

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
September 27, 2022

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt	Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith	Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack VanSlyke	Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny	
Range Co. Municipalities:	
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler	
Doug Reiter	
Tri-Co Municipalities:	
Valley, Greeley, Sherman	
Jay Meyer, Chairman	

Staff Present: Stena Seamann/Deputy EM and Virginia Michalski/Office Manager

Staff Absent: Alma Beland/Director

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with seven (7) 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 Joseph Smith to approve the agenda.

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

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jack VanSlyke to approve the August 30, 2022 Minutes.

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

Jay Meyer mentioned he had not received payment for August tower maintenance. Virginia said that his tower report came in after she left for vacation so Alma thought it would be ok to wait till this month to pay Jay. Jay's checks for both August and September are being signed tonight. **(Correction/addition: should read "Jay Meyer mentioned he had not received payment for his mileage for August tower maintenance.")**

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the August 2022 Financial Statement.

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

Tower Report: A representative from US Cellular had contacted Alma expressing interest in our Loup City tower site. He mentioned US Cellular doing a "drop & swap"—meaning they would take down our 150' tower and replace it with a 199' stand-alone tower. Then we could have our equipment on their tower, higher than it is now. Alma wondered if that could help our coverage in Ashton and Rockville area. We would keep our lease with the city and US Cellular would also have a lease with the city. He did say that they are looking at other sites as well so he would be contacting her again in the future.

Discussion was held on who would pay for the process, and would our equipment be high enough to make a substantial difference in coverage. Also how much would it decrease our insurance costs? Joseph Smith advised we be very attentive when reading a contract with US Cellular before signing it as he knows of concerns with the company in his area, such as the lighting they used on a tower. Alma will let the board know if and when she hears more.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Mike Jepsen was absent so no report.

Communications Center Report: Virginia handed out a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had: 1423 status checks, 361 alarms, 309 pages, 309 wants/warrants/registrations, 157 minor detail, 141 messages, 99 rescue calls, 98 traffic violations, 96 accidental/disconnected 911 calls, 60 assist citizen, 50 gun permits, 49 assist other agencies, 39 livestock complaints, 35 standby for events/fire/training, 25 animal calls, 23 fire calls, 20 burn permits, 17 check welfare, 16 accidents, 16 disturbance/harassment/assault, 16 reckless driver, 14 burglary/break-in/theft, 14 mutual aid, 14 suspicious person, 13 suspicious activity, 11 paper service, 11 traffic hazard, 10 siren, 9 radio test, 7 direct traffic/funeral escort, 7 keys locked in vehicle, 7 suspicious vehicle, 6 death investigation, 6 transfer 911 call, 5 civil matter, 5 prisoner transport, 4 motorist assist, 3 abandoned vehicle, 3 arrest, 3 eviction/property dispute, 3 miscellaneous tasks, 2 adult/child abuse/neglect, 2 broadcasts, 2 check area/house watch, 2 follow up, 2 fraudulent activity, 2 missing person/juvenile, 2 parole/probation/protection order/sex offender registration, 2 recovered property, 2 terroristic threats, and 6 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of August was 3538, including 312-911 calls and 1592 administrative calls into dispatch.

Virginia reported that Miki Gerten, Roxannie Payne, and Courtney Rooney are currently at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island for NCIC training and certification. They will finish Wednesday. Courtney will be taking the APCO Public Safety Telecommunicator basic class virtually in January. Joseph Smith asked if the other dispatchers will be able to test out of the training without going to a class. Virginia said that she, Donna Steckel, and Bailey Lurz have already passed the Knowledge Based Test and Caden Johnson and Roxannie Payne have each scheduled a day to take the test. Libby Burk and Miki Gerten will have to schedule a day to take the test before the end of this year.

#### Director's Report:

Stena reported on the North Central PET Meeting September 22. She said most of the meeting was spent developing a training calendar for the next grant year, even though the next grants have not been awarded yet. They also discussed credentialing and Salamander training.

Alma attended the Loup-Platte Mutual Aid meeting in Arcadia September 20. She spoke with the members about foam retardant guns. She had been to a demonstration in Burwell with a representative from Heiman Fire Supply. The guns can be attached to garden hoses to spray foam around a home in the event of a nearby wildfire. The Burwell fire chief and Alma thought the guns may be useful at lake area homes

Alma, Virginia, and Stena sat in on a web meeting with members of the East Central 911 Region. We discussed the project timeline. They believe all the equipment has been delivered and the projected start date is October 28. Lumen is still building a circuit to connect all of the PSAPs. We will have another web meeting September 28 with Lumen to go over call routing rules and discuss SOPs and by-laws. Alma received a sample SOP from the Fremont 911 director. The host sites have had to do unexpected electrical work in advance of the project. The costs for that work will be shared by all the centers, though they do have a contingency fund planned. Alma asked to have an in-person meeting with representatives from the East Central PSAPs, so we will be meeting on October 20.

Virginia attended the Garfield County Zoning Committee meeting September 26. They were meeting to vote on a new subdivision. Region 26 has received information about several new subdivisions in Garfield and Loup Counties and would like to be part of the conversation about naming

roads, etc. It becomes confusing in dispatch with there are duplicate road names. There was discussion about what voice the county boards have when presented with subdivisions, campgrounds, etc. Diana Hurlburt said that the Garfield County board of commissioners will be getting more involved with this process. She also mentioned how well Burwell is advertised as a tourist attraction. Jay Meyer brought up the need for good signage for campgrounds with maps of lot numbers so emergency responders know where to go. He also asked the question-at what point does the county intervene on development when we don't have the emergency infrastructure resources to support the influx of new homes/people? Stena reported that our office has been approached by several people including county roads personnel about new developments/subdivisions. We are trying to set up a meeting with stakeholders from Garfield and Loup counties, with Region 26 being a neutral facilitator, to discuss these issues. More information to come.

Stena will be attending the Paradigm Pipeline Training this week, then the NEMA Capstone course and the Nebraska APCO/NENA Conference in the next couple of weeks.

Virginia handed out the Audit Report for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Take some time to review it and Alma will have the audit approval form to sign at the next council meeting.

Old Business:

Diana asked if Alma had called anyone to look at the roof after seeing drone footage of the rippling. Alma is first going to check on the roof warranty, then look into repairs. Stena said her husband is willing to climb on the roof and take a closer look.

Jay Meyer is trying to get a bill for fencing materials so we can get it paid for and turned in for our NIRMA Assist grant by the November 1 deadline.

Joseph Smith talked to Laurie Hood at Keith County communications about extra fees collected at Lake McConaughy. Laurie said their 911 center does not receive any money from those fees.

Alma will be on vacation September 30 – October 16.

Next regular meeting date will be October 25, 2022.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Virginia Michalski/Office Manager

Approved by the Region 26 Council:

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Chairman

Date

## ACRONYMS

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