

## MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

May 25, 2021

### Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt	Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith	Range Co. Municipalities:
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair	Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke	Doug Reiter
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny	
Law Enforce: Dave Weeks	
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 7:31 p.m. 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.

Sheriff Joseph Smith of Thomas County was introduced to the Board as the new Thomas County representative, taking the place of Sheriff Gary Eng.

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Jack Van Slyke to approve the agenda.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Roger Guggenmos and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the April 2021 Minutes.

Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the April 2021 Financial Statement.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Stacen Gross with Geo-Comm our GIS company that manages the Region 26 addressing for the 911 system was present to give a presentation on the services that they currently do for Region 26, which we had approved the Geo-Comm 5-year renewal contract at the last board meeting. He then presented what we needed for moving back to the Geo-Comm mapping in Dispatch away from the Emergency Call Works map. He also went over the details of what was needed at each city/town level which he had a breakdown of cost to get the map points for each location in each community. It was already determined by the board that the costs would be forwarded to each city/town for payment, which was already determined the number of location points that would be needed by Geo-Comm.

Alma presented a ballot for the Region 26 board to vote on for representation to the NRIN governance

board. Alma is currently one of the two North Central Region representatives to the Board. The ballot was to vote for the incumbent, Mark Rempe from Custer County for the 2<sup>nd</sup> representative to the board. No other names were on the ballot. Dave Weeks made a motion to vote for Mark Rempe as North Central PET Region representative to the NRIN Board, seconded by Diana Hurlburt. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Tower/Communications Update: Alma reported that working with Platte Valley Communications there is now a communications antenna up at the Davis Creek Reservoir and are waiting on the repeater to be installed. Radios will need to be reprogrammed to include the frequency to use while in that area but will not affect dispatch. Chairman Jay Meyer worked at getting funding to pay for most of equipment and install from Lower Loup NRD, North Loup and Scotia Fire and Rescue Departments.

Communications Committee Report: The committee meet on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Ed Knott with Applied Connective attended the meeting to go over what he could do at the Greeley and Ord tower as well as supplying services to the Greeley tower land owner to offset his own use of our Greeley tower. Alma will get in contact with the land owner to see if this arrangement will work for him. The committee went over the stats and some of the dispatch transcripts to get an understanding of the increased work load in dispatch that is causing a need for more help. These stats were then explained to the Region 26 board as well as explaining how they are counted and used in the assessment to the counties. It was pointed out that there has been an additional 1200 – 911 calls per year since the last few years of stats.

The 911 equipment loan was discussed on what was left and what refresh of equipment will be coming. Region 26 is required to join a 911 region for purpose of sharing 911 backroom equipment that the Public Service Commission will be funding the network cost. There was discussion on how that will work when Region 26 will be required to help pay the backroom cost when we have that already coming for our own dispatch. Alma will be discussing this with the Public Service Commission as well as the East Region 911 board to get ideas of what can be done to change our contract.

Alma had a priority list of equipment needs and costs that could be paid with the CARES Act funding. That needs list was reviewed and discussed. The logging recorder update being a priority as well as updating the mapping in dispatch with Geo-Comm. In the list of items that needs updating was the need to tear out the old dispatch building and replacing it with something that could house the Region 26 vehicle and emergency management supplies. Alma was working at getting a bid for that.

FY2021-2022 Budget Review: Alma presented another updated budget proposal which was reviewed. That budget has gone up and after board discussion it was asked that Alma try to get NACO and State Senators to attend the next meeting to see work on getting wireless surcharge rates brought up from the current 45 cents for cell phones that is used for funding the 911 centers. The Board felt they need to understand our issues and concerns for the 911 Center funding and mandates.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks reported on the Law Enforcement meeting held at Region 26 on May 7<sup>th</sup>. FirstNet representatives gave a presentation for communications. They went over Justice Data Solutions, the MACH system. Alma explained the use of the Dispatch center cell phone and its use for Page My Cell, Officer training, an explanation by Alma on how the Davis Creek site will work in the radios. Alma had also asked for an alternate for him on the Region 26 board. The Sheriffs in attendance approved Loup County Sheriff, Dustin Spanel for an alternate when Dave cannot attend.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Virginia Michalski, gave a report on training that two of our dispatchers will be attending in June for teletype that had been held up from COVID. She explained the training certification that will now be required for dispatchers that is being put in place by our State 911 Director for standardized training for 911 dispatchers that was brought about with Legislative Bill 938. Virginia said that our newest employee has been working out well with the training

in dispatch. The breakdown of the statistics for the previous month are 1592 Status Checks, 320 Paging, 294 Wants/Warrant/Registrations, 236 Alarms, 183 Burn Permits, 144 Traffic Violations, 133 Messages, 132 Minor Detail, 108 Rescue Calls, 100 Gun Permits, 66 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 57 Assist Citizen, 39 Assist Other Agencies, 39 Livestock Complaint, 35 Miscellaneous Tasks, 33 Weather, 33 Fire Calls, 20 Reckless Driver, 19 Suspicious Events, 17 Accidents, 16 Motorist Assist, 15 Disturbance/ Harassment/Assault, 11 Check Welfare, 10 Animal Calls, 8 Suspicious Person, 7 Standby for Events, 7 Theft, 6 Check Area, 5 Paper Service, 5 Siren, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Funeral Escort, 4 Prisoner Transport, 4 Traffic Hazard, 4 Death Investigation, 4 Arrest, 3 Radio Test, 3 Suspicious Vehicle, 3 Burglary, 3 Direct Traffic, 3 Trespassing and 15 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of April was 3746 including 303 – 911 calls and 1926 administrative calls into Dispatch.

#### Director's Report:

The NRIN Meeting was going over the fiber connections that is now going to be used in place of towers in certain areas through Region 26 into Cherry County that will help reduce tower rent. The NRIN Board is covering two connections on fiber and the North Central Region grants will cover two connections all for the North Central Region area. The board is researching a new monitoring system for the network.

North Central PET Region meeting was held here last week as well as online. Grant status was reviewed to determine all that was to be used to pay for the NRIN fiber connections. NEMA was online to go over cyber security updates.

The Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield LEPC meeting was held here at Region 26 two weeks ago.

Alma gave an update on the BOLD Planning work that Linda had been doing to each of the Region 26 County LEOPs to get them all redone.

The upcoming events in the Region were listed and what they had to do for weather support for these events. There were two elementary schools that had come for tours of the 911 center and learned about preparing an emergency kits for their family.

Alma explained the Orion System that she said we would be getting with grant funds that would be a software damage assessment tool to gather information for the counties and for FEMA reports and can be used for the county roads departments to gather information of roads before and after disasters.

Alma asked the board regarding having a county emergency manager in each county that Loup County was losing theirs and questioned if necessary to have one. Alma told the board the need for a County EM in what she needs assistance with from the County. The board agreed that they will be requiring all Counties to have a County EM to assist Region 26 Emergency Management.

Next regular meeting date will be June 29, 2021.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

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

### **\* 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)