

**Minutes of the Nebraska City Board of Health
December 7, 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, December 7, 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 of the Open Meetings 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. We also have speakers joining the meeting via the zoom platform; we now have an Executive Order from the Governor that allows Board members to be present and voting via Zoom as well. 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: Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, and Mayor Bryan Bequette. Dr. Brad Vasa joined the meeting via Zoom; Gregg Goebel joined via Zoom as well but logged in at 5:02 p.m. The following City Officials were present via zoom and in person: City Administrator Lou Leone, Construction and Facility Manager Marty Stovall, City Attorney Drew Graham, Utilities General Manager Jeff Kohrs, Library Director Donna Kruse, Finance Commissioner Gloria Glover and Public Works Commissioner Paul Davis 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 16, 2020 meeting minutes. David Lacy moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 16, 2020 as provided. Wendy Snodgrass seconded the motion. With no further discussion, upon roll call the following voted YES. Dr. Brad Vasa, Wendy Snodgrass, David Lacy, 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 right now the State is at 139,034 total cases with 1205 total cumulative deaths. Within the district, Otoe, Johnson, Pawnee, Nemaha, and Richardson Counties we are at 2,158 total cases; 995 of those are within the past 30 days. Otoe County specifically is at 835 cases with 378 of those within the past 30 days. We are starting to see an upward trend in deaths, we are at 16 cumulative right now; for a long time we didn't surpass 5 but we are seeing a trend upwards. These are deaths that have been confirmed through DHHS. Waiting on a few death certificates to come through but that number will continue to climb. Trend wise up until the week of Thanksgiving we had seen a spike in upward cases; however, in the last week and a half it has reduced some. After the holiday we'll see what that trend looks like. The State hospital capacity has seen a

decrease in capacity as well. Mayor Bequette asked question on what is attributed to the uptick of deaths in the District; Brueggeman advised skilled nursing facilities are the main reason for the uptick. Per prompt of Mayor Bequette he further advised on DHM changes coming if we surpass the 25% hospitalizations which would push us to the red level. He further noted the State will start to see vaccines probably within 3 weeks timeframe; not sure when we will see them locally.

Mayor Bequette asked for an update from Dr. DeFreece of St. Mary's. Dr. DeFreece advised they are seeing the same thing kind of mirror as to what Grant said. We are seeing less cases at the hospital as well as a little bit of decrease at the clinic too. They are also seeing a decrease in the positivity rate; that's good news but concerned people will get complacent again and stop wearing masks and social distancing. He advised with the help of Grant and the SE Health Department and other local areas they are working on plans to help disseminate vaccines that are being put forward by the State. That's part of the plan to help mitigate the virus in the middle of a pandemic. It's still going to require face mask wearing, hand washing, distancing, in addition to the vaccine to get us through this. A vaccine does not in any way preclude what we are promoting and doing.

Mayor Bequette asked Dr. Vasa to provide an update. Dr. Vasa advised the numbers are as high as they've ever been; it's really important that all stay vigilant. Per Dr. Vasa's prompt, Leone, Stovall, and Kohrs indicated by nods City staff are continuing to follow mask protocol. Mayor Bequette added he has noticed more locals wearing masks of recent.

Mayor Bequette asked Gregg Goebel for an update. Goebel advised MO currently has 324,956 positive cases, 4,194 deaths; IA has 245,270 positive cases with 2,718 deaths; KS has 174,025 positive cases with 1,856 deaths. He added the County last week asked employees to mask up in the building especially in the common areas and dealing with the public; probably 80 plus percent of the building is wearing masks. Customers coming into the building are also wearing masks.

Mayor Bequette asked Chief Lacy if he has anything new to report. David Lacy advised he doesn't have anything new to report but added he would concur with the Mayor's statement on more people wearing masks of recent.

Mayor Bequette asked Wendy Snodgrass if she has an update from the State. Wendy noted she has no updates other than the multiple DHM's that have come out; however, she will let Drew Graham advise on same.

Mayor Bequette asked Marty Stovall for an update from the City. Marty advised all operations are continuing as they have been. The only change since the last time all met is the reinforcement to City employees on if you can't be within 6' of social distance to wear a mask. He is unaware of any active cases for City employees. He noted as of December 1 there was a step back in the protocol for the Library but he will let Donna advise on it. Donna advised as of December 1 they closed their browsing area and their computer access. They went back ½ step but they are still open for pick up in the lobby, they can call them for materials or order through the catalog. Most of their materials are still available people just don't get to come in and browse any longer. Mayor Bequette asked if we feel like we can open it back up in the near future was there quite a bit of use from the limited browsing/computer use. Kruse advised not huge numbers but it was nice to see patrons again. They wanted to reduce any prolonged visits and the patrons were being good about it.

Mayor Bequette asked Jeff Kohrs to provide an update for Utilities. Kohrs advised operations are the same as they have been. All staff have returned to work and no longer under quarantine.

Mayor Bequette prompted Graham as we move to tasks to update all on the Executive Order and DHM's. Graham advised on Executive Order 20-36 which is the video conferencing for public meetings. For final version link provided. <https://govdocs.nebraska.gov/docs/pilot/pubs/eofiles/20-36.pdf>. Graham advised it's back to the way it was in the Spring or at least similar noting the members of a public body, any of you, can participate via video conference or teleconference. Effective dates are December 1 through January 31, 2020. He added, obviously, if it needs to be extended that will be up to the Governor. He further advised since we last met there has either been 2 or 3 DHM's that came out. He advised on a few changes and further added DHM 2020-SEHD-016 is the current one and is effective December 3 through December 31; he expects there will be some version extended beyond that. See link. <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/SEHD-DHM-December.pdf>. The main difference for 16 has to do with Quarantine and Isolation that is provided at the end of the DHM. Notes: Quarantine is for individuals who have had a close contact. Isolation is for those who tested positive or exhibit symptoms. For the quarantine the prior stipulation was for 14 days for close contact which has been shortened and set out in 2 scenarios.

1. 10 days from the last time you had contact with the close contact individual and if you have no symptoms and you continue to self-monitor for up to 14 days from the contact and wear a mask for those 14 days. At 10 days you would be free to no longer be in quarantine but for 4 more days you have to self-monitor for symptoms and wear a mask.
2. Or, you can end your quarantine at 7 days from your close contact if you've had no symptoms and had a negative test result that was tested at day 5 or later. You do have to continue to self-monitor and wear a mask for up to the 14 days.

For isolation:

1. Applies to somebody who has symptoms; they've either gotten symptoms and identified or they've tested positive and have symptoms. It is 10 days from the onset of the symptoms and if symptoms have improved and fever free for 24 hours without medication. That's when the individual isolation can end. The change here is if the individual has a positive test but no symptoms. If asymptomatic it is 10 days from the test date if no symptoms. For 3 days after isolation individual is supposed to social distance the best they can and wear a face covering.

Graham advises other limitations are still the same for close contact, businesses, etc.

Graham was prompted by the Mayor on the 2 policies the Council will see tonight.

1. Extreme Scheduling policy – primarily focused at 1st responders for the City. Opening up the possibility they could be scheduled if they have a close contact but are non-symptomatic. If it was absolutely necessary instead of them quarantining, they could be scheduled with limitations.
2. Rapid Tester policy. Acquired by EMS – outlining when that can be used, the procedure, and what the test results look like for the employee.

Mayor Bequette noted the policy allows for somebody who should be isolating or quarantining due to scheduling needs on availability, we could bring someone back. A. Snodgrass added he didn't believe that was for isolation. Graham noted that was the way it was originally written but it would be at the Supervisor's discretion. He further noted the isolation individuals would not likely be called back because they would have either tested positive or symptoms. More discussion is had on isolation/quarantine language in policy. Graham added there is a provision if somebody has symptoms they cannot come back. That is one of the disqualifying factors. It could be someone has tested positive but are asymptomatic and at the tail end of isolation. Realistically this is a small group that would have access to this.

The policy for the rapid test is just for 1st responders who have had a known close contact. If it's been over 5 days they won't rapid test. Mayor Bequette sets the scenario in that the Supervisor would contact A. Snodgrass and set up the test. Andrew is trained as well as one other. The results can be done in approximately 15 minutes.

Mayor Bequette added the Extreme Scheduling is allowed in the DHM if a policy is in place allowing the City to do so; Graham agreed.

Mayor Bequette asked A. Snodgrass to provide an update on statistics. He noted as far as he knows all is going well. He noted on EMS they've had a few people in quarantine. He added they are trialing some re-useable painter's mask; they are plastic and have N95 filters on them. They are seeing if they can get those filters more readily than N95 masks. He hasn't heard from other departments on needs other than gloves. For the fire department he noted he believes one or two volunteers are in quarantine. He has 1 part-time paramedic who is in quarantine; he will be done tomorrow. For exposers, currently they have dropped down but a few weeks before that they were busy. He advised on his shifts in particular. Protocols are going well. He further discusses re-useable PPE versus disposable. Talks about back order of gloves but the City is doing well. Presumptive pay deadline was met and as far as we know all is good to go. He further added the City should receive around \$430,000.00.

For communications, the next Board of Health meeting will be on Monday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m. Goebel advised the next Unified Command meeting will be January 5 at 2:00 p.m. Mayor Bequette asked question on whether we should send out the reminder to City staff every few weeks on social distancing and masks. Graham advised he had a note to resend it to City staff with some updated language. He added we could do a City wide one as well. Mayor Bequette asked for the public did we happen to do a Spanish version? Graham advised we did not; he added he can have it translated. Mayor Bequette stated let's look at doing that.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM.



Patricia Moore, Deputy City Clerk-Treasurer