



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Council Session

Item G-1

Approving Minutes of July 27, 2020 Joint Health Department Meeting

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF JOINT HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING

July 27, 2020

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a Special Joint Meeting of the City Council of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, the Hall County Board of Supervisors, the Hamilton County Board of Commissioners, the Merrick County Board of Commissioners, and the Central District Health Department was conducted at the Grand Island Police Department, 111 Public Safety Drive, Grand Island, Nebraska on July 27, 2020. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on July 20, 2020.

Central District Health Department (CDHD) Board President Chuck Haase called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were: CDHD Board members: Chuck Haase, Merrick County Supervisor Tom Weller, Sandra Barrera, Hamilton County Supervisor Opal Christensen, Traci Dieckman, Shay McGowan, Hall County Commissioner Ron Peterson, and David Stoddard. Others attending were: Hall County Commissioner Gary Quandt, Mayor Roger G. Steele, City Councilmembers Chuck Haase, Vaughn Minton, Mitch Nickerson, Mark Stelk, Justin Scott, City Administrator Jerry Janulewicz, Finance Director Patrick Brown, and City Clerk RaNae Edwards. Health Department employees: Teresa Anderson, Jeremy Collinson, and Lisa Boeke.

Mr. Haase welcomed those attending and thanked Ms. Anderson and Mayor Roger Steele for working through COVID-19 issues.

Budget Overview. Executive Director Teresa Anderson gave an overview of the 2020-2021 Budget which was approved by the Health Board. She stated money had been coming in for COVID-19 and they had budgeted \$395,144 for COVID-19 expenses for next year. There were very little changes in the budget from last year. The personnel budget would be higher due to hiring more employees and an Assistant Health Director. Ms. Anderson mentioned most expenses were due to COVID-19.

Discussion was held regarding the availability of laptops and telephone changing to be able to work from home.

Reviewed were the CDHD positivity rate by county per month for COVID-19. Mentioned was the ability to get the message out to the public. She commended St. Francis Hospital and others for their help in dealing with this pandemic. Ms. Anderson stated the positivity rate had been increasing over the last few weeks. Mentioned was the Risk Dial that had been created by Hall County to show the positivity rate.

Ms. Anderson stated they were testing more and were working with GIPS to be able to test kids. Contact tracing was mentioned and working on turnaround times. They were working with Test Nebraska and were looking to hire more nurses to take these tests.

Jeremy Collinson gave an overview of how their programs had handled COVID. He stated they didn't have a lot of changes until March 26, 2020. All inspections had been stopped such as food establishments, day cares, tattoo parlors, swimming pools, etc. A few inspections had been done on new establishments. The water testing program had been continued. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was a big part of their duties in acquiring and getting the supplies to the health community such as doctor's offices, dentist offices, hospitals, long term care, Police, Fire, etc. Mentioned was being short staffed as a challenge. Other challenges mentioned were not being able to attend training to keep their licenses up to date. He mentioned they were working with the new hospital in getting them PPE.

Comments were made regarding what CDHD would do differently if COVID reemerged. Ms. Anderson stated they would work closely with the long term care facilities. She commented on other programs they had to put on hold because of COVID.

Lisa Boeke, reported on Women Infant & Children (WIC) program. The program was run and funded by the USDA. When COVID struck they went directly to remote services. Mentioned was the SNAP program which was for food stamps. Structural changes had taken place in the office. Their biggest challenge was staffing. The Immunization program had been suspended in March but on June 16, 2020 they had resumed the program. They were planning on increasing the influenza vaccine and encouraged everyone to get their flu shot.

Ms. Anderson stated they were looking forward to the COVID vaccine and planning for mass vaccination.

Discussion was held concerning staffing, Health Departments role in animal bites, COVID testing, auditing hot spots, and the pending flu season.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk