

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

February 28, 2023

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Range Co. Municipalities:
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Stena Seamann/Deputy EM & Bailey Lurz/Dispatch Supervisor

Visitors Present: Theresa Petska, Valley County Alternate

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 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 Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Wade Neben to approve the amended Agenda to include the items: Certificate of Deposit, Addendum to East Central 911 Interlocal Agreement and Care Giver-Sick Leave. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the January 31, 2023 Minutes. Ayes (5) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the January 2023 Financial Statement. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Board members Tom Bandur and Jordan Foltz entered the meeting at 6:40 pm.

Alma reported on last updates with Applied Connective for IT work. After last meeting and getting agreement signed with Applied Connective, Ed Knott had reached out to Alma to replace three old small network switches with one Ubiquiti switch with 48 ports. He had sent quote of \$835 and said they would have it configured and ready to install when they came. Alma approved the switch. They have not made it yet to start the onboarding work. We should have internet connection to the Greeley cameras soon as they have been recently been working on that.

Tower Report: Alma had been in touch with the State OCIO director, Dave Collette and they were moving forward with paperwork to purchase Merna tower for \$25,000. Alma had discussed utilizing the Trotter Elevator leg in Arcadia for the antenna there that needs to be moved from current location for LE, Fire and EMS. Waiting to hear back from Platte Valley that this would be a good option.

Diana and Alma reported on the LB646 hearing that was coming up on Monday, March 6th in Lincoln. Alma had been in contact with Kevin Stocker and Christian Mirch, both Commissioners at the Public Service Commission. Both had said the Public Service Commission was in favor of the bill and that the Public Service Commission would probably be testifying that day for the cap on the current Wireless 911 Surcharge to be raised to \$1.00 per phone for both Douglas County currently at 50 cents and the rest of the State currently at 70 cents per month. They both said they would like to visit Region 26 and possibly have a Public Service Commission Meeting here this year. Diana explained what she had learned from Tim Pendrell, Senator McDonnell's aid. Tim had told her there was another bill by Senator Vargas that this could possibly get attached to. Tim is very informative and could answer your questions if any of the board would like to contact him. He had told her contacts for us to reach out to would be Douglas County Sheriff, Aaron Hanson and Senator Geist. If the bill gets out of Committee after this hearing then it will require our support of writing to the Senators to get it passed. Diana reminded everyone that if they had not gone online to click on support of the bill that Stena would help anyone do that after the meeting tonight. It only requires name, address, email and click on support of bill. You would get an email back immediately to click on to show it was you submitting and would only allow you to submit once. Discussion was held on the bill and how it could work for us and plans to attend the hearing to show our support. Diana, Jay and Alma were planning to attend on Monday.

Alma stated the Certificate of Deposit at the Cornerstone bank in Bartlett that was just under \$50,000 was maturing in 12 days and she had Virginia look into interest rates at banks within the Region 26 boundaries which was presented. After discussion Tom Bandur made a motion to cash in the CD and increase the amount to \$50,000 and put into an NPAIT account unless it has dropped in interest at time of cashing out, then go to BankFirst at Ord. Jack Van Slyke seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The addendum to the Inter-local Cooperation Agreement for Equipment sharing with the East-Central 911 group that Alma discussed at last meeting came in for signature that includes the cost of operational readiness testing of equipment from Lumen. The additional cost for Region 26 being \$8,093.94 can be paid with wireless set-aside funds at end of the project of equipment install and testing. Diana Hurlburt made a motion to have the Addendum signed by the Chairman with Jordan Foltz seconding the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma had been approached by staff asking for the Employee handbook to be amended under sick leave to include parents as part of the immediate family when the employee is considered their caregiver and needs to take time off for their medical needs. Jay Meyer made a motion to made this change in the Handbook to include parent to be considered as immediate family when taking care of their medical needs. Wade Neben seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Jepsen not in attendance. Stena Seamann reported on the Law Enforcement meeting held here a couple weeks ago with Sheriffs, PD, Game and Parks and State Patrol. State Patrol was going to bring helicopter pilot with him to next meeting to discuss what they can do to assist local Law Enforcement.

Communications Center Report: Bailey Lurz, Dispatch Supervisor discussed the stats breakdown that had been handed out for the previous month and pointed out the record number of burn permits called in from fire departments was 443 which could have been more when one permit was covering more than one day. Jay Meyer brought up the best way to call in burn permits if he could email vs. call in. Bailey said she would bring that up at staff meeting coming up to discuss. She does not mind the call in so that it is not missed. The stats for the month were 1420 Status Checks, 443 Burn Permits, 315 Paging, 283 Alarms, 189 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 124 Messages, 113 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect,

100 Minor Detail, 96 Rescue Calls, 77 Assist Citizen, 52 Gun Permit, 45 Traffic Violations, 31 Accidents, 31 Motorist Assist, 22 Assist Other Agencies, 15 Assist Fire/Rescue, 15 Fire Calls, 14 Check Welfare, 14 Livestock Complaint, 12 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 12 Traffic Hazard, 10 Abandoned Vehicle, 9 Animal Calls, 8 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 8 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 8 Radio Test, 8 Reckless Driver, 8 Siren, 8 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 8 Weather, 8 Miscellaneous Tasks, 7 Transfer 911 Call, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Theft/Shoplifting, 4 Background Check, 4 Suspicious Events, 4 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Property Lost/Recovered/Disputed/Damage, 2 Gas Leak, 2 Minor in Possession, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Sex Offender Registry, 2 Suspicious Person and 10 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of January was 3,562 including 249 - 911 calls and 1,697 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Director's Report: Alma reported on the Calamus/Davis Creek Orientation held here on February 8th by the Bureau of Reclamation which was followed with the Thomas/Blaine/Loup/Garfield LEPC meeting that had a lot of the same people that stayed over from the Lake Orientation. There were different areas of discussion of concerns for public safety for the area.

Alma attended a meeting at Litchfield fire to discuss communications that they were wanting help with on calling in on radios and for mutual aid. There were a couple of scenarios that Alma had taken there to walk through with them. Dispatchers, Caden and Miki had gone also and assisted in discussion of handling radio traffic. They were also able to go to the cabin and marina areas of the Sherman reservoir while there to help dispatchers become more familiar with the area.

There was a CodeRED callout done for Greeley County a couple weeks ago when there was rain on top of ice causing water over the roads in many areas. There was some call ins afterwards that they could not get the message and Alma has been following up on that with CodeRED.

There will be the State tornado drill coming up on March 29th that most of the town sirens will be set off. Alma will be doing a CodeRED call out to all counties the week before to test the system and also let them know about the sirens. Stena reported on the weather spotter talks coming up in all the counties and went over the schedule with the board.

Alma reported on additional funding she received from EMPG ARPA funding for operating expenses in the amount of \$53,876.00 which was an addition to the grant award received in November for \$9,678.92.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be March 28, 2023.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

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| 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)