

## MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

August 31, 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: Jon Cannon/NACO Exe. Director, Pat Waldman/Valley County Supervisor

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm 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 Dave Weeks to approve the agenda.

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

Chairman Meyer asked that we go out of sequence in our agenda to accommodate Jon Cannon with NACO. Diana Hurlburt had invited Jon to the meeting to discuss NACO and answer questions on the ARPA funding that the Counties were receiving with possible ideas for funding for Region 26 for 911 services. He gave out the information on NACO partnering with Lutz a CPA firm in Nebraska to assist the Counties with the ARPA funds. Part of the information was that Counties could administer block grants off of ARPA funds for those that lost revenue due to COVID. He discussed the use of funds that would be eligible in the counties and who to contact with questions. He said that the Counties could do transfers to non-profits or to a special purpose unit of government such as the 911 center. To do a transfer of funds to Region 26, there would be a requirement of documentation on how the funds would be used which must show a connection to COVID such as being short staffed because of the pandemic, etc. The County could have a paid position to administer the ARPA funds. It was a very informative talk for the Counties on the ARPA funding uses with a list of resources to answer questions and assist.

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the July 27, 2021 Minutes.

Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (3).

On the Financial Statement Alma requested an approval of correction to the Fiduciary funds from June

and also handed out the correct financial statement and budget sheet for July. The Finance spreadsheets had been held up from their packets until they were able to discuss with the auditor on Thursday on how to handle the funds received in from North Loup and Scotia Fire & Rescue Departments that was to fund the Davis Creek Communication project so that it would be entered correctly. Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Doug Pokorny to approve the July 2021 Financial Statement and the correction to the June fiduciary funds.

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

Tower Report: Alma had the Lease Agreement with MJ Leasing for the tower north of Burwell for the NRIN equipment. The lease was showing a payment to MJ Leasing for electricity for the equipment of \$600/annual that would be paid for out of the North Central PET Region Homeland Security grants, but she needed approval to sign the agreement to move forward. Diana Hurlburt made a motion to approve Alma signing the MJ Leasing Agreement with a second from Doug Pokorny.

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

Alma presented the Lease Agreement for the Greeley Tower that would be sent to the landowner for approval after we sign the Agreement. It was agreed to have Attorney, Heather Sikyta print out the form for legal filing to have Jay sign there and sent out. Doug Pokorny made a motion to approve Jay signing the lease agreement with a second from Jordan Foltz. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma brought out the cost of the address point layer work that needs done in each city/village for the 911 system. This was discussed at past meetings and still had not been determined the direction to proceed on paying the costs of GeoComm doing the work. Alma had a copy of the letter to send out to each town and an amount for each town to have the work done.

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 1579 Check Status, 308 Pages, 224 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 209 Alarms, 157 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 146 Messages, 141 Traffic Violations, 126 Minor Detail, 112 Rescue Calls, 49 Assist Citizen, 43 Standby for Events, 42 Weather, 38 Gun Permits, 34 Accidents, 32 Assist Other Agencies, 28 Livestock Complaint, 26 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 23 Reckless Driver, 21 Animal Calls, 18 Burn Permits, 18 Fire Calls, 17 Miscellaneous Tasks, 11 Check Welfare, 8 Paper Service 7 Suspicious Events, 7 Trespassing, 6 Check Area, 6 Gas Drive Off, 6 Motorist Assist, 6 Prisoner Transport, 6 Traffic Hazard, 5 Damage to Property , Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Missing Person/Juvenile, 4 Abandoned Vehicle, 4 Drug Violation, 4 Radio Test, 4 Theft, 3 Direct Traffic, 3 Funeral Escort, 3 Standby – Fire, 3 Suspicious Person, 3 Suspicious Vehicle, 2 Arrests, 2 Civil Matters, 2 Death Investigation, 2 Escorts and 14 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of July was 3517 including 401 - 911 calls and 1793 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Virginia report on the applications received for dispatch with one person being hired from Dunning that will start training with Donna on Sunday. Others that had applied did not want to work any nights or weekends.

Alma reported on the issues with the logging recorder that did not appear to be picking up a full recording at all times and needed replaced. It was on the priority list of needs but had not been approved yet. Virginia and Alma have an online presentation this Thursday with a company that has recorders at surrounding counties. Alma would be getting bids on this equipment to bring back to the next meeting.

Director's Report:

Alma reported that she has hired Mitch Lamm of Burwell as her Deputy Emergency Manager. He will

began work on October 4<sup>th</sup> due to projects he wants to finish at current job.

JEO Consultants held workshop here on counties that have not completed their portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan that we will be continuing to follow up with to get all communities included in the plan.

We held a training here for the County Emergency Managers on the new LEOP through BOLD Planning for them to see and understand the plan. All counties were represented except Sherman. Then the same week had a workshop with BOLD Planning to work on the plans. We will continue to work though the plans this year which is going to take awhile with getting all counties worked through that have not been able to work on the plan individually. Joseph stated how detailed the plan was in the work he has done for Thomas County.

Alma reported on the Banner County fire in the panhandle and the call out to the departments in Region 26 to send out assistance. There were three departments from Region 26 to go with five departments ready to deploy the following day when the word came in that it was contained. Alma was keeping track of hours for them for reimbursement.

Alma reported on Lammers, Abel & Kaps being here last week for the Region 26 financial audit. Incident command was set up for the Burwell Rodeo last month. Alma informed the board on the retirement of the NEMA Asst. Director, Bryan Tuma. His replacement will be the Plattsmouth City Administrator, Erv Portis, who will be starting the first part of October.

Other Business: Alma said that she was asked to work up a different formula for the budget so that it would cause more of the fixed cost to be spread out to all the counties and not just the higher populated ones. The change to review was splitting up the amount of the assessment to the counties by using a formula of 50% base and 50% usage of the communications center and leave out population. It was determined there would be more discussion as we moved forward.

Next regular meeting date will be September 28, 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  
**LEDRRS** – Livestock Emergency Disease Rapid 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, Cherry/Keya Paha, Brown/Rock, Boyd/Holt, and Region 26: (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)