

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
July 20, 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 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 BOH members of this proceeding and said meeting was open to the public.

Mayor Bryan Bequette called the meeting to order at 5:02 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: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, Gregg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa and Mayor Bryan Bequette. The following City Officials were present as well via zoom and in person: Interim City Administrator Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Donna Kruse Library Director, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, and City Clerk-Treasurer Randy Dunster.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1st item of business is the approval of the BOH July 6, 2020 meeting minutes. Wendy Snodgrass moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 6, 2020 as provided. Gregg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Dr. Brad Vasa, David Lacy, Greg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, 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 22,583 cases across the State and 301 deaths have been reported. Within the Southeast Health District, we are at 57 as of last Friday; a press release will be issued tonight. There are now 34 in Otoe County. Looking at additional data, the district is experiencing a little bit of a trend upwards in terms of rate of cases and percent of positive tests included while we are still below certain thresholds. For instance goal is to keep percent of positive tests below 10%. As of last week we were right around 30 and that is still missing some data from over the weekend.

Mayor Bequette asked of Brueggeman on the slight uptick in cases are we noting any trends. Brueggeman replied no notable trends in terms of this as the sole source. Last meeting had

communicated that community transmission can no longer be ruled out; today that is still very evident. We aren't able to determine where some of these cases are coming from. They are sporadic.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for updates. Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted there is a shortage of testing reagent so they are backing off of the testing they are doing at the hospital right now. He added they were doing mandatory pre-op testing for all who were going to have elective procedures; they have had to put that on hold due to the lack of testing reagent. He hopes it is short lived. Mayor Bequette asked if that had to do with TestNebraska and Vasa was unable to respond; he did note CHI St. Mary's has been directed to back down on testing due to it being unavailable.

Mayor Bequette asked Brueggeman on availability of TestNebraska. Brueggeman has not heard. Vasa believes it's a national issue. Mayor Bequette added the general news he is hearing is that our numbers reflect the same numbers as our 1st spike as far as number of positive cases but there are less hospitalizations that are going along with those numbers. Vasa added we haven't had a big surge at the hospital that he is aware of. Mayor Bequette added from the numbers he is seeing from Brueggeman and Goebel 1 in 3 who have tested positive are in their 20s; a younger population.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg noted for Iowa they have 39,094 positive cases with 793 deaths. Kansas has 23,334, 307 deaths; Missouri has 33,094 with 1,129 deaths. Both Iowa and KS Counties that touch our health district have shown a slight 7 day increase in cases; they are slowly trying to climb also. Pawnee County has 1 case now.

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 Utilities; he asked same of Fire Chief Rob Schreiner. All responded status quo.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy noted when his officers have done bar checks, their numbers are down; however, those together seem to be in close quarters.

Andrew Snodgrass (A. Snodgrass) provided an update per prompt of Mayor Bequette. He noted things are pretty much status quo. Their numbers are back to normal.

Mayor Bequette prompted Donna Kruse of the Library to provide an update. Donna noted they brought new materials down and they are retained in the Kimmel Gallery. They are asking people who want to browse to use masks and hand sanitizer. They can still order their materials through email or catalog and pick them up at the front lobby. The computer station will be available for 30 minutes a day (inaudible); other than that it is running the same as before.

Mayor Bequette noted moving onto tasks he believes we are still waiting to move to Phase IV. He heard news this week a couple of health districts believe they are going to be coming out of it maybe as early as the end of this week. He hasn't heard anything from the Governor's office.

Mayor Bequette asked Drew if he had any tasks. Graham noted nothing at this time.

For logistics, A. Snodgrass added per prompt of Mayor Bequette, no departments have reached out to him. He further added he reached out to Scooter a while back and the parks have an ample supply of hand sanitizer. For finances, he added Commissioner Glover emailed him over the weekend and they haven't had a chance to meet yet. He doesn't believe they are going to go down the Federal

Public Assistance and that the Cares Act reimbursement we received has covered everything thus far; we don't need to search for additional funding.

For communications, per prompt of Mayor Bequette, Goebel noted they are still having 2 unified command meetings per week with the SE Health Department. Otoe County is doing theirs whenever the County Commissioners meet. The Board of Health will meet again prior to the City Council meeting unless others feel we need to meet more often. The next meeting will be on Monday, August 3, 2020.

W. Snodgrass asks the question has there been any discussion with the schools on their plans on bringing the kids back. Mayor Bequette added he is meeting with the Superintendent on Thursday. A. Snodgrass added there is a school safety meeting with the Police Chief, Fire Chief, EMS Chief, and all the school districts; all meet again this Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at NCEBVI. He knows W. Snodgrass question will be a big topic of discussion. Public schools open August 13; they believe Lourdes is the 20th. The question was asked by Mayor Bequette of Sally Schreiner, Campus Administrator for Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired, on when their school would open. Sally noted they are planning on bringing their students back. They have met with each of their families and all have said yes for now. All 3 schools are working on reopening plans. Every school in the State basically are working with their local health departments, and following their dials and developing very specific plans regarding masks, cleaning, sanitizing, and use of the facilities based on those recommendations. She added they've already met with the safety committee in Nebraska City (Rob, Andrew, Gregg Goebel, all of their 1st responders). They are going to meet again this week to finalize their plans, make sure they have the supplies they need to get them open/going. The hard challenge at NCEBVI is that their kids come from all over the State and they go home every weekend. They will work closely with Grant and looking at SE Nebraska but also have to look at those communities across the State. If they go home and there is a break out, determination on whether they can come back. More discussion is had having to do with opening up the schools and if there is a surge of cases; need a plan.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer