

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
April 1, 2024 (postponed from March 26, 2024)

Region 26 Council:

Present:		Absent:
Blaine Co:	Roger Guggenmos	Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Garfield Co:	Diana Hurlburt	Range Co. Municipalities:
Greeley Co:	Jordan Foltz	Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Loup Co:	Dave Larson	Wade Neben
Sherman Co:	Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair	
Valley Co:	Jack Van Slyke	
Wheeler Co:	Doug Pokorny	
Law Enforce:	Dale King	
Tri-Co Municipalities:		
	Valley, Greeley, Sherman	
	Jay Meyer, Chairman	

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director and Stena Seamann/Deputy EM

Visitors Present: None

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 Doug Pokorny and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the Agenda.
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the February 27, 2024 Minutes.
Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the February 2024 Financial Statement. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Legislative Update: Diana Hurlburt reported Central District NACO meeting held last week in York and reported Jon Cannon meeting with the Commissioners and bringing up the discussion with Sen. Mike Moser on LB646. Diana had discussed the bill with him and what had to be done and he had told her NACO needed to work on this to get it out of Committee. Jon Cannon had told Diana so much time was spent on property tax and inheritance tax that time has been cut short on getting anything through before end of Legislature on the 18th. Diana stated nothing has been heard from Senator Brewer regarding the bill after reaching out to him. Diana had made contact with Jon Cannon during the meeting by text to see if he had made any contact with Senator Moser. Alma asked if she felt there was something more we needed to do on this end or if too late to do anything else to help the situation. She did receive information back from Jon Cannon that much of the cash funds in the state are going toward tax relief and he is not hopeful that we will see anything come out of this and really not much more we can do at this time.

Towers & Equipment Report:

- a. Greeley Tower – The agreement that Region 26 had with Applied Connective for equipment space on the tower has now been taken over by Stealth Broadband. Stealth had emailed a new agreement for Region 26 to approve. Stena had done a comparison between the two agreements and pointed out the differences and areas that should be taken into consideration before approval. There appeared to be additional equipment on the tower that they have added without our approval. The board asked that we have Stealth attend our next board meeting to go over the agreement so that we can ask questions of what their intent is before we allow them access back to the tower and before signing an agreement.
- b. Backup Cost-Phone Lines – Alma reported on the huge increase on the line running into our backup location from the west counties. In contacting Frontier phone company regarding this, all we were told that it was due to increased tariffs. Alma had discussed with Platte Valley of options that we could do to cut cost. There were possible options of using fiber or wireless from Ord to Taylor. Jay expressed that we need to reach out to Public Service Commission to see if we can get any information or help that they could look into this.

Alma also discussed what had come up for Sherman County in continuing to look at coverage for Ashton/Rockville and for Wheeler County for the Ericson area. Also, the Garfield repeater situation for northern part of the county. Diana reminded Alma that the Garfield ARPA funds soon needed spent.

Alma had reviewed the Disaster Declarations for this year, what was needed and if there were any changes to the county boards for Chairmen and one clerk change that would require a newly signed Declaration to have prepared and ready for use.

Alma had put insurance review on the agenda to ask if the board had any suggestions for change for any self-insuring. The board said it would not change that much and said we need to move forward with what we have.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Dale King reported for awareness to the board criminal activity that had happened in the area that could affect some of our counties.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous two months were passed out. For January there were 1582 Status Checks, 305 Pages, 186 Burn Permits, 185 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 119 Messages, 114 Rescue Calls, 109 Minor Detail, 86 Traffic Violations, 83 Gun Permits, 67 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 60 Assist Citizen, 39 Assist Other Agencies, 20 Check Welfare, 19 Motorist Assist, 18 Accidents, 18 Alarms, 16 Animal Calls, 15 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 12 Radio Test, 11 disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 11 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 10 Livestock Complaint, 10 Siren, 9 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 8 Abandoned Vehicle, 7 Miscellaneous Tasks, 7 Reckless Driver, 7 Transfer 911 Call, 6 Arrests, 6 Paper Service, 6 Traffic hazard, 6 Weather, 5 Theft, 4 Fire Calls, 4 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 4 Suspicious Events, 3 Death Investigation, 3 Prisoner Transport, 3 Suspicious Person, 3 Suspicious Vehicle and 14 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of January was 3200 including 181 - 911 calls and 1535 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

For February there were 1457 Status Checks, 260 Pages, 190 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 151 Messages, 141 Traffic Violations, 122 Minor Detail, 90 Rescue Calls, 82 Gun Permit, 61 Burn Permit, 55 Assist Other Agencies, 50 Assist Citizen, 32 911 Accidental /Disconnect, 28 Livestock Complaint, 24 Fire Calls, 22 Reckless Driver, 19 Mutual Aid, 18 Accidents, 16 Animal Calls, 13 Motorist Assist, 11 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 11 Radio Test, 11 Siren, 10 Alarms, 10 Check Welfare, 10 Suspicious Vehicle, 8 Paper Service, 8 Suspicious Events, 7 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 6 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 6 Theft, 5 Arrests, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Transfer 911 Call, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Death Investigation, 3 Follow Up, 3 Miscellaneous Tasks, 3 Missing Person/Juvenile, 3 Prisoner Transport,

3 Suspicious Person, 3 Traffic Hazard, 3 Utilities Complaint/Outage and 13 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Center for the month of February was 2984 including 206 – 911 Calls and 1365 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Alma reported that a couple weeks ago on Saturday that a network switch went out on our radios and that we only are using our backup switch currently. Platte Valley had suggested we talk to Sidney on console equipment they had replaced and what it would take to get their console for repairs. Discussion was what is our options for console and for equipment work that is done for future.

Alma told them that another dispatcher had been hired and will start in a couple weeks. The prescribed and control burns were discussed and the extra work and stress that it causes in dispatch.

Director's Report:

- Testing on Next Gen 911 has started. Virginia had been doing testing with Motorola on the temporary workstation that was set up in the equipment room. The cut over go live date will happen on June 12th.
- Stena had seen reimbursements coming back for departments we had sent to the Betty's Way and Lariat fires in February in Lincoln and Logan counties.
- North Central Region PET meeting was held in North Platte last month. We did find that the license plate readers have possibly went through on our Homeland Security Grant. There is one more process for them to go through but was looking good at this time.
- Tornado drill was last week and the town sirens were sounded and we also set off the CodeRED call out for the drill.
- Point Layers for the addressing has been completed and will be signing off of the project with GeoComm.

Other Business: Reimbursement was discussed as to what could come back to Region 26 for funding due to the work on helping for reimbursement for departments on grass fires. The EMPG grant does assist on wages. There was discussion on what could be developed for a foundation for Region 26 that funds could come to for assistance or when citizens wanted to make a donation for 911 service done. The Community foundations were discussed as well.

Next regular meeting date will be April 30, 2024 at newly scheduled time of 7:00 PM.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Approved by the Region 26 Council:

Chairman

Date

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)