

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
July 6, 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 at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 6, 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 is 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 will have the Director for the SE Health District on via Zoom; if you are listening in via zoom we are no longer under the Executive Order so the members of the body have to be present. If you do have a comment and you're in our zoom audience, 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.

Upon roll call the following answer present: Gregg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Dave Lacy was absent from the meeting. 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, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, City Clerk-Treasurer Randy Dunster, City Council member Gloria Glover 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 15, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 15, 2020 as provided. Gregg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Wendy Snodgrass, Gregg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bequette 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 19,929 cases across the State and 284 fatalities have been reported. Within the Southeast Health District, which includes Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties, there are 40 cumulative cases as of July 3, 2020. We have 24 in Otoe County, 7 in Johnson County, 0 in Pawnee County, 4 in the Nemaha County, and 5 in Richardson County. For discussion on trending, Otoe County specifically, only a couple of times district wide have we exceeded 3% of positive tests; meaning the total of positive of all tests completed within the district with 1 outlier being the very 1st case when 5 people were tested across the entire district. For Otoe County recently for the past 2 weeks we have been over 3%; so what that means is the increasing number of cases we've had recently in Otoe County he believes anecdotally are more from increasing testing not so much of wide spread transmission of it. However, he does want to preface that with we

can no longer rule out community transmission in Otoe County as we have not been able to get a hold of every case in the past 5 weeks or so.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. DeFreece to provide an update. Dr. DeFreece noted they've had a very busy June at the hospital. They've started a COVID testing program with Cando medical testing for their pre-op testing. He added they have had TestNebraska out there 2 times. Also CHI Health system, which they are a part of, is working with the Health Department to set up potential TestNebraska through the utilization of their staff since the National Guard will no longer be doing the testing. They continue to work closely with Grant on a lot of the processes. As we've seen in the County and the Community and with a little bit of an increase in numbers they will continue to monitor their PPE closely; currently stable. Testing supplies are currently stable also. He noted, as we are loosening up restrictions this should be as expected. Mayor Bequette asked question with seeing an increase in positive cases, has there been an increase in hospital admissions/ICU, etc. Dr. DeFreece noted he gets a daily report from CHI Health systems, he added the ICU/admissions for CHI Health remain stable. They certainly have not seen a specific increase in COVID activity; he can't speak on numbers but it is safe to say we haven't seen a significant increase. He believes Grant's point is well taken, when you increase testing, you are going to see an increase in positive cases. They will just continue to monitor the situation.

Mayor Bequette asked question on what the State is looking at as far as the next step/decision; is there a key statistic they are watching. What should be are key indicators as we are changing measures; hospitalizations and hospital rate? Dr. Vasa added, it's not a single data piece it's multiple data pieces/the big picture; what's the national trend. If all the States around us are seeing up ticks in their cases, it would be unwise for us to...He doesn't believe it's a single metric they are looking at. Dr. DeFreece added the positive percentages as Grant mentioned is one they watch closely (hospitalizations, ICU, ventilator status, etc.). The initial reason for the quarantine was not to overload the healthcare system and with Nebraska not seeing the problems of other States, that allowed the Governor to open things up a little bit more. The next step is how much comfort level we feel towards positive illnesses; with the younger people theoretically you are not going to see the number of hospitalizations since they don't become ill. He added the State has been very aggressive with their control of watching nursing homes very closely. They got people out of the nursing homes and got the rate down; they are the most vulnerable group. Other discussion is had along the same line.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for updates. Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted he does believe we need to watch the big picture on what's happening with the number of cases and be aware that it is out there. We can't stop it but we can certainly slow it. PPE is coming more widely available and he believes it is wise to use. He added, the social distancing is going to be here for a while; there is an uncertainty of what's next, he doesn't believe anybody really knows. Watch, wait, and be smart.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg Goebel noted as of this morning, Iowa has 31,611 positive cases with 721 fatalities. Over the weekend, Fremont County has risen to 7; Missouri has 23,436 with 1,028 fatalities; Kansas has 15,919 with 277 fatalities.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass (W. Snodgrass) if anything from the State; he asked of Marty if anything from the City; he asked of Jeff Kohrs for updates from Utilites; he asked same of Fire Chief Rob Schreiner. All responded status quo.

Andrew Snodgrass (A. Snodgrass) provided an update per prompt of Mayor Bequette. He noted PPE is no longer a concern of theirs; they have ample at this time. Right now no back orders or delays from their PPE vendors. They have had 5 or 6 of their providers who have had to get tested due to them having close contact with someone who tested positive; as far as he knows they haven't tested positive. He also added a few of his staff have been exposed but no concerns there either. Mayor Bequette asked the question on how we are doing with the pre-notification of a run? A. Snodgrass added it is still the same as it's been; he doesn't foresee that stopping for a while. He further added, our next big hurdle is going to be flu season in 2-3 months; he doesn't know where the line is drawn between influenza and this or whatever else that might arise. That said, the pre-notification is still going. He further added, when the influenza vaccines are released it will be another dynamic of the situation; we have a month or two before that wave hits hard. He further added, schools have been closed for so long, when they open back up we typically see rates of sickness go up; since nobody has been around others for a while he believes this year is going to be record breaking as far as sickness is concerned. He further added he attended a recent school meeting noting it's a big concern of the Districts on how to reintegrate all back safely.

Mayor Bequette added the Library has their board meeting this week and they will be discussing phases of the Library. He asked Marty if there was anything specific to put out; hearing none, moved to the next item. He added, he spoke with Commissioner Wehling, things seem to be going well at the pool, they are keeping a head count. They are up to 320 patrons; he added they have that much in a full day but not that much at one time. The pool and the parks seem to be doing fine; signage is up and everything is now open including putting up the basketball hoops. A. Snodgrass added he communicated with Scooter recently and the sanitation process is going well; PPE adequate. Mayor Bequette added Commissioner Wehling noted they've hired another person at the pool for the lazy river to make sure the tube gets dunked on both sides as they come out of the water.

Mayor Bequette on tasks asked Drew Graham if he had anything to add. Drew noted, he believes they are just waiting for the next phase from the State on the determination of Phase IV; then what the Board of Health/City want to do in response to that. He added to him it reads like everything becomes guidance and no longer enforceable at the State level.

For logistics, A. Snodgrass added the only department asking about supplies was the Library. All sitting pretty well. Mayor Bequette added you are working with Commissioner Glover on capturing costs. A. Snodgrass noted he, Marty, Commissioner Glover, and Randy met recently; they have a pretty good handle on situation at this time.

For communications, the Mayor noted the next Board of Health meeting will be Monday, July 20. He added we will continue to use this platform in order for others to dial in (Grant, Chief, etc.). He noted B103 has him on a break right now; unsure if that will pick up again or not. Gregg Goebel is continuing Unified Command meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:19 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer