

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

February 26, 2025

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Martindale

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny

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

Visitors Present: Pat Henry, PowerTech

Roll Call was taken with nine (9) members present.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county for posting and given in advance to all members of the Board. 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.

Introductions were done for Paige Martindale from the Brewster Village Board, who was elected to fill in the Range County Municipality representative vacancy on the board.

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.

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

Jay asked to move up the agenda item to accommodate PowerTech. Pat Henry with PowerTech explained the service maintenance contract that they have with Region 26 on the maintenance for the generators at six of our tower sites which is done by their service tech, Tim Wood, located in St. Paul. The overview of the service that is done once a year/minor service check and then the same PM check in six months for oil change, filters and pull an oil sample. Tim does service calls and breakdowns. Had one recently with low voltage and found mice problem. Tim's area is basically Broken Bow to York and at one time in previous work was the full state. He has an auto renewal on our contract. Unless substantially different they just automatically renew. They try to share mileage if on another service call in our area unless it is an emergency call out. If there is a minor repair needed, they will handle when on scene for a scheduled Preventive Maintenance check.

Their standard is to replace batteries is every three years and block heaters. Can go longer but would recommend to us that we adopt that in our maintenance plan for them to do.

They represent Kohler and also Blue Star Generators which is more industrial and diesel. Have a 5-year parts warranty on the Kohler and 2-year on labor. He gave suggestions on dealing with mice and generators. Make sure on 6" pad and have 4" above grade. Then cover around pad with gravel.

Jay Meyer told the issues we have had on the Litchfield and Ord tower sites and the importance of these towers. It was asked that Tim Wood would contact us when he does work at the tower sites as we are not always hearing from him after he has been to a tower to do work. Pat said we need to contact Roger Lunning the Service Manager if we need a service call and he can contact Tim Wood. Matt Eggert had question if load tests were being done since we have had it happen twice of batteries being dead shortly after we were told the preventive maintenance was done and should have had a load test done that would have shown battery problems. Jay asked that we should have these issues checked with no cost to Region 26 other than parts that are needed which includes the problems with the leaking of the coolant at the Ord generator that has never been fixed. Pat agreed to have someone come out and look at every one of our generators that are on the contract and start fresh and would be

someone other than Tim to have another set of eyes on them. After discussion on when to replace batteries, the board agreed on automatically switching out batteries and block heaters every three years. Pat did say that he would check what we had just replaced and go from there. They do use Deka batteries. The board did not see a need to replace air filters automatically. If PowerTech receives a bad oil sample and is seeing a trend with problems on the oil samples, Region 26 will be notified.

Matt did question the funds we have already paid out and not sure what parts were put into the generator and if they were needed since still not repaired. Also, was the whole checklist actually completed. Pat felt he was working in good faith by sending someone from Omaha to recheck all the sites at no labor or mileage cost. He will notify Alma when they are coming to the sites to check them.

Motion by Diana Hurlbut and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the January 28, 2025 Minutes.

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

Public Comment: None

Alma had handed out a corrected sheet to the board of the amount for Registrations on the financial statement was listed as \$540 and was found before tonight's meeting that it was actually \$270 due to accidentally being entered as a check and a debit card transaction. The debit card transaction was voided and since this only went to the board in the mail and had not been voted on previously it just needed noted that the correction was made.

Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Matt Eggert to approve the January 2025 Financial Statement.

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

Towers & Equipment Report: Alma reported on the Loup City tower and trying to get the addition done on the Howard County tower known as Little Sherman. It was found by Platte Valley that we had an incorrect tower ID at the Loup City tower and needed to find that corrected ID in order to do any frequency changes. Alma would continue to work on that and see what was actually listed at the tower site.

Legislative Updates: Diana Hurlburt reported on the LB 576 that could bring up the cell phone surcharge that would help funding for the 911 centers. The Legislative hearing was scheduled with the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee for the afternoon of Tuesday, March 4th. The discussion was held on who would attend the hearing and what could be done as a board. Stena had prepared a letter that Alma had the board sign that she could submit to the Committee at the hearing showing in support of the bill. Alma also presented a copy of the email she had sent to others that gave directions on how to submit comments online for a Legislative bill.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Joel Bergman reported on the Law Enforcement meeting held this month to determine locations of the Flock cameras and had a training on the software.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1309 Status Checks, 299 Pages, 243 Burn Permits, 167 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 132 Messages, 99 Rescue Calls, 96 Traffic Violations, 80 Minor Detail, 68 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect/ Test, 61 Gun Permit, 60 Assist Citizen, 47 Assist Other Agencies, 29 Paper Service, 24 Miscellaneous Tasks, 21 Fire calls, 20 Accidents, 14 Livestock Complaint, 13 Reckless Driver, 12 Check Welfare, 12 Disturbance/ Harassment/Assault, 11 Alarms, 11 Siren, 9 Animal Calls, 9 Radio Test, 9 Transfer 911 Call, 8 Standby for Event/Fire/Training, 8 Suspicious Person, 8 Traffic Hazard, 7 Arrests, 5 Kerys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Motorist Assist, 5 Mutual Aid, 4 Direct Traffic/Funeral/ Escort, 4 Missing Person/Juvenile, 4 Theft, 3 Prisoner Transport, 3 Suspicious Events, 3 Suspicious Vehicle, 2 Death Investigations, 2 Follow Up, 2 Fraudulent Activity, 2 Property Damage, 2 Utilities Complaint/Outage and eight various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of January 2025 was 2944 including 234 - 911 calls and 1403 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

Dispatch Supervisor/Stena Seamann reported on the continued training of the newest employees and how the changes are working in dispatch for performance logs. She reported on JDS and how that is working with Wheeler and Greeley. The board brought up the fact that work done for departments need to be uniform instead of special requests being followed for different departments. Stena had been working with testing the text to 911. She did attend a LEOP training in Lincoln this month to work on the change for the counties. She brought forward a request from dispatch for payment of the extra time that they are asked to come to work prior to beginning of their shift to do a shift change. Jay asked for it to be placed on next agenda.

Director's Report:

- Calamus Dam & Davis Creek Orientation was held with the Bureau of Reclamation to review the Emergency Action Plans
- Attended the NIRMA Roundtable
- Continued with the River Ice Jam Conference Calls
- Reported on the Flock cameras and what counties will be receiving them with our Homeland Security grants applied for
- Alma reported on what had been done to date on the vehicle preparation for auction
- Longhorn Electric had been in to replace a lot of the florescent lights and wiring. One more trip will have them all up to date.
- Reports on the fires that we had to date for the week including the call outs for the Custer County fires were in excess of eleven.
- Training classes were set up for Orion assessment software for roads departments that we were starting on in March.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be March 25, 2025.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

ALI – Automatic Location Identification
ANI – Automatic Number Identification
APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch
CC – Communications Center
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System
COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disasters
COOP – Continuity of Operations Planning
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)
DEE – Depart. of Environmental & Energy (State)
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
DR – Disaster Recovery
DOR – Department of Roads
E911 – Enhanced 911
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Reg 26 911 Equip)
EM – Emergency Manager
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant
EMS – Emergency Medical Services
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician
EOC – Emergency Operations Center
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)
FAA – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)
FY – Fiscal Year
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)
GIS – Geographic Information System
GPS – Global Positioning System
gWORKS – Public information on Property by County
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program
ICS – Incident Command System
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)
LASO – Local Agency Security Officer
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location
LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)
LE – Law Enforcement
LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MRC – Medical Reserve Corp
NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
NAEM – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NENA – National Emergency Number Association
NESCA – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
***NCR** – North Central Region* (see below)
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training* (see below)
POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PMC – Page My Cell (to Page out Departments)
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
RFP – Request for Proposal
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
T-CPR – Telecommunicator CPR
THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
WCDHD – West Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
W.H.O. – World Health Organization
WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team
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)