

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
August 17, 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 17, 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. If you are listening in via the zoom platform please keep your microphone muted; if you wish to make a comment, 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 (A. Snodgrass), there is a comment from one of our virtual attendees. When you speak please state your name and address.

Upon roll call the following answer present: Gregg Goebel, David Lacy, Dr. Brad Vasa, Wendy Snodgrass, 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, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, EMS Director Andrew Snodgrass, and Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover, 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 August 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Wendy Snodgrass moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 3, 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 the State has 30,372 cases of COVID-19 and 361 deaths. The Southeast Health District which includes Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson Counties, we were at 154 as of Friday, last week. They were still tabulating cases that came in over the weekend including today. Out of the 154, 14 were in Johnson County, 45 in Nemaha, 59 in Otoe, 9 in Pawnee, and 27 in Richard County. From over the weekend, he believes Otoe will be getting an additional 8 but not sure on a specific number. He will have a dashboard up on the SEDHD website; it reflects COVID statistics in the area; cumulative statistics as well as looking at the past 30 days for a more recent trend. This is how they are going to record cases going forward. Will update regularly.

Mayor Bequette added tonight he would like to talk about what the schools and safety committee are implementing regarding the green, yellow, orange, and red meter. He added Father Haschke of Lourdes Central Catholic Preparatory School will speak tonight; the other 2 schools spoke at the last BOH meeting. He wants to discuss the variables that go into the meter.

Mayor Bequette asked for a hospital update from Dr. DeFreece. Dr. DeFreece noted at the hospital we remain very busy in general; not COVID related. The lab reagent concern has been resolved and they are back to running normal. The TestNebraska process will start at St. Mary's on the East side of the hospital. It will be on Wednesday's from 10-12 p.m.; hopefully weekly. They will be working with the SE Health District/Grant on setting up different sites around SE Nebraska, perhaps on a daily basis. That will expand the testing capabilities in the area. Mayor Bequette noted he got another TestNebraska email to take the survey again; he had no symptoms and no contact. The system asks would you like to schedule; he wanted to verify CHI St. Mary's was on there; it was but the soonest available date was the 26th. DeFreece further added he appreciated the update and advised perhaps they didn't get them added this week; he will check into the matter. Mayor Bequette noted he looked around the site further and he could sign up to be tested in Lincoln and Omaha as early as same day. He further noted he printed off the return email he received from TestNebraska and would like to discuss it too later in the meeting.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Dr. Vasa for updates. Dr. Vasa, City Physician, noted our active numbers seems to be creeping up a little bit but not a whole lot. He further noted he doesn't have anything else new to add.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg provided the update noting the cumulative positives for MO are currently at 68,623 positive cases with 1,398 deaths; IA is at 52,722 with 981 deaths; KS is at 35,167 with 405 deaths.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass (W. Snodgrass) if anything from the State; she noted not at this time.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy advised one of his officers had tested positive for COVID. Due to him being off work with a family member who potentially had COVID, he was already at home on quarantine, thus got tested. Chief asked question of Dr. Vasa on 1st responders and testing and how the process works for them. Dr. Vasa noted if they were exposed to someone who was positive yes they need to be tested. A. Snodgrass advised they have had 7-8 of their 1st responders tested through Dr. Vasa. Dr. Vasa advised 1st responders could contact him for testing. Dr. Vasa further advised results are generally provided within 1-2 days of testing.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty Stovall for an update from the City. He advised pretty much status quo but we do have the front glass that will be installed at City Hall. Mayor Bequette asked question stating no other positive tests from other departments; Stovall advised correct.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs for an update from Utilities. Kohrs advised that's not the case for them, referring to Stovall's response on positive COVID tests. He noted they have had 2 confirmed cases and possibly a third that is believed to be a false negative and thus will be retested. He further advised they have a number of individuals who have self-quarantined due to contact. Their operations to the public is status quo, however, inside they are all wearing masks, social distancing,

and emphasizing both with sanitizing as well. They are also utilizing UV lighting from EMS and rotating throughout the offices. He advised office is pretty thin at present.

Rob Schreiner addressed board per prompt of Mayor Bequette on status. He advised during last BOH meeting he was called out for an emergency. At that time he discovered the EMS staff had their masks on but Fire Department staff did not. They have since tweaked their protocols to keep all healthy. Mayor Bequette asked question, with the change are masks supplies still sufficient. A. Snodgrass jumped in and advised they still have several hundred in stock. Schreiner elaborated further noting they also have the ability to run the masks through the EMS UV cabinet so they don't have to use as many.

A. Snodgrass provided an update per prompt of Mayor Bequette. He noted no new updates other than they have had a number of transfers from hospitals. Recently a transfer from Syracuse they had a known tested positive case. All wore their full PPE so all has been good. Mayor Bequette reiterated it was a known positive transfer. A. Snodgrass advised he was not on the transfer so got his information via 3rd party; however, it is his understanding Syracuse has the ability to run the test at the hospital so they were able to get quicker results. Patient had symptoms, tested positive, and Nebraska City transferred patient to Lincoln. All the ambulances have been modified to handle COVID patients due to not necessarily knowing beforehand. Two of their UV lights are designed for the ambulances.

Mayor Bequette advised last time the BOH met Craig Taylor of Nebraska City Public Schools and Sally Schreiner of Nebraska Center for the Education of Children who are Blind or Visually Impaired addressed the board and provided an update on their plans to open. Tonight we have Father Jonathan Haschke from Lourdes Central Catholic Preparatory School who will provide an update as well. Father Haschke noted they released their plans a few weeks ago. Highlights include social distancing, plus masks will be used when unable to social distance. Cafeteria seating redesigned to implement social distancing with the help of the SE District. In terms of their plan, the 4 levels of green, yellow, orange, and red, they decided at the orange level they will continue to be full capacity. Some schools at this level are alternating schedules where some kids come Monday/Wednesday and others come Tuesday/Thursday, however, due to their size/resources they don't believe that would work for them thus will take further precautions if orange level came to fruition. In terms of athletics and activities, those details are still being worked out via communication through athletic directors of their conference. Through meetings they are trying to iron out some consistency between schools for sports; ideas of separating fans; limiting number of fans; concession stands/bathrooms being separate. The idea is to keep the groups separate; trying to avoid mixing local groups with outside groups.

Mayor Bequette asked Brueggeman to go over the timing of when it would change; is it daily posting of where we are as far as the risk meter. Also what are some of the variables that go into moving us up/down the risk meter. Brueggeman advised the risk dial is updated weekly; it is 1st shared with the School Superintendents Administration Thursday. We as a group will publish on Friday before the end of the day. That way they can advise the schools on what their environment will look like for the next week. In terms of what measures play into it, there are 6 measures. For the first two they look at the % of positive tests (overall and weekly), how many positives divided by total tests for the week; next they look at trajectory of cases, the difference between the current week and the week prior and what are the % differences; next they look at regional healthcare capacity (how many staff beds are available within the SE Health District); next is the % of cases that are community acquired (human transmission from data collected); and the last one is contact tracing. Each one of those looks at a

three week average. The risk assessment shouldn't be a daily change back and forth, that could cause a lot of chaos. He noted he will be adding an additional one into the system in a couple of weeks. Mayor Bequette asked do you get a score for each of the six areas and then it averages out to a rating on the dial or is it whichever of these categories/sub categories is highest, that's what you go with. Brueggeman noted each one is scored and they are averaged out to get a cumulative. Mayor Bequette further asked are any of the sub categories weighted or all the same and the average just taken. Brueggeman advised they are weighted; the weights are on a scale from 1 to 4. Percent overall is weighted at 1; weekly is weighted at 2; trajectory is weighted at 3; staff beds are weighted at 1; community transmission is at 3; and contact tracing at 2. They are going to try and stay consistent with that. Mayor Bequette reiterates so Thursday you will be tabulating the data and make initial contact with the schools, then Friday a joint press release as to what might change procedure wise on Monday or for activities that might happen over the weekend. Brueggeman notes that's correct. Brueggeman further noted they are working on communications to describe what all measures will feed into that for the public; that should be done within a week.

Mayor Bequette asked questions of Graham noting there are no outstanding tasks; advising the DHM takes us through the end of August. Graham agreed.

For logistics, A. Snodgrass added per prompt of Mayor Bequette, for the City side we are doing good on supplies. However, the schools have used quite a bit more in the last couple of weeks trying to get them ready. Per prompt of Mayor, A. Snodgrass agreed not short of anything and all supplies seem to be arriving timely. Cleaning supplies and gloves are the only things on major back order; all else is readily in stock and available within 3-4 days of ordering.

For communications, per prompt of Mayor Bequette, Goebel noted they are still running unified command. Next Tuesday they will have another meeting. Mayor Bequette advised the next BOH meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 due to Monday the 7th being a holiday.

Mayor Bequette asked if Amy Allgood, Executive Director of Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce, would like to address the Board. Allgood introduced herself and advised she would like to discuss AppleJack and spreading the event over 3 weekends in the fall. Due to the current DHM, they've already had vendors/events drop off from the 1st weekend. The 2nd weekend is adding in some different orchard things and the third weekend would be food (moved the pancake feed, etc). She further added, at this time Arbor Day Farm is planning on having activities; however, they have canceled some events plus you will need to pre purchase tickets online. Kimmel Orchard has decided to remain closed through the weekends of AppleJack. We are working with restrooms to be able to clean them on the weekends they are here. They have canceled the bus route. All this said, the reason she wanted to speak tonight, at this time they are requesting a special meeting on Monday, August 31, 2020 so they can further discuss more in depth AppleJack. By that time, the next DHM should be out; school will have been in session for a couple of weeks; therefore have a better understanding on how that will play out. They don't want to make plans too early because they can change but they don't want to make too late and run into the problems they ran into with Arbor Day. Mayor Bequette asked the question on the dates they are looking at. The traditional weekend is September 19-20; theme will be Anyway You Slice It. Friday no events. The car show is still planned for the 20th. Allgood elaborates and notes on Saturday they are hoping to do the fun run and the water barrel fights. She notes District Health Measure #4 allows a parade but they haven't put a lot of work into that yet because we are still in 3. The carnival company has still not hired employees so even if they allow carnivals at that time we probably won't have one. Bequette asked the dates of the 2nd weekend; Allgood advised it would be the 26th and 27th of September (no theme yet); the 3rd

weekend will be October 3rd and 4th (Taste of AppleJack theme). They are hoping to have a qualifying food event for the World Food Championships that will be held in Texas in November. Allgood further advises they have 4 different committees working on different pieces of this. Lots of meetings but nothing decided specifically due to all being afraid of changes. They are hoping by August 31 their strategic planning committee can have something out there and say if this happens then this will happen so they will have a plan in place on how AppleJack will play out. Mayor Bequette notes he doesn't have a problem meeting on the 31st; asked the Board same. After discussion, the next BOH meeting will take place on Monday, August 31, at 5:00 p.m. Allgood adds that Brueggeman is on the DHM committee so we should know before the 31st on what the new DHM looks like as to whether the current will be extended or move to Phase IV. She further added this Board has the right to enforce things the DHM may say are ok. May be a good opportunity for us to make stricter rules than what's currently in place or address how we want our town to be ready for AppleJack. She elaborated further on the pushback they have received on why we aren't canceling; she noted they feel people are coming in September regardless, they will have tourists due to this event happening in the past. Instead of us sticking our head in the sand and canceling we want our town to be proactive and prepared for the tourists that are coming. Discussion is had on Farm to Fork happening this weekend; still sold out at this time.

A. Snodgrass advised there is a comment through Zoom from Tom Robinson via chat. He wrote "Any thoughts about having a mask mandate in Nebraska City. Omaha and Lincoln have them now and we have AppleJack activities coming up leading to more people from out of town coming into our City." Mayor Bequette noted a lot of people are talking about it and thinking about it but most of rural Nebraska is not publishing mandatory masks. As much as we can spread out in Nebraska City no we haven't; he notes a lot of businesses/places are asking that you please do it. We are not publishing one today, the Board has not discussed it. Dr. Vasa noted if we get a spike of cases then that is something we should look at. He further added we are significantly below Omaha and Lincoln right now. W. Snodgrass added it would be good for the AppleJack weekend if they strongly encourage. Allgood jumped in and advised they have a committee for events and a lot of retailers are on the committee and they talked about them making it mandatory for their staff to wear masks while guests are coming from out of town. Discussion is had on the businesses that require masks. Allgood stated this is more in relation to the smaller businesses; if someone got sick it might shut down their operation. With Omaha having online learning it has boosted their weekday travelers. Further discussion is had on good practices, health of employees, AppleJack specific.

Mayor Bequette added that's why he printed out what he got from TestNebraska. It stated 50-70% of the population will eventually get this infection. There are a lot of folks we have assumed are asymptomatic and we won't know until they are tested for anti-bodies. As a County we are sitting at a number in the 60s for a population that's 15,000+; that's not a big number yet. We have had a couple of serious cases with serious hospitalization. By the 31st we will have data from our schools; data from activities with the 1st games being on the 28th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer

