

## MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

March 25, 2025

### Region 26 Council:

#### Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert  
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt  
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz  
Loup Co: Dave Larson  
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith  
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke  
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny

#### Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Paige Martindale

#### Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman  
Jay Meyer, Chairman

#### Absent:

Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair  
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman

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

Visitors Present: None

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.

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 Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the February 26, 2025 Minutes.

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

Public Comment: None

Motion by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Jack Van Slyke to approve the February 2025 Financial Statement. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report: Alma reported on Pat Henry/PowerTech coming back to Region 26 and going to each of our tower sites on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and replaced block heaters where needed and done some maintenance as discussed at last meeting.

Alma went to Platte Valley while in Kearney the end of last month and discussed both East Sherman and Garfield County. They are working at getting ID number generated for the tower in Loup City and will be scheduling the equipment on the Howard County Tower. Platte Valley from Grand Island was here today to work on 911 equipment and said he had antenna in for Sherman East and would be working with Kearney on scheduling.

Discussed the Garfield Equipment installation and Kearney had brought up the coverage maps and said the best location available is still the original plan of the MJ Leasing tower. They had looked at both the 200' and 300' location to see what would work best. MJ Leasing had asked for equipment specs to give to their engineer. He said it would need to be over 300' to miss equipment that was there. Will have engineering look at it.

Alma presented letter received from Wheeler County with their intent to withdraw from the Region 26 interlocal agreement effective July 1, 2026. When asked if there was a reason, Doug Pokorney said due cost and the Sheriff had some problems with calls. The Chairman asked for a motion to accept the termination. Jay Meyer made the motion to accept the termination of Wheeler County with a second from Joseph Smith. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

FEMA Grant Reimbursements: Alma said she was informed this week that no longer would grant funds be paid out without receiving copy of cancelled check or bank statement showing payment of equipment before reimbursement can be made. Currently several invoices are outstanding and we will need to determine how to get them paid and Alma will be reaching out to other Emergency Managers as well as Sheriffs on the camera project for assistance to make payments.

The board discussed a request from Dispatch regarding compensation for employees who are asked to arrive 15 minutes early for their shift to allow for a smooth transfer of duties. The discussion included how to accurately monitor and record this additional time for payroll purposes. Following the discussion, the Chairman called for a motion to approve compensation for employees arriving early at the request of management. It was agreed that Alma and Stena will develop a way to track and document the early arrival time for payroll processing. Dave Larson made the motion and seconded by Joseph Smith. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma brought to the board's attention a concern regarding employees who serve on boards or committees related to 911 operations. Their participation is valuable, however their frequent absence to attend these functions can limit other employees' opportunities to attend training or participate in similar events. After discussion, the board determined that while employees may run for and serve in such positions, they will not be compensated by our board for time spent attending those external board or committee functions.

Alma stated that the terms for her and Jay Meyer on the NRIN Board will end July 1<sup>st</sup>. We would each need nominations to be on the ballot for the NRIN Board. Letters have been sent to each of the counties in the North Central PET Region for nominations. Jordan Foltz made a motion and Joseph Smith made a motion to nominate Jay Meyer and Alma Beland for their current positions back onto the NRIN Board. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: No Report

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1174 Status, 272 paging, 266 Burn Permit, 173 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 152 Messages, 77 Rescue Calls, 72 gun Permit, 69 Minor Detail, 67 Traffic Violations, 52 Assist Citizen, 51 Assist Other Agencies, 41 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect/Test, 40 Mutual Aid, 29 Fire Calls, 20 Accidents, 17 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 16 Paper Service, 15 Animal Calls, 15 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 15 Patient Transport, 13 Reckless Driver, 12 Check Welfare, 10 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 9 Siren, 9 Traffic Hazard, 8 Alarms 7 Motorist Assist, 7 Radio Test, 6 Miscellaneous Tasks, 6 Special Assignment, 6 Suspicious Events, 5 Theft, 4 Arrests, 4 Livestock Complaint, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Keys Locken in Vehicle, 3 Suspicious Person, 3 Transient, 3 Trespassing, 2 Fraudulent Activity, 2 Gas Leak, 2 Suicidal Treats/ Attempt, 2 Truancy, 2 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 14 various other incidents. Total number of contacts

to the Communications Center for the month of February was 2778 including 203 - 911 calls but not including Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Stena Seamann/Dispatch Supervisor reported that Tamika and Brayden continue to work along side other dispatchers for the most part but have been moved to occasional short shifts of independent time. The quality assurance has been working well and is all up to date.

She will be doing training this week with Greeley County on JDS. Continues working with Text to 911 to work out the issues.

Director's Report:

- Teletype will be changing and we will be required to install our own equipment. The cost for usage fees will not change, just that they will no longer supply the hardware.
- We will have equipment that will be losing support of Windows 10 by October and Applied Connective is working on what we will need to be looking at to upgrade.
- We had fires in Wheeler and Sherman Counties that required us calling in five separate airplanes which also required signed county declarations.
- Damages to Public Power companies for the Blizzard last week caused signed declarations for Wheeler and Greeley Counties due to cost sent by Cornhusker Public Power for damages.
- We attended the Orion training in Ord, Loup City and Broken Bow for Damage Assessment tool and was working with the roads departments to see if a useable tool for tracking road repair and upkeep.
- Attended the Lou-Platte Mutual Aid meeting in Arcadia and did get the departments to vote through the Lou-Platte Task Force.
- Wireless Funding application for FY 2026 is being submitted this week.
- Met with the area Lions Club representatives, County Emergency Managers, Health Department Emergency Response Coordinator to discuss the help that they could give us in a disaster situation.
- Attended Wildland Fire Safety meeting in Loup City for firemen and landowners by Fire Marshalls.
- Tomorrow is the statewide tornado drill. Region 26 will be paging fire departments for the drill and sounding the town storm sirens. Also, CodeRED test messages will be sent to the public.

Other Business:

Next regular meeting date will be April 29, 2025.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Approved by the Region 26 Council:

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Chairman

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Date

## 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)