

Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
August 3, 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, August 3, 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.

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, City Council members Patrick Wehling and Gloria Glover, and Fire Chief Rob Schreiner via zoom.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1st item of business is the approval of the BOH July 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 20, 2020 as provided. Gregg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, Dr. Brad Vasa, Greg Goebel, 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.

Mayor Bequette introduced Craig Taylor, Director of Curriculum & Instruction, of Nebraska City public schools. Taylor addressed the board noting he was asked to come and talk in broad terms on what the public schools are doing to open the schools back up this fall. Through community safety meetings which include all schools in the community along with emergency responders and health officials, they are working on foundational approaches that go into forming their plan/procedures of a building do include social distancing. Bringing in 300-450 students to 1 location at any given time is in play with the decisions. Masks are an important piece of what they are doing and expecting when students come back to school. In particular, masks are required when social distancing cannot be maintained. Those 2 foundational pieces, a lot of that comes from guidance through Southeast Nebraska Health department and Grant Brueggeman, have really formed a lot of the other decisions that have followed. Whether it's how they line kids up in the morning; how they serve lunches; how kids are dismissed; how many kids are in a room at any given time; all of those things go into their decisions. It goes back to those 2 foundational pieces of social distancing and wearing masks if we can't social distance. School is scheduled to start on August 13, 2020. They are currently fielding phone calls from concerned parents and are working through those on a case by case basis. They

are continuing to refine and push out information to their community on a weekly basis based off of information they receive from the Southeast Nebraska Health district. Their tiers/level of operations do match the dial that Mr. Brueggeman has been working on with green, yellow, orange, and red. Under each of those it talks about specific measures we are taking as we move from one color/tier of operation to another. What are the changes when we move from yellow to orange; as a district, this will be one of the biggest challenges as a district we will see. Yellow and green we are still working to have every student in the building. Once we move to orange (risk increases), then we will move to alternate scheduling where 50% of the kids are in remote learning and 50% are still in person. Red will look a lot like what we experienced last Spring. More discussion is had on the operational zones as the moderator, Andrew Snodgrass (A. Snodgrass), brings up a visual on the tier plans which are found on the Nebraska City Public Schools webpage. Once there go to Menu/NCPS COVID-19 Resource page/click here to view the school opening plan. The link is added here as well for all's convenience. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/15FWvMO3XVHGfEt-B87wtl2KzUpwmo4tR/view>

Mayor Bequette asks question of Taylor on transportation. Taylor advises will be social distancing as much as they can. This is one of the more difficult aspects to plan for. For Nebraska City, they have the concept of in town busing (i.e. a kid could get on at Northside School and then be delivered to the middle school to meet up with their older brother/sister). That poses a lot of logistical challenges for them to figure out and to still be able to offer to families. Currently still trying to iron this out; however, they are going to require families to register for the service due to fact if there were a COVID case and the child was on a bus, they need to figure out who else was on the bus as well for tracing/communication. Moreover, so they can work with their health department to accurately say these were the other 25 kids on the bus with a kid who may have tested positive. They need an accurate/daily attendance on who is on the respective buses.

Mayor Bequette asked an additional question on activities and athletics. Taylor advised if it's an NSAA (Nebraska School Activities Association) sanctioned activity they are using their guidance. Right now he adds they are still a go for extra-curricular activities even on down to the middle school level. They had a big board meeting today and will be releasing a vote to the public on how things worked out. He reiterates as of right now they are planning on following their guidance on whether or not they can host or participate. Also, the thing that falls back on the district is the attendance factor. How many people can we fit into the stadium, do we have to limit it to family + 4. He further added we just held a graduation and were able to space out well so some of those dry runs (not that graduation was a dry run), moreover, putting that many people in one spot at one time isn't something we've done for a while. As we rethink and adjust procedures/those things are kind of a dry run to make sure things we think are going to happen, they work out the way we were intending them to work out.

Mayor Bequette asked further question of Taylor on tiers. Taylor noted obviously if we have confirmed exposure or a confirmed case that's a primary factor. If they have a middle school student who had a confirmed case that would go into making some decisions about that building but it also depends on where else that student was. If they are a bus rider, that's going to have an impact on kids outside of that gray band but also the community spread information we get from Grant Brueggeman, that's also going to influence. Directed Health Measures that also come down from the State Board of Education or Commissioner of Education or the Governor; all those are pieces that we have to stay plugged into in order to move from one to another. It's also not a linear process; we are anticipating starting in yellow. Then if all of a sudden we have 10 community spread cases in Otoe County and Grant says hey, it's real, we may jump right to red. We may be in red for a month then be able to bring people back. It's not going to be nice and smooth where we start at green and then stair step to yellow; will be flexible.

Mayor Bequette asked if there is anything we can help with. Taylor advised getting the word out to the community on things like transportation. There are things that are changing, parents need to either call their building at the attendance center where the child will be attending. Visit their webpage and take a good look at the plan and note what's changed. After school clubs are a change; service will be limited. That will have an impact on families on the pick-up/drop off time, busing, as well as child-care service providers in the community. A lot of these changes have a ripple effect. Decisions are not made lightly and if someone is frustrated by the changes he encourages them to call. They are happy to meet with them and talk out the processes that have been put in place.

Mayor Bequette introduced Sally Schreiner, Campus Administrator for Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired. Sally noted as Craig advised they have also met with the safety committee and as he advised further the community is impacted by the decisions made. A lot of their staff have children in the public school district. She further added they do meet weekly, all the Administrators, Superintendents with Grant. They meet every other week with the Department of Education, Governor Ricketts, generally joins the meeting. The focus is all the rules and regulations around schools. She noted their situation is a little bit different; they have put together 3 committees. 1. Conditions for Learning committee – cleaning of masks, health screening at the door, facilities/setting up barriers, dividers on their dining room tables, school vehicles on how they are going to be used/cleaned, and cleaning schedules. That committee has spent a lot of time on all those details. 2. Continuity of Learning committee – all are preparing for in person as well as remote model. They are planning to open August 10 with all staff August 17. They have planned for all in person but since they now have 1 remote learner. Remote instruction is very difficult since most of their students are blind and non-verbal. 3. Leadership committee – it is dealing with personnel/staff issues/flow charts on matters of COVID transmission. The positive is they've had practice on remote learning due to the closure this past Spring as far as the technology piece of working with the families is concerned. The hard challenge at NCEBVI is that their kids come from all over the State and go home every weekend which adds a whole different set of challenges. When Craig talked about the risk dial, they can definitely follow with what Grant has developed. They have students from Fall City, Sterling area, Syracuse, and Nebraska City of course; they have close contact with those schools but other schools across the State. The kids come back to them on Sunday night; come Tuesday they find out there has been a breakout and we are just now getting test results from David City as an example. That kid has already been home for the weekend and now back to their campus. A big bulk of their services are provided in the school district or in the homes of kids across the State. So keeping up with every school districts plan, their dial, and what's going on in their communities is their biggest challenge. Through communication with the schools and those in town she believes they are ready to go. The key is, like Craig stated, is from operating in a yellow and then jumping to an orange or red. Moreover, they have to be ready at any given moment. The big topic is masks but with their situation most students will not be able to wear masks; therefore, their staff will be wearing the masks. They have 40 staff to about 20 students. They have had to eliminate some of their services. Their transportation isn't quite as difficult; however, they have had to eliminate their van transportation to/from Lincoln every week. So parents/school district will have to drive students all the way to Nebraska City. Schreiner gave kudos to the safety committee and A. Snodgrass on helping out with supplies/connections.

Mayor Bequette advised he called Sally and the public schools as well as Lourdes. Lourdes will provide an update at the next meeting to go over their opening plans.

Mayor Bequette advised Grant Brueggeman, SE Health District director is not on. A. Snodgrass advised Grant called him before the meeting. Brueggeman doesn't have a lot more to add as far as guidance is concerned, new DHM's or the like, he did report that a press release was to come out on additional cases. He further advised the Governor's office is looking at somewhat changing the DHMs. They are taking input from their local health districts from the respective areas. Changes to those specific districts not a blanket change per se. No details at this point.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg noted the Nebraska numbers, as of this a.m. 281,387 were tested; out of those numbers 26,702 have registered positive with 332 deaths in the State. He added, Missouri has 51,840 positive cases with 1,253 deaths; Iowa has 45,724 positive cases with 878 deaths; Kansas has 27,812 positive cases with 358 deaths. He further added the County is in the process of having a Unified Command meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Then they will be meeting with Amy Allgood and the Apple Jack committee on Wednesday to discuss some of the issues we are faced in planning.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. DeFreece for an update on the hospital side. Dr. Defreece noted the biggest update he has is in regard to testing. The concern is their suppliers have not been able to supply reagent to their central lab in Omaha which is also causing delays in getting test results. Moreover, because of that they are now not doing pre-op COVID testing and therefore utilizing appropriate PPE during their procedures because they don't know if someone is positive or negative. This frees up reagent for emergency situations or the clinic for sick patients. Reagent concern can be an ongoing issue off and on. Due to CHI size, have ability to move it around. Their parent company, CommonSpirit Health, is building a large lab where they can handle thousands of tests per day. The 2nd update on testing is they've contracted with the State to help do the TestNebraska tests. They will be working with the National Guard to do a handoff for them to CHI to be able to do TestNebraska in Nebraska City. Exact details not known but a lot will be hammered out this week; CHI will be on the TestNebraska website. He further adds they have been very busy in the ER and the clinic. He further believes they are still having a rebound from not doing procedures in April and May; they were shut down to a certain extent.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for updates. Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted he doesn't really have anything to add at this point. That said, he noted Lincoln is requiring all businesses to wear masks and Omaha is looking at it. He further added he doesn't believe we have a problem here, most businesses are requiring it noting potential issue in the future. Mayor Bequette noted there hasn't been any alarming statistics that he has heard as far as hospitalizations, ICU, or ventilations. Noting we are busier at the hospital and clinic but it's not COVID related. Vasa agreed.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy for an update. David Lacy noted pretty much status quo. The phone calls versus in person calls seem to be working for them. Still sanitizing as needed and PPE is adequate. He agrees with Dr. Vasa on most businesses. As far as he can tell the social distancing in businesses is adequate as well. The only ones requiring masks as of now he believes are Walmart and Walgreens. Neither telling people to step out just reminding them the next time they come to wear a mask. As far as he knows they haven't refused service to patrons however.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass (W. Snodgrass) if she has updates from the State. W. Snodgrass noted the Department of Health and Human Services put out a news release on Friday on reminders. She provided a couple of highlights. DHHS asked that every Nebraskan to do their part to protect themselves and others from COVID adding you may not know who is more vulnerable around you and you don't want to unknowingly put your loved ones or someone else's life at risk.

While confirmed cases continue to remain manageable for the State's healthcare system, the daily average of positive cases have been increasing. She mentions 6 steps to protect yourself and others (keep your distance; wear a face covering if you can't social distance; wash your hands; know your risks; stay home if you're sick or have been exposed to COVID-19; and get tested). There are ways to follow steps and other information on site as well. She further added 3 Health Districts are moving to Phase IV; the remaining Counties under Phase III have been extended through August 31. Lastly, she added, you always hear the number on the positive cases and all the negative information but she just wanted to end with a total of 19,172 diagnosed have since recovered.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty for an update from the City. Stovall noted he'd like to say all is status quo, however, Friday we were faced with our 1st employee who tested positive for COVID. Since then we have primarily all of our parks department quarantined now. He added we are trying to follow the proper protocol for that. He further noted it does get confusing on whether it's straight across the board on the 6' or how does the timeframe add in. Being within 6' of this individual you must quarantine for 14 days. Want's a conversation to insure they are indeed following the correct protocol. There are 7 who were potentially within 6' of this individual on Friday. 3 or 4 have been tested; 2 have come back negative. He is trying to determine if all need to quarantine for 14 days. To safeguard for the future, it was discussed potentially, if you cannot be in a social distance situation to wear a mask. Dr. Vasa added if you were wearing a mask, he doesn't believe you have to quarantine. A. Snodgrass jumped in and advised Marty had called him on Friday; he visited with Commissioner Wehling on Saturday evening. He did visit briefly with Grant Brueggeman noting there is a lot of different information out there, where the CDC documents are guidance only; they are recommendations but not enforceable, where the DHMs... Graham interceded and noted the DHM states individuals who have had a close contact under Sub 4, which would be the parks department employees, they were within 6' of a known positive, which is defined, shall home-quarantine for a period of no less than fourteen (14) days from the date of contact. To him, that's a directive, it's a shall, which would be mandatory. It states if I have close contact with a known positive, then it's required that I home-quarantine. Obviously as a City, we cannot require our employees to home quarantine, we do not have that right; however, we can require that they not be at work for that period of time and strongly advise them to follow the Directed Health Measure. Looking at the end, it actually provides the quarantine and isolation directions on page 4 of the quarantine directions. It defines Close Contact. It sets out what close contact is. For those individuals who had a close contact, they may discontinue quarantine after 14 days have passed since their last close contact exposure and they have no symptoms. While he agrees the CDC is guidance he believes the DHM is a controlling document. He further adds there is no language or guidance as to those individuals who have gotten tested for their own personal information, he doesn't believe their negative test necessarily changes the requirement because it is still possible for the next 14 days to test positive during that time frame. Even though they've had a negative, in 5 days they can test again and potentially be positive.

Chief Lacy asks the question whether the Mayor believes it would be prudent for the City to send out those guidelines to all City staff so that there is no confusion. Graham noted we've gone through this but we can definitely do that again. It is a confusing situation. He further added we had a pool employee who had contact with a positive test. Example if I tested positive, then a negative test would end my quarantine period but as a close contact the 14 days was to originally allow for symptoms to present. However, now since someone can be asymptomatic it's just the number in the DHM. Presumably at the end of the 14 days I could still be positive and asymptomatic and return to work and nobody would have any idea. The only way to find out would be to test at the end of the 14 day quarantine. Dr. Vasa brought up the definition of "Close Contact" is being 10 minutes of

exposure inside of 6'. Graham noted he reads the 10 minute qualifier to be on the symptoms so it's either within 6' of a known positive or somebody who has those symptoms for at least 10 minutes. So somebody who has an onset cough or shortness of breath for at least 10 minutes, not I get a cough for a few minutes and I'm done but I've had shortness of breath and/or cough, or other symptoms say a fever for at least 10 minutes and you've had contact with me. He reads the time qualifier to be on the sick individual with the symptoms; that they've had those symptoms for at least 10 minutes rather than my contact with the person. He doesn't know if that's the intention of the DHM but the way the sentence is structured. A. Snodgrass noted Brueggeman advised it is the other way around. He noted, if you are in contact within 6' for at least 10 minutes regardless of their symptoms. Graham advised as the lawyer in the room, it would be extremely easy to argue the structure of the sentence places the qualifier on the symptoms not my contact with the person. He adds, all that follows the colon which is after the sentence; could be a big difference. Either way does change the reading of "Close Contact". Wehling added his initial concern, Andrew and he talked about this, at what point does that 14 days start. Friday is the day this individual tested positive but they worked together all week so when does that 14 days start; is it the day he tested. We could have had employees who were with this individual on Wednesday; he could have been contagious same day so that's his gray area question to the board. Graham responded and noted for current employees their 14 days would start on the last contact with that individual before the positive test. If the individual didn't have symptoms all the contact starts at the notification of the positive test. Unfortunately it doesn't provide more specificity than that. Graham further added the individual who tested positive could return to work after 10 days; everybody else is 14 days assuming that they don't develop symptoms. More discussion is had on same. Mayor Bequette adds what he does have concern with is the way the DHM, we can convey to Grant, there is no portion on the quarantine part for someone with testing. He added that's part of the whole function with TestNebraska in that having access to the test and receiving results back timely. Unfortunately we don't have that and that's probably because there are so many variables that could go into that, it could make it too hard to right out. More scenarios are provided by Graham on positive/negative results and the timeframe between each and returning to work as well as State mandated emergency sick leave pay.

Mayor Bequette asked question of Stovall and Commissioner Wehling on whether something is left up in the air or are we just following the 14 day rule. Stovall added just the health and safety of our workers and those around them is the number one concern. Secondly to Chief Lacy we have sent out correspondence but I think we've sent so much out it's buried thus having to go back and re-read. We want to insure we are following the proper protocol because heaven forbid we have to quarantine again for 14 days; it could be 2-3 more times before we get out of this. W. Snodgrass asked question on whether there will be corrective action going forward on break times/spacing out, etc. Stovall added yes, lessons have been learned, we will try and social distance and wear masks when we can't. However, that can be discussed further at the Council meeting. Wehling adds it's tough. Some days they are all working separately but other days have projects where they have to work together. Positive is all the games are done so no field to deal with just grass.

A. Snodgrass provided an update per prompt of Mayor Bequette. He noted things are pretty much status quo but have seen more respiratory illnesses. They are trying to do their best to keep staff healthy. Commissioner Wehling asked question on sanitization through Scooter. A. Snodgrass added that July 31 is the last day UNL provided the hand sanitizer. Therefore, to the best of his knowledge, there is no more free hand sanitizer. Sally had emailed them stating they had burned through their supply. Greg and he also had a meeting with Lourdes this a.m. on how to get it; a big issue/concern going forward. The pool closes this coming weekend and ball games are over. Wehling noted could be a little bit of fall exposure where teams play 1 day a week but feels they are

adequate at golf course, etc. A. Snodgrass advised Scooter has not reached out to him. He further noted we will need to work on now if a concern for future. Mayor Bequette noted on commercial side at least they've caught up although it's not free any longer. More discussion is had on same.

Mayor Bequette prompted Jeff of Utilities for an update. Jeff noted status quo; still closed for the most part.

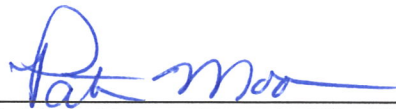
Donna Kruse of the Library provided an update. She noted they are open for browsing in the Kimmel Gallery.

Mayor Bequette noted moving onto tasks. He added we have a new DHM, it's number 5 for the Southeast District, same measures but just extended through the end of August.

For logistics, A. Snodgrass added per prompt of Mayor Bequette, going back to masks, we have been going through more of recent. Library has received more, etc. If the Council decides something further on matter, he had a conversation with Mr. Feilmeier of Lourdes who can provide a contact for someone who makes cloth masks for the school. A. Snodgrass further advised, they ordered in March and finally got their full room UV light and it's available to all City departments to sanitize. If anyone needs it reach out to him and can get you on the schedule. Room size 30 x 30 in 30 minutes.

For communications, Mayor Bequette reiterated Gregg is still having the unified command meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. Goebel added Grant just texted him and they are going to go up 1 for the new directive. He is going to make adjustments on his daily briefings to highlight actual positive cases as opposed to the full number. We will be at 42 but only have 18 positive cases.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer