

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

October 27, 2020

Region 26 Council:

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

Meeting was open with WebEx Call-In available due to some Board Members exposed to COVID-19

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

Visitors Present: None

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

Roll Call was taken with six (6) 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 Jordan Foltz and seconded by Roger Guggenmos to approve the Agenda.

Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Roger Guggenmos and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the September 29, 2020 Minutes. Ayes (4) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Alma explained the Financial Statement for September on the Budget sheet, that the amount of \$131,464.00 for the 2020 North Central Region Homeland Security Grant was entered on line 35 since we had recently received the exact amount of the award. Motion by Jay Meyer and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the September 2020 Financial Statement. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update: Alma reported on the latest 3.1 Health Directive that went into place on October 21st to November 30 for the State and what it meant. Also, the spike that has been happening and where we are with PPE for the departments.

We had received the re-commitment resolution for NIRMA Insurance to commit for another three years starting July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Roger Guggenmos made a motion to sign the Resolution #2020-1 for a three-year commitment to NIRMA. The motion was seconded by Dave Weeks Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma reported on the Region 26 website that the current software to update the website internally was no longer supported and the software was no longer allowing us to make changes. We were needing to keep the website current since that is our main source of allowing residents to register for CodeRED. NCTC, our website host recommended for us and assisted us in getting Wordpress for \$450 to allow us to revamp and update our website. Alma stated that Linda has currently been working with the web designer to get it updated.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks discussed the training they were needing to do on Implicit Bias & Racial Profiling. Sheriff Donner stated the training they had found to meet the requirements. He would share that information for Alma to get out to other Law Enforcement that had asked about it.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski reported on the Emergency Management course she had taken in Lincoln that was a requirement by NEMA for funding for her position. She reported on the new employee Caden and how well he was doing. Also reported that we did have another person to interview tomorrow. The breakdown of stats for last month in dispatch were 1589 Status, 293 Paging, 275 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 205 Alarms, 180 Traffic Violations, 124 Messages, 120 Minor Detail, 99 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 89 Rescue Calls, 63 Gun Permits, 59 Miscellaneous Tasks, 46 Livestock Complaint, 37 Assist Citizen, 34 Burn Permits, 30 Assist Other Agencies, 28 Fire Calls, 25 Accidents, 25 Standby For Events, 22 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 18 Animal Calls, 16 check Welfare, 16 Reckless Driver, 10 theft, 8 Motorist Assist, 8 Suspicious Events, 8 Traffic Hazard, 7 Suspicious Person, 6 Gas Drive Off, 6 Paper Service, 5 Radio Test, 4 Missing Person, 4 Siren, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Criminal Mischief, 3 Direct Traffic and 23 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of September was 3491 including 339 – 911 calls and 1681 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on the 911 outages they experienced through CenturyLink/Lumen the first week of October. It appeared to be during the change over to Lumen but there were off and on outages. At one time the western half of Nebraska was down for close to an hour. Alma said she would be reviewing some better options of who needs notified and how to manage during an outage if all lines are down.

CPPD was working at the Region 26 Sargent tower site and checked on the housing for the top beacon to give us an opinion if it needed replaced due to moisture. They did not feel it was feasible to replace at this time as they could not see problems enough to require the expense to change it out.

During the snow storm last week due to snow taking limbs down on power lines there were power outages in Loup County causing flickering at Dispatch. Generator would not start. PowerTech came out the next day and done the fall check for us and found mouse nest against the sensor that would not allow it to see need to turn on. Purchased a mouse sensor to plug in at the generator housing to see if that will keep them out.

Alma had found that the landowner at our Merna site had recently passed away and wanted the board aware of the situation. The land lease was discussed.

The Department of Education held the two-day Conference Call with the ESU-10 schools along with Emergency Managers, Law and Fire to help develop/rewrite their School Safety Plans. The schools that participated in the on-line call was Taylor, Burwell, Arcadia, Ord and Central Valley schools. Alma reported that it worked very well and that ESU-8 and ESU-16 will be coming up in the spring to work on as well as the ESU-10 Schools that did not get on this schedule. There were more days afterwards to continue on with the schools on our own.

The Equipment that was received from grant funds for the Livestock Response Trailers has been trickling in due to COVID. Some was backordered and some have been given out to the wrong locations. Alma and Linda traveled to Broken Bow to help getting the equipment sorted out and then brought back what was going into the trailer delivered to the Burwell Fire Department.

Alma had been working with a couple of fiber optics companies to see if there are areas that we can take NRIN equipment off of towers with high annual leases and replace with using fiber optics. There has been a number of conference calls in the last couple of weeks with the companies and NEMA to work on plans and quotes.

Alma did meet with Congressman Adrian Smith to talk COVID and the impact it has had on Emergency Management this year for our area.

The North Central PET meeting was held on Friday but was done by Conference Call. There will be a WebEx meeting with NEMA most of tomorrow to work on the state capabilities to rate them to help with grant funding as well as match our five-year training calendar and to match with strengthening the capabilities. The North Central meeting allowed us to discuss the online meeting for tomorrow and to assist those that were allowed on the call since only two from the region could enter the call.

Alma attended the Sandhills Mutual Aid meeting in Thedford last Wednesday night. One of the State Fire Marshalls gave presentation on utilizing the National Guard and their helicopters to fight wildland fires and the process to get them out. There are options to train with them and to know what it would take for them to fill with water.

Alma had discussed with Thedford the need to change how we are doing paging for them to align with the other departments. There is extra time it is taking to get them paged out and need to be able to page fire and rescue together. There is a need to stream line paging to be more uniform from department to department to help make dispatch more efficient. Alma was invited to the next rural fire department board meeting on November 10th at Thedford to discuss this.

The Public Service Commission Advisory Board was last week and Alma set in on-line at the meeting to hear that they are advising the Commission to have the Cell phone surcharge remain at 45¢ because there is enough money at this rate to carry the Commission through the year 2022 after putting in the ESI Net for Next Generation Equipment and what amounts are going out to the PSAPs. Alma explained to the Region 26 board that the rate was capped at 70¢ but the Commission lowered it a couple of years ago to 45¢ since a lot of the PSAPs were not using their funds. Since some of the PSAPs have excess funds setting in their accounts they are not seeing the need to raise it. If we need to raise more than 70¢ it would need to go back to the Legislature to approve. Alma is asking that if anyone wants to reach out to Mary Ridder our Commissioner to ask for more funding before their meeting next week on November 4th or Commissioner Rod Johnson that is in the Greeley and Wheeler District would possibly be helpful. Alma said there would be a public hearing on November 4th as well.

Alma did discuss the manhunt that happened last week in Sherman County near the reservoir and how the use of the MACH system and CodeRED worked.

Other Business: Chairman Meyer asked that we decide next month how we will meet if in person or not and allow enough time to make plans. Alma will check on Open Meetings Law if anything has changed again for on-line meetings due to COVID.

Next regular meeting date will be November 24, 2020. Alma asked that all plan to come for the November meeting if we do have in person so that we can do the annual group photo.

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

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)