

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health  
October 5, 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, October 5, 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 answered present: Greg Goebel, David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Dr. Brad Vasa joined the meeting via zoom. 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, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover, and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Patricia Moore.

Mayor Bequette noted there are 2 items on the agenda this afternoon. The 1<sup>st</sup> item of business is the approval of the BOH September 21, 2020 meeting minutes. David Lacy moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 21, 2020 as provided. Greg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, Greg Goebel, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Voting NO: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Bequette noted the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the State is at 47,807 positive cases with 501 deaths. In the SE Health District we are at 475 cumulative cases. 182 for the past 30 days; Otoe County is at 179; Johnson County is at 68; Nemaha County is at 143; Pawnee County is at 18; and Richardson County is at 67. The State and the District have seen an increase of cases over the last couple of weeks. There were 74 cases within a week; it was their highest week in terms of cases. The week ending on August 29 we had reached a high of 51. He expects the current week to see the same trend; in short there is a trend upwards in the last few weeks. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether we've seen an increase in hospitalizations, ICUs, and ventilations. Brueggeman advised the State as a whole has seen more hospitalizations. W. Snodgrass asked question on whether there has been any communication on potentially going back to Phase III. She added, since we've gone to Phase IV, things have seemed to

explode due to pandemic fatigue where people have decided to just go back to normal living. Brueggeman advised he hasn't heard of any movement towards that direction; however, if there were a need it could happen.

Mayor Bequette prompted Dr. DeFreece on a hospital update. DeFreece noted they are seeing an increase of cases in their clinic, unsure on hospitalizations. The system of CHI Health has seen an increase of hospitalizations which is being monitored closely. He noted as the overall number increases percentage wise we will see an increase in hospitalizations. Testing continues Wednesday from 10-12 p.m. through TestNebraska. Testing remains stable through the clinic; results come back fairly quickly. Mayor Bequette brings up Flu Vaccines and asks if they are out yet. DeFreece advises they are available now; he strongly recommended all to get.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. Vasa if he'd like to add to the conversation as a concerned citizen since he is participating tonight via zoom. Dr. Vasa reiterated as he has in the past for all to continue social distancing and continue to wear masks; more important than ever.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty Stovall for an update from the City. Marty advised all departments are running status quo; no changes at this time.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs to provide an update for Utilities. He noted procedures continue as in the past. That said, they do have a few employees who are on quarantine due to having had contact with an individual who tested positive; at this time, individuals have shown no symptoms.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg provided the update noting as of 3:00 p.m. this afternoon, MO had 133,418 positive cases, 2,174 deaths; IA had 92,986 positive cases with 1,388 deaths (Fremont County numbers are up to 144 cases); KS had 62,708 positive cases with 706 deaths. He reiterates what Dr. DeFreece advised, TestNebraska will be held tomorrow, on the 6<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 p.m. at the Nemaha County hospital; Wednesday, the 7<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 p.m. at CHI St. Mary's. He further advised they will be hosting a Unified Command meeting tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Mayor Bequette asked if the Nemaha County testing will be every Tuesday from 10-12 p.m. Goebel advised yes.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass (W. Snodgrass) if anything from the State. W. Snodgrass noted there are a couple of items. DHHS has expanded the Nebraska Accommodation Project (NAP) <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Nebraska-Accommodation-Project.aspx>; this is where they have the short term housing for those who have been exposed to COVID or have high risk individuals at home. It has been expanded to educators. DHHS has partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education. She further advised the DHHS dashboard had a couple of new enhancements last week. They now have a box that reflects cumulative counts on total tests. Then a weekly percent positive by specimen collection date using total tests; they say this offers a more accurate reflection of the number of cases in the community. Then they moved the total death count to the tab section discussed during the last meeting. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/ece0db09da4d4ca68252c3967aa1e9dd>

Mayor Bequette asked W. Snodgrass on the Accommodation Project is that for all schools (Private and Public). Wendy advised it doesn't say. A. Snodgrass advised it doesn't ask that question on the form.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy advised there are no changes to their procedures at this time.

Mayor Bequette prompted Rob Schreiner for an update with the Fire Department. Rob advised they have no changes to their policy or procedures. He advised there was a little bit of a scare in the EMS Department; all tests came back negative however.

A. Snodgrass addressed the Rescue side of matters noting Chief Schreiner hit the hi-lights. He advised one crew seems to be getting all of the positive runs.


Mayor Bequette asked the City Attorney, Drew Graham to provide an update on tasks. Graham advised no tasks at this time. Mayor Bequette noted we are solidly in Phase IV. He asked a question on what are the marks that would take us back to Phase III. He further noted this has been a solid two weeks from our largest of AppleJack weekends, as far as he knows, there hasn't been anything attributable or a trend that is distinguishable from that. Between the parade and car show those were the biggest gatherings that we've had. Looking at the crowd, the statistics would probably be reported in another County due to the numbers who participated from outside the County. He discussed this week's crowd at the pancake feed.

For logistics A. Snodgrass reiterated from the last meeting supply chains are starting to get more difficult; he noted right now though we are doing well. Mayor Bequette asked a question regarding the status of Presumptive Pay. A. Snodgrass advised he hasn't heard anything yet. All was due September 15; he further advised what he has received is that the documentation was received.

For Communications he reiterated Gregg is still doing Unified Command tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. The next Board of Health meeting will be two weeks from tonight, Monday, October 19, at 5:00 p.m. W. Snodgrass added the numbers are concerning; Mayor Bequette replied the positive case for sure. We are at 8-10 weeks into school. He added Lourdes had their 1<sup>st</sup> case last week. For Public Schools they've had teachers who have tested positive per A. Snodgrass. Mayor Bequette discussed per the information he receives from TestNebraska and by their percentages Otoe County could reach 7-8000 before this is over. More discussion is had on burnout and pandemic fatigue.

A. Snodgrass advised the DHM changed on September 21; they expanded it to schools. Drew Graham stated they changed some of the language in dealing with the quarantine process for students. There is a whole new guidance as far as the schools on who has to quarantine and who has to go home, depending on whether the sick individual has a mask, the exposed student or both or neither. There are conditions for each on who has to quarantine. Mayor Bequette asked so it applies to students and a school environment. Graham added it's guidance specific to the schools in what they are considering a close contact. The exposure outside of the school is the same. More discussion is had regarding exposure and the circumstance. Link here for new DHM. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/WCHD-DHM-September21.pdf>

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:24 PM.

  
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Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer