

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
06-29-2021

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Absent:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
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

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

Visitors Present: Senator Tom Briese and James Almond/Public Service Commission

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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 Dave Weeks and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the amended agenda to include Senator Tom Briese instead of Larry Dix with NACO.

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

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the May 25, 2021 Minutes.

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

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

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

Chairman Meyer introduced Senator Tom Briese. Tom Briese gave his background and then took questions and listened to concerns from the Board members regarding the need for funding for the 911 center. The cell phone surcharge was brought up regarding the 45 cents that the Public Service Commission has it set at with a cap of 70 cents. The Board asking for ways to bring the cell phone surcharge back up and also asking for ideas on how to bring extra funding to the 911 centers when there is such an influx of people in our counties during the summer to our reservoirs, lakes, forest and outdoor events.

James Almond with the Public Service Commission also spoke to the Board regarding the cell phone surcharge and explained the funds that are being held right now at the PSC to pay for the network for Next Generation equipment.

Alma and Jay Meyer had set in on Conference Call this afternoon with the East Central 911 region. Alma explained that at the last meeting we had discussed the new refresh equipment that Region 26 would be getting with their Motorola/Emergency Call Works contract. To join the East Central 911 region for the purpose of moving to Next Generation would require two host in each Region and the East Central Region asked for a quote from Motorola what it would take for each dispatch center to join the region to upgrade a host and install in Grand Island with Region 26 also being a host with our new refresh. Motorola was not able to have the quote prepared by today. There will be another meeting on July 13th to get the quote. The loan that Region 26 is still paying on for the Motorola contract was discussed and was explained that the funding from the other 911 centers joining would partially come to us for our equipment which would help pay off the loan. James Almond gave a very detailed description of how a 911 call reaches our center currently and what the changes will look like with Next Generation 911 equipment and how it would work to join a region to share the host equipment. Alma gave the amounts of the monthly telephone cost that would go away once we were on the region network and then after moving to Next Generation. There would be a transition time through next year and we would see the 911 wireless funding go down but would see 911 phone line bills go away. Jay asked the board to agree to have Alma review the Motorola quotes in July with the idea we would be looking at doing an early refresh of equipment to join the East Central 911 Region if all looks agreeable. In order to continue to receive funding we would need to join a region which the Board agreed.

Alma had discussed the Village/City point layer that needs to be added to the 911 maps. At this time only rural points of address are on the map. Geo-Comm had presented an invoice to Region 26 for \$34,769.00 to have the point layer built out, which needs to be done for Next Generation. Geo-Comm is needing to start the work on this point layer and will be discussing with all Village/City clerks to get mapping/addressing information for each town. They had other locations that did not have this down either and wanted to discuss with the Public Service Commission about getting it paid. James Almond assured us that would probably not happen through them. The Board discussed the possibility of sending the amounts to each municipal board to have them pay for their own to get done since Geo-Comm had done a breakdown of individual municipal cost according to number of addressable points in each town. Geo-Comm will be working with each Village/City Clerk to get the current addresses they have for each town. It was discussed that Villages/Cities would be preparing budgets soon. It was tabled at this time.

Tower Report: Alma had talked to the Greeley land owner that he was okay with getting internet service for land lease but had not heard anymore from Applied Connective on getting the service. Jay said he would reach out to them. The discussion was on getting a lease agreement drawn up that would be agreeable with the landowner to provide internet service for him and at which time he is no longer in need of internet service or if he was no longer the landowner the lease would turn to a monetary amount of lease payment to the current landowner. Tom Bandur made a motion to find if acceptable to the landowner, Mr. Ita to provide internet service as he desired and if internet service would no longer be needed or if change of ownership, then lease would pay \$100 per month for the site with easement to the site and then proceed to get a simplified contract drawn up. Doug Pokorny seconded the motion. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The Merna tower was brought to the board's attention regarding the possibility of turning the tower over to State Communications. They are using this tower for the State Radio System and are to be taking care of the site, electricity and generator. Alma would like to look into the possibility of giving up this site to the State since all we have on it is paging for Custer County departments. Alma will check

with the State and with Platte Valley Communications to see what our options are.

Alma brought up the Silent Night Alarm system that due to age and problems that we have associated with the alarm that we need to consider getting rid of the alarm system. It can no longer have any new alarms attached to it due to age of the system that nothing new can connect. The alarm costs did increase this year to businesses utilizing the service.

Alma informed the board that Linda Lewis, Deputy Emergency Manager had turned in a resignation for the end of July to give us time to find a replacement. Alma said she has advertised for the position and wanted the board to know it will take time to get someone up to speed and some things may fall behind until that happens due to amount of work she was doing and programs she was in charge of.

A Holiday pay review in the handbook was discussed. Alma said she was putting in the handbook a difference between dispatch and office, as to when Holidays were observed. Dispatch would observe on the actual Holiday and the Office would observe on the Friday or Monday closest to the holiday if it fell on a weekend. Juneteenth was discussed and since not all Counties were observing it then no decision was made for the Region 26 board to observe it either.

The Budget approval was pushed to the end of the meeting. Alma asked the board to look at the needed items on the priority list of equipment that was put together for using the CARES funding. The dispatch is in critical need of getting the maps changed to the Geo-Comm maps and this was the first priority on the list and the only one at this time that Alma would like to be considered in moving forward with using the CARES funding. Diana Hurlburt made a motion to purchase the required items on the Priority list for the Geo-Comm mapping with a second from Dave Weeks. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Dave 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 1522 Status Checks, 324 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 308 Pages, 239 Alarms, 142 Traffic Violations, 134 Minor Detail, 125 Messages, 101 Rescue Calls, 96 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 82 Burn Permits, 50 Assist Citizen, 47 Livestock Complaint, 36 Gun Permits, 32 Assist Other Agencies, 27 Animal Calls, 24 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 24 Miscellaneous Tasks, 23 Fire Calls, 22 Weather, 18 Reckless Driver, 17 Standby For Events, 16 Accidents, 11 Check Welfare, 11 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 10 Suspicious Events, 10 Theft, 9 Paper Service 8 Funeral Escort, 8 Traffic Hazard, 7 Siren 5 Check Area, 5 Direct Traffic, 4 Prisoner Transport, 3 Burglary, 3 Radio Test, 3 Suspicious Person and 24 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of May was 3530 including 312 – 911 calls and 1705 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Virginia reported on two of the dispatchers that were away this week to teletype training at the Law Enforcement Academy in Grand Island that had been held up from COVID and had three more on the waiting list. Our newest dispatcher will be going out on her own this week and is doing well. Alma explained issues we had been having with paging between Page My Cell and also paging that was not working at the Burwell tower site. She had been working with both Page My Cell and Platte Valley Communications to get all worked out. There had also been issues with the radio console requiring reboots and they have been monitoring it closely which had also created some of the paging issues.

Director's Report:

Alma reported that Power Tech had been trying to get attenuator installed for the generator on site to give readings in dispatch when there were generator issues but has not been fully connected yet.

The Page My Cell app for the departments had created some problems this month to get android phones to reinstall a new app that had been removed by Google.

Fiber had been cut in Wheeler County that caused all landlines, internet and most cell service including 911 service to be down for Bartlett. It had been repaired through the night but created issues of contact with them.

The North Central Region meeting will be coming up in July that will require working with individual counties from Region 24 to the north and dealing with all the equipment disbursed to Region 24 with grant funding that the North Central PET Region Board is responsible for distribution.

Alma reported on one of the Air Conditioner blower motors down again like last year and was just days out of warranty.

Greeley Wheeler LEPC was held last week in Spalding for first time since COVID.

Alma was invited to have Region 26 vehicle in the Father's Day Car show in Ord last week that she attended.

The Burwell Rodeo coming up in July will be requiring a lot of resource work next month.

Election of Board Officer for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Dave Weeks made a motion to retain the same board officers with a second from Doug Pokorny. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Officers are Jay Meyer/Chairman, Tom Bandur/Vice-Chairman, Alma Beland/Secretary

A third Budget called "Plan C" was presented for review. Plan A and B had been presented at past meetings. Alma reported on the Farmers Merchants Bank CD maturing and she had moved it to the Union Bank in Taylor with a slightly higher rate and also could be drawn on with no penalties. The CARES Funding interest rate in the NPAIT account had dropped to .01% which she also moved to a Union Bank CD with a .45% and could also be drawn upon with no penalties to allow us to draw down for our priority list when items were approved.

The Plan C was reviewed and Alma explained the increased charges from NIRMA that was just received in as well as the holiday pay that had increased the budget. After discussion of the budget Tom Bandur asked that the budget formula be changed to have 40% for Base, 40% Population and 20% Usage. Alma recalculated the budget using this formula and presented as "Plan D". Jack Van Slyke made a motion to approve Plan D with a second from Jay Meyer. Ayes (5) Nays (5) Abstain (1). Motion failed.

Jay Meyer made a motion to approve Plan C as presented. After a time of no second, Jay reminded the board that in the Region 26 By-Laws a budget would be approved before July 1st of the Fiscal Year. Doug Pokorny seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (2) Abstain (1). Plan C Budget was approved.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be July 27, 2021.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 10:57 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)