

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

July 27, 2021

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Doug Reiter
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Law Enforce: Dave Weeks

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Dispatch Supervisor & Office Manager, Donna Steckel/Chief Dispatcher & Supervisor. Linda Lewis – Out going Deputy Emergency Manager

Visitors Present: None

Before meeting was called to order – Jay Meyer recognized Linda Lewis and thanked her for her 25 years of service to Region 26 and offered a congratulations on her new adventure with the High School. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 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.

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the agenda.
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the June 29, 2021 Minutes.
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Doug Pokorny and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the June 2021 Financial Statement.
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma reported on the Greeley Tower lease that the landowner was satisfied with what he was getting for the land lease in having the Internet provided for him by Applied Connective and that if the Internet connection was no longer needed or land ownership should change that it would turn to a monetary amount that we agreed on. The attorney had just been notified to draw up the lease and we are waiting for that. Jay explained what he knew on all that Applied Connective had done.

Alma said the MJ Leasing Tower north of Burwell that has our NRIN Equipment is requiring a signed lease agreement for electricity for the lease. Alma was reviewing contract and would bring that back with an amount for electricity to be included and would be paid for through the NRIN Board.

The Taylor generator did not start a few weeks ago and PowerTech had to reboot the computer inside the generator itself. Discussion was held on the age of generator and if we need to consider replacing and what size should go in since this one does not have everything hooked to it. Alma will check into pricing and grant funds.

Jay asked to go into Executive Session with Alma, Donna and Virginia present to discuss employee wages. Tom Bandur made motion to enter Executive Session at 7:45 with a second from Diana Hurlburt. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Jordan Foltz made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:38 with a second from Joseph Smith. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Chairman Meyer asked for a motion to approve the new wage schedule as discussed in closed session. Doug Reiter made a motion to approve the new wage schedule starting with this next pay period. Doug Pokorny seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks was not in attendance for report.

Communications Center Report: Virginia reported on the teletype training that we had two dispatchers attend in Grand Island and that the State Patrol are behind on training due to COVID. We have two more to send that are on the waiting list. Donna discussed the situation with teletype and that we cannot run anyone through our teletype for another county unless approved by State Patrol first which we had been asked. The stats breakdown for the month into Dispatch was 1542 Status Checks, 319 Pages, 298 Wants/ Warrants/Registrations, 225 Alarms, 186 Minor Detail, 147 Messages, 137 Traffic Violations, 127 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 95 Rescue Calls, 54 Assist Citizen, 52 Weather, 37 Accidents, 35 Assist Other Agencies, 35 Livestock Complaint, 28 gun Permit, 20 Fire Calls, 19 Animal Calls, 19 Burn Permit, 18 Disturbance/Harassment, Assault, 17 Reckless Driver, 14 Miscellaneous Tasks, 11 Funeral Escort, 11 Standby for Events 10 Suspicious Events, 10 Suspicious Person, 9 Check Welfare, 7 Paper Service, 7 Traffic Hazard, 6 Prisoner Transport, 6 Siren, 5 Arrest, 5 Direct Traffic, 5 Theft, 4 Check Area, 4 Driving Under the Influence, 4 Missing Person/Juvenile, 3 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 3 Motorist Assist, 2 Bomb Threats, 2 Child Abuse/Neglect and 13 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of June was 3551 including 332 – 911 calls and 1772 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Director's Report:

The Public Service Commission Advisory Board had meeting and voted to advise the Commission to raise the cell phone surcharge to 70 cents because their funds will drop below the reserve amount by 2022 to fund the network for Next Gen. This will still not be enough to cause any extra funds to come back to the 911 centers. The Commission will have to hold public hearings to make this happen as soon as January.

The North Central EPT meeting was held here last Thursday with all the new Emergency Managers from the single counties since breakup of Region 24. All the equipment purchases for Region 24 was discussed and they had hashed out which counties would handle or house the equipment.

Hazard Mitigation plan updates are ongoing with a lot of work that still needs done in many of the towns and counties. Alma would continue working with JEO the consultants to make sure all were a part of the plan for any future mitigation funding.

BOLD Planning for the new County LEOP will be having an in-person workshop here on August 18th to try to finish. Alma is planning a training evening with the County Emergency Managers here to show them their plan. Linda had done a lot to each county plan and had all of each county's information entered but now there are things to be changed around and added according to NEMA.

A State Disaster is being applied for by NEMA for the strong wind damages on July 9th and 10th. There were no damages to any of our counties that Alma was aware of except for some individual damages or

some that was outside of those dates.

Alma reported on two grant applications that just came in that had a deadline of next week that she will be working on for funding.

She did report that some things would be put on hold until she found an Emergency Management Deputy replacement.

She would be having Incident Command set up for the Nebraska's Big Rodeo at Burwell and did have briefing with them this afternoon. Also, this afternoon was the third conference call that was held with the East Central 911 Region and Motorola to determine the costs and connection with this region and host equipment refresh with Motorola/Emergency Call Works 911 equipment. There were two quotes that were presented to the East Central 911 Board that had Region 26 & Grand Island-Hall County housing the host equipment for the Region and the other was Columbus-Platte County & Grand Island-Hall County being the hosts locations. The difference for Region 26 was an additional connection cost of \$10,700 to join the network if housed in Columbus. The other counties had concern of distance to Taylor for IT repair as well as the backup network would cause equipment to have to set at tower site south of town and not in as secure of a building since it is a pass-through location creating a loop where Taylor is an endpoint. Both locations bid included the use of refresh for Region 26 which did cut the costs down to join the East Central 911 Region. Nothing had to be done at this meeting until MOU's were done and there would be no payment to Motorola until work was done. The plan is that the network would be put in place by this fall and then the switch over to Next Gen and refresh equipment by Spring of 2022. We will be sharing the cost of the host equipment with all the PSAPs in the Region which is divided up by number of workstations.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be August 31, 2021.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 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)