

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

October 30, 2023

Region 26 Council:

Present:

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
Law Enforce: Mike Jepsen
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos

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

Visitors Present: Kevin Stocker

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 Joseph Smith to approve the agenda.

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

Commissioner Kevin Stocker from the Nebraska Public Service Commission attended the board meeting and toured the facility to become familiar with Region 26 and to discuss the 911 cell phone surcharge funding that is administered through the Public Service Commission. Commissioner Stocker addressed the funding issues and the questions that the board members had. He offered suggestions to help with funding that many felt the Region 26 board had already been working on some of those avenues but will continue on and hope to gain Commission and Legislature support on these issues moving forward for additional funding for dispatch centers.

Diana Hurlburt had an email copy passed out that she received back from Beth Ferrel, Legal Council for NACO to assist in wording for the purpose of senator support for a Legislative Bill for 911 center funding.

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the September 26, 2023 Minutes.

Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (4).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the September 2023 Financial Statement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Tower & Equipment: Alma reported on outage at Burwell tower and with help from Hamilton and with Loup Valley Public Power the electrical issue was resolved.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Jepsen reported on upcoming Region 26 quarterly Law Enforcement meeting this coming Friday.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous two months were passed out. A breakdown of the statistics for August was 1457 Status Checks, 317 Paging, 243 Wants/ Warrants/ Registrations, 143 Minor Detail, 110 Messages, 109 Traffic Violations, 105 - 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 99 Rescue Calls, 70 Assist Other Agencies, 66 Assist Citizen, 59 Gun Permit, 39 Standby For Events /Fire/Training, 28 Livestock Complaint, 27 Burn Permit, 27 Reckless Driver, 19 Accidents, 17 Motorist Assist, 17 Paper Service, 16 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 15 Weather, 14 Theft, 13 Alarms, 13 Animal Calls, 13 Traffic Hazard, 12 Fire Calls, 11 Check Welfare, 10 Miscellaneous Tasks, 10 Siren, 10 Suspicious Vehicle, 9 Suspicious Person, 8 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 8 Suspicious Events, 7 Break In, 7 Property Damage, 6 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 6 Transfer 911 Call, 5 Follow Up, 5 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 4 Abandoned Vehicle, 4 Death Investigation, 4 Missing Person/Juvenile, 4 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Littering/Dumping, 3 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Abuse/ Neglect, 2 Arrests, 2 Driving Under the Influence, 2 Radio Test, 2 Sex Offender Registry, 2 Terroristic Threats and 7 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of August was 3194 including 293 – 911 calls and 1647 administrative calls to dispatch for August.

The breakdown for September was 1414 Status Checks, 295 Paging, 260 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 203 Traffic Violations, 127 Minor Detail, 123 Messages, 104 Rescue Calls, 74 Assist Citizen, 69 - 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 62 Gun Permit, 61 Livestock Complaint, 59 Assist Other Agencies, 50 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 32 Reckless Driver, 22 Burn Permit, 21 Weather, 18 Fire Calls, 17 Disturbance/ Harassment/Assault, 16 Animal Calls, 16 Traffic Hazard, 15 Radio Test, 14 Accidents, 14 Alarms, 14 Paper Service, 12 Motorist Assist, 11 Suspicious Vehicle, 10 Siren, 10 Suspicious Person, 10 Transfer 911 Call, 9 Theft, 8 Abandoned Vehicle, 8 Suspicious Events, 7 Mutual Aid, 7 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 6 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Check Welfar, 4 Miscellaneous Tasks, 3 Arrest, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Follow Up, 3 Property Damage, 3 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 3 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 2 Death Investigation, 2 Direct traffic/Funeral/Escort, 2 Driving Under the Influence, 2 K-9 Search, 2 Littering/Dumping, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Truancy, 2 Vandalism and 6 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of September was 3249 including 260 – 911 Calls and 1513 administrative calls into dispatch for September.

Dispatch Supervisor/Bailey Lurz reported that another dispatcher was hired and will start training next week. Bailey presented her calculations on what the board had requested on what is an average amount of time spent by a dispatcher for various types of calls. She had also calculated average number of interactions either by phone, radio or a 911 call that is associated with the incident to help the board understand some of the work in the communications center during an event.

Director's Report:

- Alma reported on the IPPW Workshop that Stena attended in Lincoln at the request of NEMA to work on the training calendars for the Emergency Managers for next year and with grant funds.
- The APCO-NENA 911 conference Alma attended in Columbus for upcoming technology in the dispatch center.
- NIRMA conference in Kearney Alma attended for the breakout sessions and did receive a small dividend on the insurance for Region 26.
- Alma reported on the Calamus Pre-School tour of the 911 center and that Stena and Miki were taking 911 information to the Bartlett elementary tomorrow. She had Stena report on a school training she attended in Columbus for reunification with family after an event.
- The Loup Valley Mutual Aid and Sandhills Mutual Aid was attended by Alma and Stena this

month and discussed the Mutual Aid Agreements to see if departments have signed agreements that are up-to-date and the radio grant for a state system radio from Legislative Bill for Volunteer Fire Departments only.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be November 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:01 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

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