

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

November 30, 2022

(Postponed from November 29, 2022)

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen
Range Co. Municipalities:
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Doug Reiter

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director and Stena Seamann/Deputy Emergency Manager

Visitors Present: Mike Epley/Platte Valley Communications

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with six (6) 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 Tom Bandur and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the agenda.

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

Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the October 25, 2022 Minutes.

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

Motion by Roger Guggenmos and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the October 2022 Financial Statement. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Due to Mike Epley with Platte Valley Communications in attendance, Jay skipped to the agenda item regarding the radio/paging equipment in need of replacing at Valley County Sheriff's Office. Alma reported that the equipment that was installed at Valley County by Region 26 has aged out and starting to fail requiring an upgrade. Region 26 could use this equipment if in need of backup. Due to daily use by the Sheriff's Office, Alma and Jay Meyer attended the Valley County Supervisor's meeting to request assistance in paying for the upgrade and install. Alma had given them an estimate of the cost and Valley County agreed to pay 2/3. At the meeting Source Well was discussed as a purchasing agent to get discounted cost for the County. Mike Epley gave a copy of the bid that came back from Motorola including their cost to install and program. Mike explained that they had already used State bid cost and would have to go higher on their labor cost if they were installing what someone else would be putting together and they could not guarantee what they would be running in to. After board discussion on what it would take with Source Well and possible delay, Jay Meyer made motion to accept bid by Platte Valley Communications for the \$55,866.30 to be shared with Valley County. Roger Guggenmos seconded the motion. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Approval was given to Mike Epley to start with ordering the equipment.

Mike had coverage maps that he had made for Garfield County on where the communications equipment being purchased for them will go. The maps showed the range for both mobile and portable radios and paging. This will be discussed with Holt County on how this can work and also with the users of system in Garfield and Wheeler counties.

Alma reported on a safety meeting that was held last week on the Calamus Lake area for purpose of

Emergency Services in locating residents and Region 26 trying to address them. Approximately 20 were in attendance that wanted to discuss ideas on moving forward. Alma had said some of the suggestions brought forward was requirements for Sub-Division sign names, street naming/signs and house numbers. Ideas of a packet handed out to new parcel owners on what they could do for safety purposes from knowing their surroundings to putting up house numbers.

Alma explained to the board what it is taking to get new addressing done and the help needed from Zoning. Alma went into detail on what it takes to create an address for a new location. The Region 26 Board discussed what possibly needs to be done in all counties with Planning and Zoning with requests of help on addressing new locations and having house numbers for houses in a standardized size, location and color to help Emergency Services, how it would be paid for and installed. The board agreed that more discussion needed to happen.

Tower Reports: Alma had the Greeley Equipment Lease Agreement with Applied Connective for space on the tower. Copy of the agreement had been sent to the board for review. Tom Bandur made a motion to accept the contract with Applied Connective with a second from Doug Pokorny. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Jay reported on the issues at the Ord Tower site with the Air Conditioner units and generator. The two units were working against each other with AC and heat. There was a problem with the control box. Joe Wadas had gone out to work on them and is pricing regular thermostats for the units. It may cause a higher electric bill for the month due to the problem.

Alma reported on the transfer switch at the Loup City tower that Tim Wood/Power Tech had been called in to work on. The relay needed replaced and all working fine.

Alma asked for the board to approve having her Deputy, Stena Seamann be a voting alternate on the North Central PET Board. She would be an alternate for any one of the County representatives on the Region 26 board to be able to vote in their absence on the North Central PET Board. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The renewal of the Simple IRA for the Region 26 employees for the company 3% maximum match was requested by Alma to be retained. Tom Bandur made the motion with a second by Doug Pokorny seconded. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma presented to the board the unanimous request of the Dispatchers to change the employee holiday pay to allow the dispatcher that works on an approved holiday to receive double pay for the hours worked and that the others that work shift hours would receive half pay for that holiday. They felt it was unfair to the employee that was actually working the holiday and pointed out it was a savings for Region 26. Alma gave the board an example of the savings. The board commented on how it shows the employees watching out for one another and impressed by their commitment. Tom Bandur made the motion to make this change with a second from Jordon Foltz. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma brought attention to the board on the ballots that went out for municipal elections and had question on issues that could come up if nominations were turned in late to go out on ballot and also that there was a space for a write-in and if that could even be allowed on our board. In discussion the board felt the write-in option should not have been on the nomination form and the forms were sent out giving the village/city boards ample time to nominate someone and have the form returned by the deadline given.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Jepsen was absent. Alma reported that they had asked the Law Enforcement on using the correct format for information on running someone on teletype to help speed up the process. The Law Enforcement server was discussed to consider our next equipment update due to age and having new agreements signed by the Law Enforcement since there will be a number of new Sheriffs and PD. Mike Jepsen will work on a new agreement for all the participating Law Enforcement to sign.

Communications Center Report: Alma handed out a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. They had 1533 Status checks, 326 Alarms, 307 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 298 Pages, 130 Messages, 117 Minor Detail, 110 Traffic Violations, 106 Rescue Calls, 85 - 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 49 assist Citizen, 41 Gun Permit, 40 Livestock Complaint, 34 Assist Other Agencies, 33 Standby for Events/ Fire/ Training, 28 Fire Calls, 26 Accidents, 19 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 18 Animal Calls, 18 Mutual Aid, 14 Suspicious Events, 11 Check Welfare, 11 Reckless Driver, 9 Siren, 8 Direct Traffic/Funeral Escort, 8 Miscellaneous Tasks, 8 Traffic Hazard 8 Transfer 911 Call, 7 Theft, 6 Property Damaged/Lost/Found, 6 Suspicious Person, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Radio Test, 3 Burn Permit, 3 Criminal Mischief, 3 Death Investigation, 3 Drug Violation, 2 Abandoned Vehicle, 2 Arrest, 2 Check Area, 2 Motorist Assist, 2 Paper Service, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Special Assignment, 2 Suicidal Threats/ Attempts, 2 Terroristic Threats, 2 Trespassing, 2 Truancy, 2 Vandalism and 9 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of October was 3,475 including 340 - 911 calls and 1618 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Alma reported on two applicants that they had interviews with earlier today. She advised the board that she was reaching out to them tomorrow to offer the position and hoped to be able to hire both and began training them together.

Director's Report:

Stena had done credentialing/badging training in Grand Island. They had both North Platte and Hastings Weather come to Region 26 to meet with Stena and the Loup and Garfield Emergency Managers to do some weather service training together.

Alma told the board due to weather and late date on the meeting she had sent out payments with only one signature to keep from getting late fees. All stubs were available for the board to look at what had been paid.

Alma reported on the latest technology that was pushed out by Apple with their Satellite connection for the Apple 14 phones if someone was out of cell service and needed 911, they could connect to the satellite and their call would go through an Apple Emergency call taking service and then be routed to the correct 911 center. Alma stated they would be discussing it at staff meeting to be aware of this latest technology which would work for us similar to an OnStar call.

The Chairman asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss employee benefits. A motion was made by Tom Bandur and seconded by Jordan Foltz to go into executive session.

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

Executive session entered at 9:35 pm. The board reconvened to public session at 10:04 pm. Tom Bandur made a motion to proceed with changes that were discussed in executive session on employee benefits.

Other Business: Jay asked about having meeting times moved up to 6:30 pm through the winter months. The board agreed to change meetings from November through March starting with this month's meeting in December. Next month will be the starting of having regular December meetings.

Next regular meeting date will be December 27, 2022 at new time of 6:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

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