

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**

March 30, 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  
Range Co. Municipalities:  
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Doug Reiter  
Tri-Co Municipalities:  
Valley, Greeley, Sherman  
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with eleven (11) 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 Agenda.

Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Gary Eng and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the February 23, 2021 Minutes.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Tom Bandur and seconded by Jack Van Slyke to approve the February 2021 Financial Statement. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update: Loup Basin Health Department dropped down to 50+ years old to vaccinate but could not get enough to fill the clinics they set up just trying to reach that age group by phone so dropped down to include the 40+ years old. Alma passed out list of clinics they had set up in beginning of April. Alma let the board know that the Region 26 funding from Cares Act came in this past week. The funds were based on wages in first 3 months of COVID and also a small amount received direct from FEMA that covered other costs including mileage for PPE delivery to Ambulance, Fire, Law Enforcement, Nursing Homes, Funeral Homes and additional expenses of hand sanitizer, PPE Shelving, postage, etc. Alma set this up in an NPAIT account to keep separate until an audit can be done to determine if this is

correct amount since it was not the same as requested. Discussion was held on how these funds can be spent and how to enter it into the budget.

Tower Report: Jay Meyer reported on the maintenance he had done this month and what he would like to do and did find an issue with the Greeley tower lights. Alma had talked with Rob Ita the land owner at Greeley and also Ed Knott that has equipment on tower to see if we can work out something in trade for use of tower space regarding radios and cameras. Alma also had map images to show on location of towers in connection with getting better coverage in the Davis Creek area. Also discussed the Rockville area. Alma also had images sent by Platte Valley on how the radio coverage is working for Ericson since that issue had come up for them. Doug Reiter brought it up that they were told they couldn't use the Ord tower. The images showed that the best coverage for Ericson was either Ord or Greeley depending on which side of town they had an event going on and they can use either tower since they were a Region 26 frequency. The Ord tower is a little busier since most of the Law Enforcement is on that frequency. Discussion was held on possible help through NRD and also Hazard Mitigation and possible use of fiber. Alma would do more investigation.

Alma reported on NRIN and contracts that were needed to use a fiber network in place of some of the towers. Keith County was going to sign the contracts for the North Central Region to use the fiber company.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks had nothing to report.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski, handed out a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had 1462 Status Checks, 286 Pages, 265 Alarms, 155 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 109 Messages, 94 Law-Minor Detail, 92 Burn Permit, 73 Rescue Calls, 67 Gun Permits, 43 Traffic Violations, 42 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 32 Accidents, 30 Assist Citizen, 24 Assist Other Agencies, 16 animal Calls, 10 Fire Calls, 9 Miscellaneous Tasks, 8 Paper Service, 8 Siren, 8 Standby for Events, 7 Check Welfare, 6 Motorist Assist, 5 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 5 Funeral Escort, 5 Reckless Driver, 5 theft, 4 Livestock Complaint, 4 Radio Test, 4 Drug Violation, 4 Prisoner Transport, 3 Traffic Hazard, 3 Weather, 3 Child Abuse/Neglect 3 Death Investigation and 21 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of February was 2915 including 189 - 911 calls and 1347 Administrative calls into Dispatch. Virginia reported that we did get a new dispatcher hired from Arcadia that would be starting next week.

Director's Report: Alma reported on Page My Cell and the options we were offered to handle the billing. Page My Cell will do the billing and collections for us from the Fire Departments so Alma will be removing that line item from the Budget Report each month. Will still need to send letters out to Fire Departments to explain. Page My Cell was allowing a trial period for Wolbach since they were the only Department not using the service. Alma will be adding the Dispatch cell phone along with her and Donna's cell phones to each department roster to allow us to know how system is working.

Alma explained the process for the Homeland Security grant work after all our projects were submitted then the reviewing process begin with Alma reviewing all the projects for the state on training and planning funds and set in on Conference Call with the others in the state; Custer County EM was working with the Communications projects to set in with the State meeting and one Officer from Broken Bow was going to set in on the Law Enforcement grant projects.

Donna, Virginia and Alma met with Valley County Hospital last week regarding their Advance Life Support as well as equipment issues, they were wanting Region 26 to page out. Several that were in the meeting from the Hospital is going to attend the next Region 26 Staff meeting to understand what happens on this end. Discussion was held on the use of Advanced Life Support from the hospital for intercept with our volunteer ambulance departments and the concern of how that worked.

The three also stopped in at Valley County Sheriff's Office to see how the backup would work at this time with their remodel. There was some Region 26 equipment that was not located in their dispatch area and they were working to find the equipment.

Virginia, Alma and Doug Reiter went to Neligh 911 Center last week to discuss with them the issues of not forwarding a map when receiving in a 911 call from Wheeler County and having to forward back to us. Any call forwarded to the proper 911 center is supposed to be forwarded with the map that shows up with the call. Alma is working with GeoComm and Neligh 911 to make sure they have Wheeler County map is installed in their 911 call taking equipment. Alma is checking on other areas in Wheeler County that could go to another 911 Center.

The State Tornado Drill was held on the March 24<sup>th</sup> and all worked well with two dispatchers paging out Fire Departments and setting off town sirens. Alma also sent out a CodeRED "all call" Emergency Alert test to the residents and businesses in the Region 26 counties through the lunch hour the same day to test the system. There were over 11,000 phones it tried to reach. Still having problems with people using a telemarketer block that keeps a CodeRED call from coming through or not answering the call.

Other things reported on was that the 911 Wireless funding application is due next month, National Dispatcher week is 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April, Emergency Management Conference is second week as well that Alma and Linda will be attending. Red Flag warnings have been happening that Alma sends texts out to Fire Chief, EMS Captain, County EM and Sheriff.

With Thedford airstrip down for repair, Sheriff Eng had found a strip of highway that Arrow Aviation had just reported back to Alma that he got approval with his Insurance Company to land on the highway in a grass fire emergency to refill with water.

Linda and Virginia will be handling several Conference Calls this week as well as CodeRED and texting while Alma is out of office for a few days.

Other Business: None

Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2021

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

<b>APCO</b> – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials	<b>LEPC</b> – Local Emergency Planning Committee
<b>CAD</b> – Computer Aided Dispatch	<b>LEDRS</b> – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
<b>CC</b> – Communications Center	<b>LEOP</b> – Local Emergency Operations Plan
<b>CERT</b> – Community Emergency Response Team	<b>MACH</b> – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
<b>CNMRC</b> – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp	<b>NA911</b> – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
<b>COADs</b> – Community Organizations Active in Disasters	<b>NACO</b> – Nebraska Association of County Officials
<b>COOP</b> – Continuity of Operations Planning	<b>NAEM</b> – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
<b>COVID-19</b> – Coronavirus Disease 2019	<b>NEMA</b> – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
<b>C.R.I.M.E.S.</b> – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)	<b>NENA</b> – National Emergency Number Association
<b>DEQ</b> – Department of Environmental Quality (State)	<b>NESCA</b> – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
<b>DHHS</b> – Department of Health & Human Services (State)	<b>*NCR</b> – North Central Region*
<b>DHS</b> – Department of Homeland Security	<b>NCTC</b> – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
<b>DR</b> – Disaster Recovery	<b>NIMS</b> – National Incident Management System
<b>DOR</b> – Department of Roads	<b>NIRMA</b> – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
<b>E911</b> – Enhanced 911	<b>NRIN</b> – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
<b>EAS</b> – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)	<b>NX-Gen</b> – Next Generation 911
<b>ECW</b> – Emergency Call Works (Mfg. of 911 Equipment at Region 26)	<b>PC</b> – Police Chief
<b>EM</b> – Emergency Manager	<b>PD</b> – Police Department
<b>EMD</b> – Emergency Medical Dispatch	<b>*PET</b> – Planning Exercise Training*
<b>EMPG</b> – Emergency Management Performance Grant	<b>POD</b> – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
<b>EMS</b> – Emergency Medical Services	<b>PPE</b> – Personal Protective Equipment
<b>EMT</b> – Emergency Medical Technician	<b>PMC</b> – Page My Cell
<b>EOC</b> – Emergency Operations Center	<b>PSAP</b> – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
<b>EPA</b> – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	<b>PSC</b> – Public Service Commission
<b>ERG</b> – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	<b>PVC</b> – Platte Valley Communications
<b>FAA</b> – Federal Aviation Administration (Report tower light outages)	<b>RFP</b> – Request for Proposal
<b>FADD</b> – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	<b>SEAT</b> – Single Engine Air Tanker
<b>FCC</b> – Federal Communications Commission (for <b>Radio Frequency Licenses</b> )	<b>SEOC</b> – State Emergency Operation Center
<b>FEMA</b> – Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>SHSP</b> – State Homeland Security Program
<b>FMD</b> – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	<b>SO</b> – Sheriff’s Office
<b>FY</b> – Fiscal Year	<b>SRS</b> – State Radio System
<b>GAN</b> – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	<b>TEPW</b> – Training Exercise Planning Workshop
<b>GIS</b> – Geographic Information System	<b>THIRA</b> – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
<b>GPS</b> – Global Positioning System	<b>UPS</b> – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
<b>HAZMAT</b> – Hazardous Materials	<b>VFD</b> – Volunteer Fire Department
<b>HHS</b> – Health and Human Services (Federal)	<b>VOAD</b> – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
<b>HSGP</b> – Homeland Security Grant Program	<b>VOIP</b> – Voice over Internet Protocol
<b>ICS</b> – Incident Command System	<b>V-TAC</b> – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
<b>IPAWS</b> – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	<b>WEA</b> – Wireless Emergency Alert
<b>J.A.M.I.N.</b> – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	<b>WCDHD</b> – West Central District Health Department (covers Thomas County)
<b>JDS</b> – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	<b>W.H.O.</b> – World Health Organization
<b>LBF</b> – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	<b>WPC</b> – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
<b>LBPHD</b> – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)	<b>WIRAT</b> – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)
<b>LE</b> – Law Enforcement	<b>WMD</b> – 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)