



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Council Session

Item G-4

Approving Minutes of July 19, 2021 Joint Health Department Meeting

Staff Contact: RaNae Edwards

CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

MINUTES OF JOINT HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING

July 19, 2021

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 19, 2021. Notice of the meeting was given in the *Grand Island Independent* on July 14, 2021.

Central District Health Department (CDHD) Board President Ron Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present for the meeting were: CDHD Board members: Chuck Haase, Traci Dieckmann, Tom Weller, Shay McGowan and Dick Phillips. Others attending were: Hall County Commissioners Gary Quandt, Karen Bredhauer, Scott Sorensen, Hall County Clerk Marla Conley, City Councilmembers Jason Conley, Maggie Mendoza, Bethany Guzinski, Mitch Nickerson, Mark Stelk, Justin Scott, Mike Paulick, City Administrator Jerry Janulewicz, Finance Director Patrick Brown, and City Clerk RaNae Edwards. Health Department employees: Teresa Anderson and Jonna Mangeot were present by Zoom, Jeremy Collinson, Cindy Valdez, Colette Evans, Bridget Haahr, and Cody Rush.

CDHD Chairman Ron Peterson and Executive Director Teresa Anderson welcomed those attending.

Contact Tracing 101: Jonna Mangeot, Community Health Nurse reported on the process of contact tracing with regards to COVID, Pertussis (whooping cough), rabbi's, tuberculosis, meningitis and other diseases. Guidelines were presented with regards to COVID. Currently they were no longer quarantining people because of the expiration of the Governor's Executive Order as of June 30, 2021, but COVID cases were increasing. Ms. Anderson stated they didn't know a lot about the variant and how it mutated and spread, but they did know those that had been vaccinated were getting along better.

Year in Review: Executive Director Teresa Anderson stated this year had been a Doozy. Vaccination rates in Nebraska were 49% and the Central District Health Department had 37%. Those over 65 years old were much more likely to get vaccinated. There were 9,696 positive cases of COVID out of 39,053 tests taken and 153 deaths. She mentioned concerns with the start of school and the increase of the variant and would like to see kids get vaccinated. TestNebraska had been ended.

Ms. Anderson stated they were seeing lingering conditions from those that had COVID like loss of taste and smell. Reviewed was the Delta variant which was 40% more transmissible. More people would be hospitalized and more likely to result in ICU and three times more likely to result in death.

She stated what they did know that worked was: vaccines; masks; social distancing; stay home when ill; and testing when ill with respiratory symptoms. She stated they had a ways to go but they knew they would win the battle. She stated they would probably see masks mandated again by the CDC.

She stated most funds received this past year were because of COVID. In the past year they had to add personnel because of COVID.

Presented was a video of the CDHD activities throughout this past year. She stated CDHD was 20 years old.

Jeremy Collinson stated they were still seeing requests for supplies Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). He stated they had given out over 2 million gloves. They were concerned about West Nile but hadn't seen anything yet.

Collette Evans commented on case management services to almost 7,000 people that had tested positive for COVID. A number of other grants had to be put on hold because their time had been taken up with COVID. Ms. Anderson answered questions on being better prepared now than before. She stated vaccinations were key, they had more staff, better prepared for PPE, long term care liaison, and relationships with the schools.

Ms. Anderson stated even though people had been vaccinated they could get the variant. Those without the vaccination were more likely to get the variant.

Budget Overview. Bridget Haahr, Accounting Manager presented the budget. She stated they had a balanced budget. Ms. Anderson thanked the Cities and Counties for their contributions.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

RaNae Edwards
City Clerk