

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
November 16, 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, November 16, 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. 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 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: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, Greg 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, Utilities General Manager Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Fire Chief Rob Schreiner, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover as well as 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 November 2, 2020 meeting minutes. Dr. Brad Vasa moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 2, 2020 as provided. Gregg Goebel seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. David Lacy, Wendy Snodgrass, Gregg Goebel, Dr. Brad Vasa, 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 Bryan Bequette asked Grant Brueggeman, Director of the Southeast District Health Department for an update. Grant provided an update noting today we are at 1,472 cases, 831 of those are within the last 30 days; Otoe County cumulative is at 589 cases. He added last week, ending Saturday, we had our new week high of 316 cases. Of those 125 belong to Otoe County. Specifically looking to Otoe County for incidence rate of cases per 100,000 per day, the District which includes all 5 Counties is at 136.8; Otoe County is at 115.4. As a comparison, looking at Douglas County, as of last night they were at 99.4. Thus we are trending higher than our biggest population center to date. That's a trend for each of the Counties too. Mayor Bequette asked Brueggeman stating there is no change on contact tracing noting the highest percentage is community spread. Brueggeman replied that's correct.

Mayor Bequette prompted Dr. DeFreece on a hospital update. DeFreece noted they are seeing the aftermath of increased cases at St. Mary's; both the clinic and ER. The hospital situation is dicey or critical if you will; there are not a lot of beds available. To clarify, he means capacity. Then compound that with the nursing shortage going on in the Country. He gives further updates on hospital. He noted they are doing TestNebraska every day now on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and

Friday from 8:30-9:30 a.m.; they are testing 50 plus people. On Wednesday's they are still doing from 10-12 a.m. up to 100 in 2 hours. They are still doing testing in the clinic for sicker patients as well as the ER. PPE is doing well; the basic concern now is the numbers. He discusses vaccines becoming available; also looking at new medications that may help treat their highest risk people. Per prompt of Mayor Bequette on TestNebraska, DeFreece states as long as someone as the QR code they can get tested. CHI staff doing well on processes. He advised per prompt of the Mayor, they don't receive the results of TestNebraska; they instead are asking patients to provide them with the results so they can then give them the proper advice. That said, he believes they get results in 24 to 48 hours of testing; at the clinic he believes it's 24 to 36 hours. Due to reagent concerns have to be judicious about how they test locally; they test the most critically ill in the ER.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. Vasa to provide an update. Dr. Vasa noted a month ago we had 122 active cases in the County, today we are at 240+; basically doubled. It's here and now we have to be vigilant; vaccines look promising but it's going to be a while before we know the outcome. We are starting to have limited options. At St. Mary's only have 2-3 beds available.

Mayor Bequette asked Gregg Goebel for an update. Goebel advised as of 3:00 today MO had 239,451 positive cases, 3,374 deaths; IA had 187,020 positive cases with 1,991 deaths; KS had 122,741 positive cases with 1,266 deaths. He added the County Board has been talking about putting some form of mask policy or mask issuance in place at the Court House; that should be coming out Tuesday at their regular board meeting. He will be able to report more on that once we know their final decision.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass if she has an update from the State. Wendy noted Dr. Anthonie, Chief Medical Officer and Director of DHHS, came out with a great statement. He stated our behaviors are affecting the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. The actions we take now will be reflected in the history of the pandemic in our State. He reminds all to avoid the 3 C's (crowded places; close contact; and confined spaces). Be sure to wear a mask, distance yourself, and wash your hands. Guidance measure came out effective today about elective surgeries. Class D and E surgeries have been canceled; those are surgeries that can wait 4 to 12 weeks and greater. The new DHM is discussed; Mayor Bequette noted we've gotten 2 in the last 5 days or so.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy noted they are requesting people to put on a mask when they enter their facility; they did put signs up over the weekend. Officers have been informed to always try and wear a mask when they have consensual contact with individuals and attempt to wear them when they do go on calls. They have also stepped up their cleaning efforts as well; officers have been assigned their own cleaning kits for their cars and work areas. As of right now, good shape on PPE.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty Stovall for an update from the City. Marty advised all departments are operating as they have been. He added all areas of the City are still open. We have had 3 who have quarantined, 2 are back now.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs to provide an update for Utilities. He noted they currently have 4 employees who have tested positive from 2 different departments; they also have 3 that are quarantined due to direct contact. They are not showing any symptoms so they hopefully will return to work soon. All operations are continuing as they have been. They are fine on PPE.

Per prompt of Mayor Bequette, Donna Kruse advised she believes their 2 cases were counted with Marty's report; all are back to work. They seem to be doing fine on supplies.

Mayor Bequette prompted Rob Schreiner for an update with the Fire Department. Rob noted he believes the EMS is on 2 COVID transfers right now. He advised the rapid tester did come in which will give them options for testing. They are just trying to stay ahead of it.

Mayor Bequette moved the meeting to tasks. He prompted Drew Graham to provide an update. He advised of the release approved by Council on best practices for COVID during this time. He added it was distributed to Dan Swanson and was published by NewsChannel NE on Friday. It was distributed to the NewsPress and will run in tomorrow's edition of the NewsPress as well as on their FaceBook page. It was also sent to Amy Allgood of Nebraska City Tourism and Commerce as well as Dan Mauk. Graham further advised there was a 2nd release almost identical in language with the addition of the 3 part step with the barrier, distance, or mask for City staff which went out last week; the same best practices with a little more forceful request of staff. As noted we are onto another DHM which for our District is #13. It took affect at 12:01 this a.m.; it is currently set to run through the end of the month. He advised it is getting more and more difficult to track the changes between them. He further noted there is a difference between the medical care and the classifications regarding elective procedures. In the last DHM that came out between the 2 board of health meetings, updates on the most current one are indoor gatherings are limited to 25% of the capacity; outdoor gatherings are still at 100%; the maximum single at a party cannot exceed 8 individuals, etc.. Link here for DHM #13 for more detail.

Color coded chart detail for additional restrictions based off of hospital bed thresholds-percent COVID-19 inpatients of 14 day rolling average of staffed beds:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/hmadcuih3j2xlyd/Color-Coded%20%20Phase%20Comparison%2011.13.20.pdf?dl=0>

Mayor Bequette asked Graham if he could cover the policy for essential personnel. Graham advised Andrew Snodgrass had made known that if we have a large number of individuals who are forced to isolate or quarantine it could be problematic not only for City operations but for the safety of the community as well; i.e. fire/rescue, potentially police and utilities. Snodgrass had a conversation with some of the board members on implementing a policy whereby the City could schedule individuals who had been quarantined (close contact with somebody); they could be scheduled so long as they have not themselves had any symptoms that have developed and it is necessary for the operations of that department for an individual to be scheduled. Thinking about EMS, if they had 15 people that had to quarantine they may not have enough individuals to fill shifts. If somebody is quarantined due to a close contact and does not have symptoms they could be scheduled. There are additional restrictions placed on that individual as far as self-assessment, screening, temperature, wearing a mask, distancing, etc. Andrew drafted a policy which Graham assisted in cleaning up; the 2nd part of that policy was the new rapid tester equipment that the Fire/Rescue has in developing a policy on when that should be used and in the manner in which that should be done. Again, Snodgrass drafted that up and Graham assisted in cleaning it up. They are still working through that. The Extreme Scheduling need policy came about due to concern on future issues. Mayor Bequette advised and Andrew knew, per the DHM, if you have an existing policy that covers this then you can bring someone back who should quarantine per the DHM but is asymptomatic. Graham advised he believes it states something to the effect you can exempt those employees from being subject to the DHM and then it probably comes forth you don't want to do that without a policy in place. He believes the policy that Andrew had written does a great job, taking it from the DHM defines the close contact, quarantine, isolation, etc. and then it actually places the decision on whether or not somebody could be scheduled; the Supervisor of that department is responsible for the scheduling. Moreover it's on the Supervisor not the employee. It would have to be a situation where there aren't other individuals

who could be scheduled in that role (i.e. if all 4 paramedics are forced to quarantine there is obviously not other individuals available to the City to fill that role) and it is a necessary role. Mayor Bequette advised it could have a big impact on the Rescue Department as well as for our 3 Apparatus Engineer's. It could also have an impact on the Police Department too. Mayor Bequette noted we should probably bring in the FOP and advise them of it. Graham noted the way he started off writing it, it was more directed towards fire/rescue. He advised he has written as a City wide policy; he doesn't believe outside of fire/rescue/police and maybe Utilities, others won't fit this extreme scheduling need requirement. He added yes, will need to work with the FOP and notify them and go from there. Per prompt of Mayor Bequette Graham advised the only ones from Utilities he could think would affect would be linemen or those in the water power plant. Kohrs advised those are fairly small departments and the call center is open 24-7 so potentially they could have some fall in that category. Graham advised he would then probably take the policy to the Board of Public works as well. Mayor Bequette asked Graham if the policy was far enough along to share it with the Board of Health, Marty, Jeff, and of course City Council. Graham advised that policy is pretty much done. It was determined to get the scheduling one in place and separate out the rapid tester policy. Graham advised he can distribute that to all on the Board of Health and the necessary staff as well as City Council. Mayor Bequette noted a rapid tester was purchased for a little over \$1,200.00; he doesn't know how it works per se. Dr. Vasa added you pretty much don't use it on asymptomatic people; if someone is exposed and asymptomatic it's not going to work. It's a quick test and more cost effective; if someone is exposed and they have symptoms then that's when you use it. Then if it's positive you should recommend following up with a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test. Graham advised that's the way it is worded; it's only for individuals who have been exposed to a positive and are experiencing symptoms themselves. The policy states it will not be used for a secondary validation of somebody or individuals who are asymptomatic. Right now, as the policy is written if I was a 1st responder who had been exposed to an individual who is positive and I'm having symptoms, I take the rapid test and it is a negative, under the policy I would be able to continue working until or unless I have developed symptoms. It's another way for 1st responders to continue working without falling subject to the broadness of the DHM. More discussion is had around the same for clarification. Mayor Bequette adds on this test if they come up positive they will switch from isolation to quarantine we shouldn't call them back in, correct. Graham agrees. Mayor Bequette advised they will share the initial idea with the Council this evening as well. He asked if there was any concern of this type testing from the Board. Dr. Vasa noted it has a limited application but it still helps. Graham reiterated the current DHM does go to the end of the month; he anticipates a new one coming out around Thanksgiving.

For logistics there were no concerns at this point.

For communications, the next Board of Health meeting will be in three weeks, Monday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m. Goebel advised the Unified Command meeting will be December 1; 1st Tuesday of the month. Mayor Bequette advised this last week Dr. DeFreece and himself were asked to join in and listen as the schools meet with the Southeast Health District on Thursday morning. He added Drew covered the communication on all the notices going out. He asked Marty, Jeff, if they got distributed; agreed they had. Moore advised she also added the communications to Facebook and the City website as well.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer