

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
September 29, 2020

Region 26 Council:

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

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director and Virginia Michalski/Dispatch Supervisor & Office Manager

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with eight (8) 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 Van Slyke to approve the Agenda and seconded by Tom Bandur.  
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Gary Eng and seconded by Roger Guggenmos to approve the August 25, 2020 Minutes.  
Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Gary Eng to approve the August Financial Statement with two corrections that were made to the July Financial Statement. One July correction was for a manual entry that was made that did not show up by Quickbooks for \$814.79 that was a reimbursement to Region 26 from the 2017 Homeland Security Grant for T-Card Supplies. The second correction was an addition of \$1100 to Line 31 of the Budget report to show a payment from Law Enforcement for Justice Data Solutions. Lines 30 and 31 were set up this year as pass through accounts for Page My Cell and Justice Data Solutions until we can find out from auditor a better way to manage this.  
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update: Alma stated that she had been on conference call with Loup Basin on starting to look at plans for mass vaccination for COVID when that should happen. Alma explained what they had found at this point for managing the vaccine when it comes in and that the quantity will probably come in phases to start with health care workers and first responders and on to the general public. Discussion was held on where these locations can work and possibly look at a drive through situation depending on the time of year vaccine arrives. Alma talked about the spikes that has been happening and also the messaging she has been sending out on Monday-Wednesday-Friday and including both Loup Basin and West Central with all the counties surrounding that are in those Health Departments because that would

affect our counties if that is areas they travel to. Alma said there is still PPE we can order through the Health and Human Services for the first responders. There was a hand out for the Board received in from NEMA with more explanation on “Operation Warp Speed” on the Vaccine.

The Region 26 Financial Audit was to be held last week but due to a COVID outbreak in the Auditors office it has been postponed until after their upcoming school audits are complete.

Criminal Justice Board Report: No report due to absence of Sheriff Weeks

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski, gave a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had 1673 Status, 292 Paging, 238 Want/Warrants/Registrations, 223 Alarms, 180 Traffic Violations, 134 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 112 – Officer Minor Detail, 95 Rescue Calls, 83 Messages, 67 Miscellaneous Tasks, 65 Gun Permit, 46 Weather, 45 Assist Citizen, 36 Livestock Complaint, 25 Assist Other Agencies, 25 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 22 Standby for Events, 21 Accidents, 19 Fire Calls, 19 Reckless Driver, 14 Animal Calls, 14 Burn Permit, 13 Suspicious Events, 10 Check Welfare, 10 Siren, 9 Motorist Assist, 9 Paper Service, 9 Suspicious Person, 8 Traffic Hazard, 6 Arrest, 6 Civil Matters, 5 Direct Traffic, 5 Prisoner Transport, 5 Radio Test, 4 Animal Cruelty/Neglect, 4 Burglary, 4 Offenses to a Child, 4 Theft, 3 Criminal Mischief, 3 DUI, 3 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 3 Trespassing and 19 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of August was 3590 including 328 – 911 calls and 1754 Administrative Calls.

Virginia told of our newest dispatcher Ann, who will be working solo starting this week and we also hired a new employee this morning, Caden, who will be starting training this coming week.

She reported on the new copier we have leased for dispatch since the other was going down. We had an internet outage that affected our Law Enforcement and was found to be equipment failure through the phone company. Our State Patrol MACH system of tracking is now in full service and we have it on a wall monitor. Bailey has been taking the training for it and will give that to us at staff meeting.

Virginia reported that Donna was helping today in Broken Bow to do some dispatching for Custer County to allow their dispatchers to set in on a group training.

There had been static this week on the Thedford phone line and radios for a few days. It was found by the phone company to be a damaged line near Ansley that was causing the problem.

Jay Meyer asked if we had done any more discussion on having ALS automatically paged for calls and what it might take for a policy to do that. We would need to get ALS at Valley County to discuss this with us and some of the EMS Captains to see if that is a possibility to make that happen. There was discussion on what counties have access to ALS also.

Director’s Report:

Alma reported on her desk top computer crashing this month and needing to do an emergency replacement which has just arrived and will have Platte Valley come up to do the install and try to retrieve all information off the old system. Gary Eng asked what there was in place for emergency purchases. At this time \$500 was what had been set in the past that Alma could spend on a given item that was above normal operations without approval of the board. Alma said she would like to bring it up to the board about extending the limit on the credit card above the \$1000 limit. Since we only pay bills once a month and items that the credit card it used for does not allow enough without having to use a personal credit card on occasion. The board said to put it on the next agenda and to also list getting a Debit Card for such use.

The south Air Conditioner/Furnace quit working and it ended up being a wasp nest that had the exhaust system plugged.

Alma had a hand out on the North Central PET Region Homeland Security Grant award funds of \$131,463.00 and the breakdown of what they were for.

The North Central PET meeting was to be last Friday here with a training on the T-Cards that is currently displayed in the room. Due to an outbreak that exposed one of the North Central Region board members, we decided to postpone the meeting.

Alma reported on the Region 26 NIRMA dividend check she had received for \$222.00.

Diana Hurlburt enter the meeting at 8:44pm.

Alma reported that she had been subpoenaed to Valley County court tomorrow morning regarding a 911 recording for a court case.

The NACO Conference in December was going to be limited on what they were allowing. Alma stated what the Emergency Management affiliate group was planning. Alma did not plan to attend due to COVID and for no more than what was going to be scheduled for the event.

The State Board of Education was planning their two-day emergency planning with the schools that would include Emergency Management, Law Enforcement and Fire Chief. It is scheduled as an online Zoom planning meeting for October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

It had been reported to Alma that the next door landowner was possibly going to build a fence next to the Region 26 building and she was concerned about the problems that could cause. The Board agreed that she needed to discuss this with the landowner for options of we could do.

Alma gave a report on NRIN. She had been working last week and this week with conference calls to those that can give us some options to bypass some of the towers we are using that has been creating large lease payments. She pointed out the areas to the board that she and Mark Rempe/Custer County are working on with NEMA and Platte Valley to come up with possible use of fiber optics in a few places that could cut cost from long term leases that were ready to renew.

Alma did state that just today we had received a phone call regarding CenturyLink now being Lumen.

Other Business: Diana questioned the percentage of our budget line item for office maintenance and repair that has already been used. It was due to the work this year that has been done on Air Conditioners and now furnace. She had asked if there was something different for building maintenance and repair, which we do not have.

At the end of the meeting for something interesting, Alma handed out a copy of a quiz to the board members of one of the quizzes that the dispatchers had at a staff meeting on Region 26 landmarks and highway junctions.

Next regular meeting date will be October 27, 2020.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:04 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

### **Acronyms:**

APCO – Association of Public Communications Officials

CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch

CC – Communications Center

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team

COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019

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  
MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling  
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  
PMC – Page My Cell  
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)