increase significantly based on percentage of population. As a comparison, picnic tables/benches are discussed on never being roped off.

Drew Graham addressed the board members on play-ground equipment discussion. He added, considering everything that is open (pool, park shelters, picnic tables), we didn't see a great reason to continue keeping the playground equipment closed down, however, we had to think from the City side on how to best protect the City as well as the citizens. He added as Wehling mentioned, there is not a great feasible option for cleaning the playground equipment on any schedule that really matters (once a day, not cleaning, etc.). The recommendation Graham made was to not clean and just making sure we are giving people notice the equipment is available for use, it is not being cleaned, signage provides some advice on washing hands before use, after use, and try to do your best to keep distance. Then trying to make signage as visible as possible so that in all actuality so it's not possible for someone to walk up on the playground equipment and not have seen the sign.

Mayor Bequette added A. Snodgrass advised he found on social media strategic communications for Governor Ricketts where they are starting to put out the guidelines on the Outline of changes to upcoming DHMs - Phase III. The changes can be found at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/COVID-19-Directed-Health-Measures.aspx>. The outline addresses the following:

Statewide changes

- Sports
- Elective Surgeries

All Counties except for those located in Central District Health Department (Hall, Hamilton, Merrick) and Dakota County Health Dept. (Dakota)

- Bars & Restaurants
- Childcare Facilities
- Gatherings
- Gyms, Fitness Centers/Clubs, Health Clubs, & Health Spas
- Salons, Barber Shops, Massage Therapy Services, & Tattoo Parlors/Body Art Facilities
- Wedding & Funeral Reception Venues.

He added, that's the gist of what we think is coming in Phase III. He believes Phase III will go into effect next Monday. He added, the Governor is supposed to meet with the Mayor's this Wednesday at 4:40 p.m.; hopefully he'll get more on that. Drew Graham added it is his understanding that it is coming on Monday. He added he received a similar update from the League of Municipalities. He further added, he sent that to all of the Board of Health members prior to the meeting.

Mayor Bequette asked Brueggeman if he had any comments on Phase III. Brueggeman noted not at this time.

Mayor Bequette moving onto tasks, he added unless we are opposed, if there are oppositions to any of those measures in Phase III, we do still have the ability to pass a more restrictive DHM. He doesn't believe at this time we need to be more restrictive than Phase III measures. He asks however are there any tasks of that nature that the board feels we need to pursue? Hearing none, he moved the meeting on to logistics.

A. Snodgrass advised he received an email from Donna over the weekend on masks; he will get that tackled tomorrow. Having not received any other requests from others, he feels they are sitting very well. He added with the ballgames starting this week, he noted he will work with Commission Wehling/Parks staff to see how that goes and how things might change with the new DHM. They will need to keep up with sanitizer/cleaning agents, etc. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether they are making use of the UV cabinet. A. Snodgrass advised yes... has worked with PD, used on their own equipment, etc.

Mayor Bequette noted having read the DHM, the biggest impact will be the pool as he understands it. Commissioner Wehling will be able to go to 75% of occupancy instead of 25%. Commissioner Wehling noted full capacity at 100% is 460; that would make the occupancy 345 which would be pretty much a good day for any day. He further added we can run reports to see how that compares with last year. He then addresses the fan attendance for youth sports via the outline; it goes to the gathering limit as well and is no longer limited to household members only. He assumes it will follow

the occupancy limit as well at 75%; hopefully they give more instruction before next week in terms of whether that's going to allow bleacher seating. Mayor Bequette felt like it would have to do to right now the bleacher seating is restricted to just the players, correct? Wehling noted yes. Regardless of rating it is now players only. He's assuming that will go away and it will be rated to 75% of occupancy. W. Snodgrass asked question on 6' distance between parties. Wehling noted social distancing is still a part of it. W. Snodgrass noted that will cut down on the number of people in the bleachers. Wehling agreed and added he doesn't know how they would do it in terms of the green space. More discussion is had between parties. A. Snodgrass and Mayor Bequette added the 6' is going to be guidance and not part of the directive. Mayor Bequette further added the whole dugout thing was issued in the sports specific guidance, correct? Wehling noted currently with the kids practicing none of them can be in the dug-out. Technically no one should have even touched the dug-out. Spillover of dug-out for separation of players is addressed. Wehling hopes the State will give more guidance in this area. Brueggeman noted he would ask questions on his DHS call.

Graham added he would say to that point so far the sports re-opening has been the only guidance that has been included in a DHM. All of the other guidance, if you look at the restaurants, hair salon opening, it is just that one sentence in the DHM that is the controlling enforceable part of it. For some reason, the last DHM that came out, in addition to the Statement about the sports, they went ahead and attached the guidance which made all of that guidance enforceable and a part of the DHM. So presumably if they want to expand beyond just the one sentence they are going to include something else but maybe they don't, it could just be a single sentence about the numbers and then the State issues guidance separately that they are hoping the municipalities will follow without having the enforcement piece to it. Wehling brings up participant forms and the issues that could create.

Mayor Bequette adds with that, it brings us to communications. He noted last week we discussed meeting every other week prior to the City Council meeting; however, we are at an odd spot here where the next Council meeting won't be for 3 weeks. The next Council meeting after tonight will be Monday, July 6. Does the Board feel we can go 3 weeks until our next meeting? Dr. Vasa asked question on ability to call a meeting if there is a surge in cases. Mayor Bequette noted we could call a special meeting within 72 hours (3 days). Graham further elaborated if it was due to an emergency you could do it within 24 hours. You can call it immediately so long as notice is provided after the meeting within 24 hours. Moreover, if it was something that required an immediate emergency action, the Board can meet essentially immediately and then release the information about what the nature of the emergency was and what was discussed. Generally a special meeting would be 72 hours as Mayor Bequette advised. All were on board to meet on July 6. Mayor Bequette noted the next scheduled meeting will be Monday July 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m., prior to the City Council meeting. If need be, we can call a special meeting or an emergency meeting. For the rest of communications, he believes he will be on B103 tomorrow; this is the week the Mayors meet with the Governor on teleconference; Gregg Goebel continues the Unified command call on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

Drew Graham added he is not sure if this is communications; the ability to conduct the meetings virtually is going to expire at the end of June. He added, the Governor announced, at least not at this moment, they will not be extending that into July. As of July 1 it will be necessary that at a minimum a quorum of the board meet in order to conduct a meeting. To further extrapolate that, only those who are present at the meeting location would have the ability to vote. So if there was a quorum present at the Rowe building and another board of health member called in via zoom, the one present via zoom would not have the ability to vote, only those physically present at the location. Mayor Bequette asked the question if they can contribute to the conversation. Graham added presumably they can talk, he will need to look into that. Mayor Bequette added the July 6 meeting will be an in

person meeting for the Board; he further added we will continue to zoom or Facebook live where residents can still dial in if they wish. Per prompt of Mayor Bequette on question if anyone else had anything to add on Communications, Chief Lacy asked question of Amy Allgood on AppleJack, how will that be approached.

Amy Allgood of Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce addressed the members. She noted they have had a number of calls on AppleJack. No committee meetings have met on putting AppleJack together, however, they will have a Board meeting next week. That said, as of now they are planning on moving forward with AppleJack. Everything will be based on the DHM's at that time; that will be added to their contracts. If the DHM from the Governor says we can't do something we won't. September is pretty far away and we are only at Phase III so we know there is more guidance down the road. If it were tomorrow, no parades, no carnivals, etc. but there still will be apples and our orchards will still be open. We will be able to do some things and celebrate the festival. Chief Lacy asked question on timing of contracts and if something should be added on the City having the right to cancel. Allgood notes she has only seen 2 contracts thus far; they haven't signed because they don't have a committee to approve as well as the board of directors. 1. Bus service around town and 2. The Restrooms. She's advised both on status of situation and DHM language will be needed. Lacy advised perhaps to visit with City Attorney if vendors get pushy. Allgood advises Carnivals aren't able to open yet so they don't have employees so not sure if that will be something this year or not. Allgood states she's already set the ball rolling on a lot of things but they haven't put their name on the dotted line yet. She further added we have to start planning now; it's easier to take things away than to secure it later. As far as food vendors are concerned, she advised City Hall to keep their names but the setup might look different than in the past. The dates for AppleJack are September 18-20, 2020.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:49 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer