

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

August 29, 2023

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen

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

Visitors Present: None

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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the Agenda.

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

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the July 25, 2023 Minutes.

Ayes (5) Nays (0) Abstain (5).

On the budget report Alma explained the additional sheet for past month showing the final reimbursements received in on the EMPG grant for the last fiscal year which came in since last meeting.

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the July 2023 Financial Statement.

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

For Tower report Alma stated that the payment for the Merna tower arrived this past week which was placed in an NPAIT account at this time. On the Ord tower and Greeley Tower Jay reported on the work done on the Air Conditioner problems at both locations. Greeley had coolant added and is still having problems. He had restarted it and was working but still felt there might be issues. The Ord site he has been in communications with both our generator repair and an air conditioner repair from Dannebrog to work together to find the issue with one air conditioner showing that it is pulling more amps than should and if it comes on with generator running it can cause it to shut down. Our generator maintenance service and the air conditioner repair are trying to meet at the site to get the issue figured out.

Alma wanted the board to be aware that Jay is no longer going to the Merna site but with the Greeley, Ord and Sargent sites he is only getting mileage payment that he gets for one trip and has made multiple trips and telephone communications as well as the maintenance work at each site. Jay stated he would not accept anything more than the mileage and was glad to do the work.

For the update of dispatch funding Diana, Joseph and Alma reported on the conference call with Governor Pillen's Policy and Research team on the fact gathering they were asking for on funding we receive and any mandates we have. Alma said she had sent them the requirements for the new dispatch standard for training that will create additional payroll costs. Discussion was had on the work done and what we are doing to move forward to continue to get the word out on the need for change to the funding model for surcharge funds to support from other dispatch centers to be heard in Lincoln on what rural 911 center's needs are. Diana will continue to work with NACO for assistance for putting together funding requests or changing wording of what has been done previously. Alma will contact the Public Service Commission to invite any of them to our September meeting.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Jepsen was not present. Alma reported on the quarterly Law Enforcement meeting on August 4th. There were several Game and Parks in attendance with the Law Enforcement that was here. Numerous issues were discussed on communications. Alma had asked for assistance from them to find what their needs were for Homeland Security grant purposes.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1537 Status Checks, 372 pages, 327 Wants/Warrants/Registrations 205 Traffic Violations, 175 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 143 Minor Details, 120 Messages, 103 Rescue Calls, 72 Weather, 56 Assist Citizen, 55 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 48 Livestock Complaint, 46 Assist Other Agencies, 42 Gun Permits, 34 Burn Permits, 32 Reckless Driver, 26 Accidents, 26 Animal Calls, 21 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 20 Suspicious Person, 17 Check Welfare, 14 Motorist Assist, 13 Arrests, 13 Theft/Shoplifting, 12 Fire Calls, 12 Suspicious Events, 12 Traffic Hazard, 11 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 10 Alarms, 10 Transfer 911 Calls, 9 Paper Service, 9 Suspicious Vehicle, 8 Miscellaneous Tasks, 8 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 7 Siren, 6 Abandoned Vehicle, 5 Civil Matters, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Missing Person/Juvenile, 5 Prisoner Transport, 4 Fireworks Complaint/Violation, 4 Gas Drive Off, 4 Radio Test, 3 Mutual Aid, 3 Property Damage, 3 Terroristic Threats, 2 Arson/Explosion and 16 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of July was 3690 including 351 - 911 calls and 1736 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Dispatch Supervisor/Bailey Lurz reported the huge number of calls-to-service difference from the last few years to what we have had up to this month. There has been a lot more calls-to-service and things that have caused hours of work carried out over a couple days. Jay asked if there was some way to track the work that was done for each call. Alma stated that we used to count stats that way with a mark for each call, page, radio transmission etc. for each incident where now the work is put into notes for that incident and not tabulated separately. Some CAD systems do have more reporting capabilities than what ours can do. Joseph asked if Bailey and Donna could come up with an average of the time involved with different types of incidents that is generated off one 911 call or even what it takes for checking a warrant to have something for the board to use to show amount of time spent by dispatchers for different incidents.

There had been only one applicant for the last ad in the paper to add additional staff, which they had not accepted the position.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on the North Central PET Meeting here last week. Equipment that was purchased with grant funds to help complete the Livestock Response trailers had arrived here by pallet and was divided up for the other Emergency Managers to take back to their counties where trailers were housed. Two

Homeland Security grants were running out this month and some of the final work and training was getting finished up.

Stena and Alma both attended a Salamander/Credentialing training that was planned with some of the grant funds as well as updating some of our credentialing equipment. The card printer at Region 26 was replaced this past week.

Purdum and Ericson fire department meetings were attended to get them updated on credentialing and go over any questions or concerns with Region 26.

Alma attended NRIN equipment training and board meeting in Kearney last week and reported on maintenance and planned use for system.

Lammers, Abel and Kaps came for financial audit this week. Additional signatures were required for completion of bank confirmations. Alma had the board members that were listed on bank accounts sign.

Virginia had completed work with another county for the village/city map point layer for GeoComm.

Stena reported on amounts she was able to help Fire Departments get paperwork done and turned in for reimbursements from help at spring fires.

Alma asked about the Verizon tower at the Halsey location if it appeared to be up and working as there had been some 911 issues in that area recently. Joseph was going to do more testing while on forest grounds and did not feel they had any the 911 issues as originally thought after the situation was reviewed.

Chairman stated that Alma had asked for an executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Joseph Smith to go into executive session.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered into at 8:42 pm. Reconvened to public session at 9:12 pm.

Findings: Jordan Foltz made a motion to increase the pay for personnel with hourly wages by \$2.50 per hour, but will discontinue Christmas bonuses. Tom Bandur seconded the motion.

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

Other Business: Jack Van Slyke asked about the antenna at Arcadia. Alma said she was waiting for funding on who was going to pay for it. Jack said the County was paying \$2500.00 and Arcadia fire was paying the rest and they are ready for the work to be done.

Next regular meeting date will be September 26, 2023 at 7:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:19 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)