

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

October 26, 2010

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Tracy Bradley	Garfield Co: Nancy Polinoski
Greeley Co: Doug Wrede	Sherman Co: Tom Bandur
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel	Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Thomas Co: Kevin Hood, Chairman	Range Co. Municipalities:
Wheeler Co: Jack Poulsen, Vice-Chair	Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Law Enforce: Dave Weeks	Doug Reiter
Tri-Co Municipalities:	
Valley, Greeley, Sherman	
Richard Anderson	

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Donna Steckel/Co-Chief Dispatcher, Virginia Michalski/
Co-Chief Dispatcher

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Hood.

Roll Call was taken with seven (7) members present.

The meeting being duly posted and a quorum present, the Chairman proclaimed this meeting to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meeting Act was posted in the meeting room.

Motion by Jack Poulsen and seconded by Doug Wrede to approve the August 31, 2010 Minutes.
Ayes (5) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

No meeting or minutes for September due to lack of quorum.

Motion by Tracy Bradley and seconded by Jack Poulsen to approve the August 2010 Financial Statement. Ayes (5) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Jack Poulsen and seconded by Doug Wrede to approve the September 2010 Financial Statement. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The annual audit report returned from Alvin P. Alms & Company was presented by Alma and reviewed by the Board. After discussion Doug Wrede made a motion to accept the annual audit report with a second from Dave Weeks. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma asked about having a business credit card for when she is gone to meetings as well as purchasing supplies for the Dispatch Center and office while out of town. Currently she is using personal debit card and getting reimbursed at end of month. The application would be for a VISA card through Pathway Bank with no annual fee and can put a \$500 - \$1000 limit on the card. Richard Anderson made a motion for a credit card with a \$1000 limit. Dave Weeks seconded the motion.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks discussed the coverage on the radios has been good. Alma asked about the Statewide Communications that was now online with State Patrol Troop C and if it caused any interference and he was not aware of any.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher Virginia Michalski gave a breakdown of the statistics for the previous two months.

They had for August: 16 Generator, 61 NAWAS, 31 Siren, 251 Alarm, 87 Office, 803 Page, 2628 Radio, 2447 Phone, 327 – 911 Calls, 110 Administrative, 705 Ambulance, 22 Bus, 531 Public, 25 Department of Roads, 382 Fire, 35 Guest, 24 Hospital, 3901 Law Enforcement, 758 Tests, 158 Weather. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of August was 13,302.

For September: 13 Generator, 48 NAWAS, 35 Siren, 213 Alarm, 124 Office, 797 Page, 2687 Radio, 2362 Phone, 338 – 911 Calls, 112 Administrative, 1019 Ambulance, 41 Bus, 490 Public, 28 Department of Roads, 374 Fire, 22 Guest, 34 Hospital, 3625 Law Enforcement, 776 Tests, 96 Weather. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of September was 13,234.

Virginia reported on Active School Shooting drill that she and Alma attended on Sunday at the Burwell High School that the Loup County Sheriff and Burwell PD held with Law Enforcement from Valley, Wheeler and Rock Counties as well as having students play as victims for the Drill. She also reported that the Ansley 911 lines had been switched earlier this month to Broken Bow.

Virginia said that our new dispatcher, Jenny Eggert, is now working on her own and doing a very good job.

Director's Report:

Alma reported that there were only two resolutions for the Interlocal Agreement left to be turned in from Ord and Elyria. She has been attending board meetings with the signature page to have the Chairman and Clerk sign for the Agreement. There were only half on the signatures left to attain.

The Lower Loup NRD Mitigation Plan had been rejected by FEMA and is being corrected by Kirkham Michael. They hope to have done in the spring. Alma stated her concern for a couple of communities that were already working on applications for mitigation grants that will be held up until this plan is approved. The Upper Loup NRD Mitigation Plan with Thomas and Blaine has already been approved.

Alma reported on the response and recovery meetings that NEMA held in Lincoln and North Platte. They were there to answer any questions or to help with any problems that the counties were having with FEMA on paperwork and projects for the flooding disaster. Alma handed out contact information of the NEMA personnel that will help with any problems.

Alma attended the meetings held at the Mass Dispensing sites for our region with the Health Department, Health and Human Services and Law Enforcement. They needed to go through a security check list and walk through at these sites for preparedness for this year. Alma met with them this month at the sites covering our region which were at St. Paul (covering Sherman and Greeley), Ord (covering Loup, Garfield, Wheeler and Valley) and Dunning (Blaine). Thomas County handled by email security check list.

The Logging Recorder had been causing some problems and the system will lock up. Alma wanted the board to be aware of the situation as there was nothing budgeted if this system would go down. The technician that had been working on it was concerned about the distance that the tower was from the monitor due to lack of room in equipment closet and had experienced problems before with this type of situation. Doug Wrede and Jack Poulsen suggested looking into wireless connections that might be possible for the equipment.

Alma stated that the new generator that had been delivered to the Ord tower site had damages to the top of the generator housing and the muffler cap was broken. In contacting B.J. Harris about damages done to the generator and wanting the top replaced as well as muffler cap, he said he would work with the delivery company. Alma said she would keep onto this to make sure damaged items are replaced.

Alma reported on the APCO/NENA Conference and classes that she and Linda attended in Lincoln. The Exercise Planning and Training Workshop in North Platte and LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) conference was this last weekend. Included in these classes was training for the new internet program to work on the County Emergency Plan (LEOP) manuals and compliance for the NIMS courses and information on the transition to the narrow banding for radios and equipment.

Alma reported that dispatcher Pam (Stapleman) Karmann had turned in her resignation at the end of last month and has since left. Alma discussed with the board the problems with having enough dispatchers to fill in the on-call position as well as still having a shortage on dispatchers for regular time.

Other items to report on: Having to replace a thermostat at the Ord Tower site for the air conditioner.

Alma was trying to locate an exterminator for a spider infestation at the tower sites, as well as doing the Dispatch Center and office.

The wood structure at the Sargent tower site has been removed by the renter but their paging equipment is

not off the tower yet.

NCTC has sent notice that they will be terminating their contract the end of May at Sargent site at the same time that the Christian Radio station is asking for space on our tower at that same location. Alma will try to work that out with them.

Last month Alma had met with Red Cross to determine good sites in each county for shelters that Red Cross can get in touch with to sign agreements with them to make their building an approved Red Cross Shelter.

Alma stated that she had worked at booth at Husker Harvest Days one day and brought home the Emergency Management Association trailer to take to the North Central EMS conference at the Ord Fire Hall and also set up Region 26 booth.

Alma reported on the Statewide Interoperability/Communications Network and also handed out information to help explain the communications. At the workshop last week in North Platte, NEMA handed out the information that explained the whole system. She was also informed that this information was to be sent out to the County Clerks by NACO so that the elected officials had an understanding.

Alma stated that there were four parts to the system and gave a short explanation to each:

(1)The Paraclete System – will allow dispatch to connect frequencies to allow departments to talk to each other. This system has been installed in our communications center by the State. It will require further training and adding frequencies.

(2)The Nebraska Statewide Radio System – The State has installed this system starting in the Panhandle and working east and has just recently turned up the Troup C area from Grand Island north to create radio communications for State Agencies including: the Governor's office, NPPD, State Patrol, State Fire Marshall, Game & Parks, Corrections, NEMA and Dept of Roads and is to be complete at end of 2010.

(3)The State Mutual Aid System – This is a system of analog radio base stations across the State to allow our local agencies to talk from one area to the next if moving across the State. The NCOR (Nebraska Council of Regions) made up of a representative of each of the eight Planning-Exercise Regions in the State are developing initiatives for maintenance and upkeep of the system. The timeline for activation and completion is being developed.

(4)The Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network (NRIN) is the backbone for the system and will be a IP wireless network using towers across the state. It will carry both voice and data and connect the PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) or 911 centers across the state which will utilize the Paraclete System and has possibilities of replacing the connection for the Teletype, NAWAS and possibly our 911 lines eventually to cut other costs.

Alma pointed out that while most of this is being implemented with grant funds, the State is expecting the local jurisdictions to eventually be able to sustain the system. Alma said that NACO will be talking to the County Commissioners/Supervisors at some of the upcoming meetings about the Communications system and she wanted them understand what the system was.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be November 30, 2010.

Chairman Hood adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Alma Beland
Director/Coordinator