

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
February 1, 2021 (Postponed from Jan 26, 2021)

Region 26 Council:

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

Absent:  
Range Co. Municipalities:  
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Doug Reiter

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

Visitors Present: None

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

Roll Call was taken with ten (10) 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 Gary Eng to approve the Agenda.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the November 24, 2020 Minutes.

Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Alma presented the Financial Statements for November and December with changes made to divide out the Fiduciary Funds that we only manage (ie Page-My-Cell, Justice Data Solutions and North Central Region Homeland Security Grants). Also, there were corrections to the Fiduciary Funds to put in the proper month. No change to the balance. Motion by Tom Bandur and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the Financial Statements for November and December as presented.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update: Alma reported on State of Nebraska moving to the green zone with no restrictions but still need to wear masks where you can and social distance. Loup Basin Public Health has been doing vaccinations with several clinics set up in Bartlett, Dunning and Sargent in the next several weeks. Those in dispatch choosing vaccine have now received their second dose last week here in our meeting room. The Phase 1a is done and they are in Phase 1b which now has TIERS 1-4 within the Phase 1b. The 75+ and now 65+ have been added and put to the top of the group which is a pretty large population and has been challenging for the Health Departments to search out those and to get them registered online. Alma asked the board to think about that in their counties to assist those that maybe need help to sign up for shots. They have not advertised much because at this point, they are not getting that much vaccine weekly in comparison to the amount already signed up. Just last week DHHS started a new site for everyone to use instead the Health Department sites that have now been removed. It is at [vaccinate.ne.gov](http://vaccinate.ne.gov) ... Alma brought it up online to show everyone how easy it was to use and how few questions there were but would allow everyone to be placed in the right group and location off what is filled in. Alma stated that due to our low numbers of new positive cases at this time, she would stop the CodeRED report that was coming out three times a week to the boards. Alma did report that she was in

the final stages with reporting to Deloitte on COVID funding. Deloitte was in the process of review.

The Employee Handbook was reviewed from last meeting. There was some question brought up again if we managing payroll correctly. The board asked Alma to check with the representative from NIRMA to ask those questions.

Alma brought up the Region 26 Website online to show the board our revised website with all the changes that Linda had been working on.

Alma reported on the Greeley tower site and what she was dealing with on the lease contract with the landowner and the antennas that had been added to the tower by a commercial vendor. The vendor had discussed with us putting the antenna on that would service the town of Greeley but Region 26 was not made aware that they went ahead and installed antennas. Alma did not have price or contract with them yet before this happened. Jay Meyer asked that this vendor be brought to a meeting to explain why they done this so we can get this worked out and then get contract done with the landowner as well. Jay asked about contacting others with similar circumstances to see what they charge for tower space.

Alma also brought up some issues she was having with all the maintenance work being done at the tower sites. Jay Meyer had talked of doing the work at no cost or possibly have the counties do the work. After discussion of the contract for the tower maintenance work, Diana Hurlburt made a motion to terminate the tower maintenance contract effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and he could finish up with the February maintenance and return the key before his final payment. Jay would see about maintenance until someone else was contracted. Gary Eng seconded the motion.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks had nothing to report. Alma stated that the quarterly Law Enforcement meeting needed to be restarted and Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> was the scheduled date.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski, handed out a breakdown of the statistics for both November and December. For November they had 1633 Status Checks, 280 Pages, 233 Alarms, 221 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 125 Messages, 108 Rescue Calls, 92 Minor Detail, 88 Traffic Violations, 86 Gun Permits, 74 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 42 Assist Other Agencies, 41 Assist Citizen, 38 Burn Permits, 31 Fire Calls, 30 Miscellaneous Tasks, 29 Abandoned Vehicle, 22 Animal Calls, 15 Livestock Complaint, 15 Paper Service, 15 Reckless Driver, 13 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 12 Check Welfare, 8 Motorist Assist, 8 Standby for Events, 7 Suspicious Events, 7 Theft, 6 Siren, 5 Burglary, 5 Suspicious Person, 5 Weather, 4 Accidents, 4 Prisoner Transport, 4 Trespassing, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Gas Drive Off, 3 Suicidal Threats, 3 Traffic Hazard and 20 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of November was 3343 including 314 – 911 calls answered and 1659 administrative calls to Dispatch.

In December they had 1512 Status Checks, 316 Pages, 233 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 231 Alarms, 142 Burn Permits, 91 Messages, 88 Gun Permits, 88 Rescue Calls, 88 Traffic Violations, 62 Assist Citizen, 58 Minor Detail, 54 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 27 Assist Other Agencies, 23 Accidents, 19 Fire Calls, 19 Miscellaneous Tasks, 18 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 17 Livestock Complaint, 11 Reckless Driver, 10 Animal Calls 10 Check Welfare, 10 Motorist Assist, 10 Suspicious Events, 9 Weather, 7 Paper Service, 6 Missing Person/Juvenile, 6 Suicidal Threats, 6 Suspicious Person, 5 Prisoner Transport, 5 Theft, 5 Traffic Hazard, 5 Trespassing, 4 Direct Traffic, 4 Driving Under the Influence, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Criminal Mischief, 3 Gas Drive Off, 3 Siren, 3 Standby for Events and 28 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of December was 3242 including 265 – 911 calls and 1553 administrative calls to Dispatch.

Virginia reported on one dispatcher that would be moving away due to family situations on February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be advertising for another employee. Platte Valley did get the Halsey paging back working properly on the console. The console was changed for Thedford Fire and Rescue paging to be stacked together for one page which will be easier and faster for dispatch.

Director's Report: The Financial Audit was completed with Severson, Lammers and Abel. Chuck Abel was the one that came to Region 26 to conduct the audit with two other assistants. Copies of the audit were passed out to the board.

Alma had attended the Fire Mutual Aid meeting for Loup-Platte in Loup City on December 15<sup>th</sup> and also with Donna and Virginia to the Sandhills Mutual Aid in Thedford on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Alma had the North Platte Weather Service give a presentation via telephone conference on approaching fire season and what the weather will look like at that time and what it is building too. It is looking to be a drought year very similar to 2013. It allowed the attending departments that night to make plans for mutual aid and knowing that the Thedford airport is going to be down for redoing the air strip for up to 90 days in the spring. Gary Eng brought it up that he found a straight strip of highway that could possibly be used for an airplane landing and wanted Alma to pass the information on to the pilot.

Alma reported that all Weather Service storm spotter meetings will be virtual this year as NOAA was still not letting them meet in person due to COVID. When Alma gets the schedule of Spotter talks she will get that sent out for anyone to attend online.

Alma said that each Monday the Hastings Weather Service during January, February and March had been having Ice Jam Conference Calls with the Emergency Managers for the last couple of years. It allows us to report to them what we are seeing on the rivers and what they are also getting on their bridge monitors.

The annual Calamus and Davis Creek Orientation was going to be this Wednesday and would be a virtual meeting to go over the Emergency Action Plan for all the dam operators and Emergency Managers that would be affected downstream if anything should happen with the reservoirs.

There have been two North Central Region PET meetings to do our planning for our next round of grant funding.

Alma reported that she had received in 100 new Red Cross cots and they are currently setting at the Ord Firehall. She desperately needs to get moved out and has plans of where to go with the cots and wants to house them at different firehalls to be ready for emergency use at a shelter when needed.

The NIRMA insurance review is due and Alma has been working on that.

Wheeler County had informed Alma that they were looking into Holt County doing their 911 service due to cost difference. Alma had attended a meeting in Holt County to see what Wheeler County was being offered and asked for Wheeler County to come to Region 26 and discuss what all we do for them and tour the facility which they had agreed to do last week but due to snow had been postponed to tomorrow.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be February 23, 2021.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

**APCO** – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials  
**CAD** – Computer Aided Dispatch  
**CC** – Communications Center  
**CERT** – Community Emergency Response Team  
**CNMRC** – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp  
**COADs** – Community Organizations Active in Disasters  
**COOP** – Continuity of Operations Planning  
**COVID-19** – Coronavirus Disease 2019  
**C.R.I.M.E.S.** – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)  
**DEQ** – Department of Environmental Quality (State)  
**DHHS** – Department of Health & Human Services (State)  
**DHS** – Department of Homeland Security  
**DR** – Disaster Recovery  
**DOR** – Department of Roads  
**E911** – Enhanced 911  
**EAS** – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)  
**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  
**EPA** – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)  
**ERG** – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)  
**FAA** – Federal Aviation Administration (Report tower light outages)  
**FADD** – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician  
**FCC** – Federal Communications Commission (for **Radio Frequency Licenses**)  
**FEMA** – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
**FMD** – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)  
**FY** – Fiscal Year  
**GAN** – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)  
**GIS** – Geographic Information System  
**GPS** – Global Positioning System  
**HAZMAT** – Hazardous Materials  
**HHS** – Health and Human Services (Federal)  
**HSGP** – Homeland Security Grant Program  
**ICS** – Incident Command System  
**IPAWS** – Integrated Public Alert Warning 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)  
**LBF** – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location  
**LBPHD** – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)  
**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  
**NAEM** – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers  
**NEMA** – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency  
**NENA** – National Emergency Number Association  
**NESCA** – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association  
**\*NCR** – North Central Region\*  
**NCTC** – Nebraska Central Telephone Company  
**NIMS** – National Incident Management System  
**NIRMA** – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association  
**NRIN** – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network  
**NX-Gen** – Next Generation 911  
**PC** – Police Chief  
**PD** – Police Department  
**\*PET** – Planning Exercise Training\*  
**POD** – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)  
**PPE** – Personal Protective Equipment  
**PMC** – Page My Cell  
**PSAP** – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)  
**PSC** – Public Service Commission  
**PVC** – Platte Valley Communications  
**RFP** – Request for Proposal  
**SEAT** – Single Engine Air Tanker  
**SEOC** – State Emergency Operation Center  
**SHSP** – State Homeland Security Program  
**SO** – Sheriff's Office  
**SRS** – State Radio System  
**TEPW** – Training Exercise Planning Workshop  
**THIRA** – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment  
**UPS** – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)  
**VFD** – Volunteer Fire Department  
**VOAD** – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters  
**VOIP** – Voice over Internet Protocol  
**V-TAC** – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels  
**WEA** – Wireless Emergency Alert  
**WCDHD** – West Central District Health Department (covers Thomas County)  
**W.H.O.** – World Health Organization  
**WPC** – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK  
**WIRAT** – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)  
**WMD** – Weapons of Mass Destruction  
**\* 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)