

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
April 28, 2020
Conference Call Only Meeting (due to Pandemic)

Region 26 Council:

Present:		Absent:	
Blaine Co:	Roger Guggenmos	Loup Co:	Jack Ruppel
Garfield Co:	Diana Hurlburt	Sherman Co:	Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Greeley Co:	Jordan Foltz	Valley Co:	Jack Van Slyke
Thomas Co:	Gary Eng	Range Co. Municipalities:	
Wheeler Co:	Doug Pokorny	Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler	
Law Enforce:	Dave Weeks	Doug Reiter	
Tri-Co Municipalities:			
	Valley, Greeley, Sherman		
	Jay Meyer, Chairman		

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director and Virginia Michalski/Co-Chief Dispatcher

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Meyer.

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 Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Dave Weeks to approve the February 25th and March 31st 2020 Minutes. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

In presenting the March 2020 Financial Statement Alma brought up the questions from the previous meeting that Jack Van Slyke asked on the payments made on tower maintenance from February/March. The repairs were from Power Tech on the generator work when it was down in ice storm and Platte Valley Communications for about six different repairs at various sites.

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the March 2020 Financial Statement. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update:

- a. Alma reported on the Disaster Declarations that were turned in.
- b. There was COVID testing done in Ord by the National Guard which she helped find a location for them. There were six positives out of 100 tests done. There is a Test Nebraska online survey for everyone to fill out to help the State determine where we are with illness since at the time not everyone can be tested.
- c. At the current time there are four positive COVID-19 tests with one in Sherman, one in Valley and two in Greeley. There were 40 total in Loup Basin Public Health and not sure of the count in West Central Health District at this time as they cover Thomas County.
- d. PPE – Alma reported on the PPE coming through DHHS and down to the Health Departments. The first week on April 10th Alma picked up PPE from them to deliver to Nursing homes and Hospital. The second week on April 17th Alma received PPE for the Funeral Homes, Hospital and Law Enforcement. Burwell Fire Chief assisted with delivery. The third week on April 24th, last Friday we received the PPE for EMS squads and Fire Departments. Burwell Fire and Virginia assisted Alma in getting deliveries made to all eight counties. Alma was able to get hand sanitizer through UNL at the Innovative Campus. Mark Bauer, the Greeley Emergency Manager was able to drive to Lincoln to the campus and pick up 108 gallons of hand sanitizer

for Region 26 to disperse out. As of today we only have 48 gallons left with others still asking for it.

e. Alma explained the number of Conference Calls she has been required to set in. There has been 53 Conference calls since the last board meeting in March. This includes calls with two Health Departments, NEMA, and the State 911 Director, Hospitals, Nursing Homes and the Loup Basin Emergency Manager group. Alma has been having Conference Calls for Region 26 by having EMS Captains on Monday night, County Emergency Managers on Tuesday, and the Fire Chiefs on Wednesday and Law Enforcement on Fridays. Things with COVID had been changing daily and sometimes hourly and was necessary to keep everyone informed by conducting these calls which have been very beneficial.

Alma did ask about the information she was getting to the Board if that was working and the process of doing this. Alma did state there had been some issues along the way trying to decipher information coming from the Health Departments and the need for further information that we were not getting. Alma informed the board of the new Health Directive that is out for May 4th and the possibility that it could cause a spike in COVID positive tests and the Governor could reverse the directive back if needed.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks said that the Quarterly Region 26 Law Enforcement meeting was to be this Friday but would not be having it face to face. Alma requested that she set it up as a conference call on Friday at 1pm. Sheriff Weeks agreed.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher, Virginia Michalski said there was a breakdown of statistics and could be given out at a later date. Alma reported on the equipment repair that was done at the Sargent and Burwell tower sites on Taylor paging and Burwell radios. They tweaked the Taylor paging station as it is close to needing replacement but was able to repair. The Burwell radio repeater was down and they were able to replace it with one of our repeaters they had in storage from Mullen site. Alms said that she wanted to plan on starting to replace old repeaters and put that into budget

Director's Report: Alma reported on the Certificate of Deposit that was maturing today at Farmers and Merchants Bank in Ericson. Alma stated that in checking with them they had a special of 2.10% for 13 months and asked if she could leave it at that bank due to not having the time to make it changes due to the extra COVID work. Gary Eng made a motion to renew the CD at Farmers and Merchants Bank in Ericson for the 13 months at 2.10% with a second from Diana Hurlburt. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0). Alma gave an update on the NRIN Project with all equipment moved from Ericson to the Conex boxes in Broken Bow and some to the shop in Grand Island for preparation in hanging on towers. Also the work had started on the Sargent tower site for the NRIN equipment.

Alma explained the Public Service Commission Wireless application and also that she wanted to get a meeting planned with Public Service Commission to discuss options of connections and what we need to plan for budget since the Wireless funding will be changing in the near future.

The GeoComm maintenance contract payment is due next month for the year and we now have received notice on what our cost will be to get the GPS points for the houses in town for Next Generation Equipment which came in at \$35,000. There was discussion on this as to having the towns help cover these costs.

With budget time coming up, Alma asked that there may be a need of getting the communications committee together for helping with budget on the direction we need to be working on.

Gary Eng asked for an executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Gary Eng and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to go into executive session. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered at 8:35 PM. Gary Eng made a motion and seconded by Dave Weeks to come out of Executive session at 8:40 PM with no findings.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be May 26, 2020.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:41 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Acronyms:

APCO – Association of Public Communications Officials
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch
CC – Communications Center
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)
DR – Disaster Recovery
DOR – Department of Roads
E911 – Enhanced 911
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Mfg. of 911 Equipment at Region 26)
EM – Emergency Manager
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant
EMS – Emergency Medical Services
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician
EOC – Emergency Operations Center
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY – Fiscal Year
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program
ICS – Incident Command System
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)
LE – Law Enforcement
LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NENA – National Emergency Number Association
NESCA – Nebraska Emergency Services Communicators Association
***NCR** – North Central Region*
NCTC – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PC – Police Chief
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training*
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Communications Center)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
TEPW – Training Exercise Planning Workshop

THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

* **North Central PET Region Includes:** Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Holt, Region 24 (Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd) and Region 26 (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)