

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

May 27, 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
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:
Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Martindale

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager & Stena Seamann/Deputy EM, Dispatch Supervisor, Caden Johnson/Dispatcher, Miki Gerten/Dispatcher, Jake Klein/Dispatcher, Tamika Welke/Dispatcher

Visitors Present: Bronson Meyer, Billy McManus/Greeley County EM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 eight (8) 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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the amended agenda with line items 9, 10 and 11. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the April 29, 2025 meeting minutes. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Public Comment: None

Matt Eggert entered the meeting at 7:05 pm.

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

Towers & Equipment Report:

Alma reported on the Sherman "East" tower coming online last week. Equipment had been installed and frequency entered into the console at the end of the week. The Sheriffs office has some radios programed and seems to be working well. Ashton Fire had their radios all programmed for the new frequency last week. Sheriff Bergman reported that he had talked to Litchfield and Rockville that they will be getting it done. Loup City Fire and Rescue were having their programing done tomorrow. Alma stated she had not talked to Diana Hurlburt this week regarding the Garfield equipment. Diana said that she found it was okay to install the new equipment on the tower where we are. There was discussion on what could be done with the equipment that is to come off of the tower and that was in

the plan to install it elsewhere in the county since it was still usable equipment at this time. We would discuss more on the possibility of where and what is in the limitations of the grant.

Alma said the North Loup and Ord pagers were not working a couple weeks ago. Had Platte Valley out for repairs, later in the week had found Sargent was not working. Platte Valley was back to find they had put a code in wrong for Sargent. All working now.

The NRIN Board ballot needed to be voted on for board members. At one of the last meetings, the Region 26 board had nominated Jay Meyer and Alma Beland back into their current positions on the board. There were no other nominations from the North Central PET Region counties for the two positions open. Joseph Smith made a motion and seconded by Tom Bandur to vote to reinstall Jay and Alma on the NRIN Board. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Alma explained the Justice Data Solutions and how we have been maintaining an account with NPAIT to manage the funds from the Sheriffs to cover the cost of Justice Data. This had been brought up at the Law Enforcement meeting that she would like to turn this over to Region 26 to be a part of the county assessments and not have to invoice each of the Sheriffs. It would make it easier for all, and the Sheriffs were okay with that at Law Enforcement meeting. The Law Enforcement NPAIT account would be phased out with the maintenance funds collected transferring into the general account for Region 26. Region 26 would maintain the server and renewals. After discussion Joel Bergman made a motion to turn the Justice Data Solutions over to Region 26 to maintain the server and JDS maintenance and renewals. Jordan Foltz seconded the motion. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Stena presented the Genasys Connect program to the board. The program provides a secure, private communication platform for law enforcement officers to share intelligence on cases that may involve multiple jurisdictions. The company gave a presentation at our most recent Law Enforcement meeting and are offering a 30-day free trial, after which the service would cost \$5 per user per month which a rough estimate would be \$125 per month for the Region 26 counties. Alma inquired whether Region 26 could consider purchasing the program as an added service for law enforcement agencies. Following a discussion on the feasibility and potential benefits of the program, including input from Joel and Joseph regarding how the service would help them, Dave Larson made a motion to approve the purchase of the Genasys Connect program for law enforcement use—contingent upon a successful 30-day trial and positive feedback from the sheriffs regarding its effectiveness. Tom Bandur seconded the motion. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

At the North Central PET meeting it was voted on and approved for Custer County to take over as the Fiscal Agent for the Homeland Security Grant Funds providing that the Custer County board approves taking it over and able to place the awarded grant amount in their county budget to spend down the grants. There was discussion on what other options there might be and possibly dividing up some of the funds to the counties similar to how we handled the purchase of the Flock cameras. Alma stated that the North Central PET Region did vote on Custer County to take over as fiscal agent providing that their Board does approve to take it on.

Alma handed out a Preliminary Budget for the 2025-2026 Fiscal year that is labeled Plan B. There were some changes from last month including the reduced amount that came in from NRIMA Insurance. The end of the year payments was still to be paid out including GeoComm, CodeRED and Insurance and calculating what will need to be in reserve. There was discussion but no decisions were made. Joseph suggested talking to his Clerk and Treasurer with some of my budget questions.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Joel Bergman talked about the Genasys demonstration and the system and the information Donna brought from dispatch to them from her teletype audit.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1317 Status Checks, 282 Pages, 240 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 165 Burn Permits, 151 Messages, 110 Traffic Violations, 84 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 68 Minor Detail, 66 Rescue Calls, 43 Assist Citizen, 41 Gun Permit, 36 Standby for Events/Fire/Training 31 Assist Other Agencies, 28 Livestock Complaint, 27 Fire Calls, 26 Paper Service, 24 Mutual Aid, 21 Reckless Driver, 18 Accidents, 18 Patient Transport, 17 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 14 Animal Calls, 13 Follow Up, 13 Misc Tasks, 12 Check Welfare, 9 Suspicious Person, 8 Suspicious Events, 8 Transfer 911 Call, 7 Alarms, 7 Arrests, 7 Gas Drive-Off, 7 Radio Test, 7 Siren, 6 Abandoned Vehicle, 6 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 5 ALS Intercept, 5 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Traffic Hazard, 4 Motorist Assist, 4 Prisoner Transport, 4 Theft, 4 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 4 Weather, 3 Burglary/Break In/Attempt, 3 Fraudulent Activity, 3 Gas Leak, 3 Keys Locked in Vehicles, 3 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 3 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 2 Civil Matters, 2 Littering/Dumping, 2 Special Assignment, 2 Trespassing, 1 Adult or Child Abuse/Neglect, 1 Missing Person/Juvenile, 1 Property Damage and 1 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of April was 3002 including 251- 911 calls and 1355 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

Stena Seamann reported on the training progress of the newest dispatchers, noting that they will soon begin working a few half shifts independently. She also mentioned an increase in counseling sessions, which corresponds with a rise in call volume as the region transitions into the summer season.

Additional items she reported include:

- Ongoing LEOP work for several counties.
- Participation in a Homeland Security grant meeting.
- Adjustments to dispatcher scheduling to meet increased summer activity demands.
- Collaboration with the Health Department on grant-related work to ensure that purchases made with Citizens Corps awarded funds are compliant with NEMA requirements.

Stena Seamann submitted her resignation from Region 26, having accepted a new position with the Garfield County Sheriff's Office. A motion to accept her resignation was made by Joel Bergman and seconded by Joseph Smith. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Directors Report:

- Deputy's Resignation
- Computer tower in dispatch that operated the Radar and MACH wall monitors went down a couple of weeks ago which required immediate replacement. Applied Connective was able to do that along with getting the two laptops for dispatch replaced that was approved last meeting
- Our fax was down for a day when Hamilton determined they had lightning damage at their building.
- May 14th there were numerous fires in Thomas and Cherry Counties at the same time all due to lightning strikes. The storm continued through Garfield and Wheeler causing fires. The fires at Wheeler were larger and lasted longer due to the rain not coming on through to assist in getting them out. Two days later the high winds caused one of Wheeler County's fires to reignite.

Jordan Foltz asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss resignation. A motion was made by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Dave Larson to go into executive session.

Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered at 8:26 pm.

Meeting was reconvened to public session at 9:36 pm.

Findings: None

Other Business: 2025 Homeland Security grant process was discussed. Joel reported on the Law Enforcement portion that he was on the SME group to rate the projects submitted and stated that the additional Flock cameras that were requested for our North Central PET Region was rated high and therefore should get funded.

Next regular meeting date will be June 24th at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:42 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
SME – Subject Matter Expert
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)