

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
September 21, 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, September 21, 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 5:03 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: David Lacy, Greg Goebel, Wendy Snodgrass, 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, Utilities Director Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover, Street Commissioner Vic Johns, City Clerk-Treasurer Randy Dunster, and 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 September 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the meeting minutes of September 8, 2020 as provided. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Greg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa, David Lacy, 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 the State is at 41,083 positive cases with 442 deaths. In the SE District which includes Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties, we are at 357 confirmed cases. 162 for the last 30 days (13 additional). By County, 139 in Otoe; 36 in Johnson; 115 in Nemaha; 12 in Pawnee, and 55 in Richardson. In terms of trend, in the last few weeks we have seen a decline in the rate of cases. The only other thing he has to report is a small change in the DHM relating to schools and students. He expects us to stay in Phase IV through the end of COVID.

Mayor Bequette noted it doesn't look like Dr. DeFreece is on; from the medical side he asked for an update from Dr. Vasa. Dr. Vasa noted there has been a downward swing in cases, hopefully that

doesn't change due to the AppleJack events. He adds social distancing is still important and feels we need to continue to push that message.

Mayor Bequette asked question on whether we are hearing any news on the effects of those who are asymptomatic. Dr. Vasa noted we are still learning. Asymptomatic are still carrying. More discussion is had on same. Mayor Bequette asked of Grant are we still considering a lot of this to be community spread out of the new numbers. Brueggeman noted looking at the district as a whole, 56% of the cases are community transmission as of right now.

Mayor Bryan Bequette asked Gregg Goebel of Emergency Management for an update. Gregg provided the update noting IA has 80,719 positive cases with 1,270 deaths; Fremont County specifically is up to 88 cases. MO has 112,844 positive cases with 1,795 deaths; KS has 53,959 positive cases with 1,795 deaths. Per discussion, it is determined Fremont County has about 7,000 in population.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy advised their case work has gone up 1 a day since the last meeting. He discussed crowds in Nebraska City for the AppleJack weekend. He further noted the lack of masks/social distancing he saw. He mentions crowd at Arbor Day Foundation; more adherence to masks/social distancing there.

A. Snodgrass addressed the Rescue side of matters adding they transported approximately 4 positive COVID transfers this past week. He believes all were inter-facility transports. Dispatcher notifies when they receive the call if COVID. Protocols are still working.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass if anything from the State. Wendy noted there are a couple of updates from DHHS. Their data dashboard on the website has been enhanced; it will now have data on weekly positive rates by collection date as well as lab turnaround for processing the tests. Per discussion it is determined turnaround average is about 3 days. More discussion is had on CHI St. Mary's TestNebraska site asking where are the labs processed. TestNebraska is at St. Elizabeth labs; where CHI is at Creighton. Wendy further adds TestNebraska has now partnered with Omaha Public Schools and Children's hospital. That will expand the testing opportunities for students and teachers at the OPS system. Children's hospital is setting up a mobile testing within a 200 mile radius of Omaha. Reminder all Nebraskan's are encouraged to get the flu vaccine this year to help limit the spread. Mayor Bequette asked if flu vaccines have started yet. Discussion is had and the belief is they start becoming available September/October. A. Snodgrass advises, Walgreens is doing them now.

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

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs for an update from Utilities. Kohrs advised no change from the last meeting.

Donna Kruse from the Library was prompted by the Mayor to provide an update. Kruse noted patrons can browse materials at the Kimmel room and they are filling reserves for pick up; no other changes as Marty noted. Local schools haven't asked to come in.

Mayor Bequette asked the City Attorney, Drew Graham to provide an update on tasks. Graham advised no tasks at this time. Per prompt, he advised the end date for the current DHM is October 31; he presumes they will extend that.

Mayor Bequette notes Amy Allgood of NCTC is not at tonight's meeting but she will be at City Council to discuss future items for upcoming weeks. Wendy asked the question if we see a dramatic increase, as a Board, we can implement stricter DHM's, correct. Mayor Bequette stated yes.

It was noted the Bloody Mary competition has been canceled for next Sunday due to height of pandemic, bars and distributors had to close down; they are still recovering and are not able to participate. Mayor Bequette advised the items NCTC will be bringing to Council tonight for October 3 will be the pancake feed, the sunken parking lot and partnering with the 1st Christian church. On October 10 will be the food truck street fair. More discussion is had on the events coming up/social distancing/and being able to call a special meeting, if need be. A. Snodgrass advises a lot of the people who come to these events live out of town; we wouldn't necessarily see the swing unless it is locals and Otoe County. He noted it goes to the residence of the patron.

For logistics A. Snodgrass advised vendor supplies have gotten tight again, medical grade gloves are at a 3 month back order. Masks are on allocation again. Cleaning wipes same. Trying to work with different vendors to maintain what we have and anticipate for the future. He advised they have a couple of glove orders a month apart trying to stay ahead of things. If all are 3 months apart the thought is they will have a steady supply coming in. UV light is still working well; Utilities utilized recently. A. Snodgrass added we should be good for the future as long as we stay on top of it. He feels confident from now through early to mid-December. He further discusses flu season will be approaching soon.

For communications, per prompt of Mayor Bequette, Goebel advised still running Unified Command, it won't be this week but 2 weeks away from tomorrow.

Mayor Bequette asked would we be ok for the next BOH to meet in 2 weeks, Monday, October 5 at 5:00 p.m. If we see something trending we could call an emergency meeting.

Brueggeman asked if there were any estimates on how many attended the activities this weekend. Mayor Bequette noted he doesn't believe the Chamber has put anything out yet. A. Snodgrass noted he was at Arbor Day Farms and they were packed the whole day. More discussion is had on the number in attendance overall including the Car Show attendees. Mayor Bequette believes the parade was probably 50% of the normal attendance; maybe as low as 40%. Brueggeman noted the reason he asked he wants to put out a message to his health directors to watch for cases around AppleJack. For the car show, discussion is had on the number of cars in this year's show. Graham advised through B103 they had it at 300. Mayor Bequette feels those looking at cars were probably 75% of normal attendees. Spacing of cars is discussed. Mayor Bequette noted we can probably get a list from NCTC on the schools that sent bands as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer