

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

January 30, 2024

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: Theresa Petska (Alternate)

Absent:

Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: vacant

Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

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

Visitors Present: James Almond, Public Service Commission

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with nine (9) 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 Dave Larson to approve the agenda.

Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Wade Neben to approve the December 2023 Minutes.

Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the December 2023 Financial Statement. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Diana Hurlburt gave an update on the Legislative work. The LB 646 had been amended to have the cell phone surcharge set at 70¢ statewide instead of \$1.00 that was requested last year. James Almond was in attendance from the Public Service Commission and answered questions the board had on the wireless fund that has been collected and how much was in the fund. There were questions on the funding model on how the funds were divided to come out to the PSAPs across the state. James informed the board they were divided at 40% base amount, 40% call volume and 20% population. For more funding to come back to the PSAP would require more surcharge to be taken in. There was more discussion on other Legislative Bills on how they could affect us and what we need to continue to toward on LB 646. James Almond was able to share a lot of information for the board to help the understand how the wireless fund will work moving forward.

Towers & Equipment Report: Alma reported on the Litchfield repeater not working during cold snap and generator had run for a while with power down. The transfer switch had coils burnt out. Platte Valley had been out to bypass the transfer switch until Power Tech was out to repair. Power Tech is in process of getting coils with an approximate estimate of \$1200 to \$1500 to repair.

The Communications Committee including Meyer, Neben, Foltz, Hurlburt and Larson had met ahead of the regular board meeting to go over the bids for a telephone system for administrative lines since our current system was at end of life and starting to show problems. Hamilton Telephone and Applied Connective both had presented their bids and answered questions by the committee. The committee discussed the camera system that Applied Connective also presented on a bid for security cameras. The committee presented their findings to the board. After much discussion comparing the two companies, their product, cost and service. Joseph Smith made a motion to accept the bid from Applied Connective of \$7,169.10 for the telephone system with a second from Dave Larson. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0). The board decided to table the camera upgrades for now on what Applied Connective had presented.

Criminal Justice Board Report: No report

Communications Center Report: The stats were handed out to the board for the previous month. They had 1509 Status Checks, 282 paging, 233 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 143 Burn Permit, 101 Rescue Calls, 97 Traffic Violations, 90 Messages, 89 Minor Detail, 77 Gun Permit, 66 - 911 Accidental/ Disconnect, 60 Assist Citizen, 48 Assist Other Agencies, 38 Accidents, 20 Animal Calls, 20 Livestock Complaint, 17 reckless Driver, 15 Alarms, 14 check Welfare, 14 Radio Test, 12 Fire Calls, 11 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 11 Miscellaneous Tasks, 10 Motorist Assist, 9 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 9 Siren, 9 Suspicious Vehicle, 7 Disturbance/harassment/assault, 7 prisoner transport, 7 suspicious person, 7 Traffic Hazard, 6 Theft, 5 Arrest, 5 Follow Up, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 paper Service, 5 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 5 Suspicious Events, 5 Transfer 911 Call, 3 Fraudulent Activity, 3 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 2 Child Abuse/Neglect, 2 Death Investigation, Missing Person/Juvenile, 2 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 2 Weather and 7 various other incidents.

Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of December was 3,094 including 217 - 911 calls and 1496 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Director's Report:

- Snow Storm disaster declarations were turned in for Garfield, Wheeler, Valley and Greeley counties from the Jan 12th storm. The Governor had opened up assistance from the State Department of Roads with a declaration allowing state snow blowers to assist in opening county roads.
- Alma reported on EMS Captain and Co-Captain meeting held at Region 26 for all of the Region 26 squads. It allowed them to come together with dispatchers and able to ask and answer questions on both sides.
- Calamus and Davis Creek annual dam orientation is coming in February with tours of each of the dam operations for water releasing and of the emergency plans with the Bureau.
- Alma and Stena attended the Sandhills Mutual Aid meeting in Thedford.
- Alma and Stena attended meeting with Loup Basin Public Health on creating a Medical Reserve Corps for the Loup Basin counties to aid in disasters or large events.
- The weekly ice jam conference calls with Hastings Weather Service detailed the chance of ice jams with the weather warming up and also had satellite image of the snow pack that showed the heavier snow in the the counties that requested the State Roads Department assistance.
- Stena had a schedule of the storm spotter meetings that she had set up for each of the counties.
- At the last East Central 911 conference call with Motorola, we were informed of the date for the 911 next gen install which will be March 6th.

Other Business: none

Next regular meeting date will be February 27, 2024.... 6:30pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:53 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)