

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

June 24, 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: Theresa Petska (Alt)
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Martindale

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager, Caden Johnson/Dispatcher, Miki Gerten/Dispatcher.

Visitors Present: Bronson Meyer

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county/city 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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.

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

Tom Bandur and Paige Martindale enter the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the May 27, 2025 Minutes.

Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Public Comment: None

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the May 2025 Financial Statement.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (3).

Towers & Equipment Report:

- Garfield Tower – Platte Valley checked the Ord tower for room for directional antenna to place equipment at the Ord site to tie in with the new repeater at Burwell to help cover the Cedar River area. It looks good to go on the project.
- Greeley Tower – Had problems with building getting hot and found that AC had low freon.
- Sherman East – Paging was not working. Needed it changed at our console and will be getting that done by end of the week. During the rains the radio equipment had quit and

Platte Valley had found that there were damages done in two places on the coax cable near the side light level apparently by bullets. May have been that way for a while and allowed moisture in with the recent rains. Platte Valley was able to repair and all seems to be working well as per Joel Bergman.

- Litchfield Generator – Power Tech found the voltage output at 60 volts instead of 120. He replaced the capacitor and did not fix the problem. He put it in stop position and said generator needs replaced. It is a 10kw Generac. Power Tech had given a quote for a 15kw Kohler. After discussion on what was needed for generator and looking at the quote sent vs. what we could do ourselves to get a generator installed for less cost that Power Tech quoted for 8799.55 Tom Bandur will check into the generator situation on what could be done and possibly get a quote from local electrician and would send it to me. Dave Larson made a motion to accept a quote to proceed with a generator if it came in less than this quote received. Matt Eggert seconded the motion. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma presented the Fiscal Budget for FY 2025-2026. There was an increased amount from past month due to consideration of a larger increase in dispatcher wages. Chairman Meyer asked for executive session for wages and personnel at 7:32pm. Joseph Smith made the motion for executive session with a second from Jordan Foltz. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Diana Hurlburt made motion to reconvene to public session at 8:26pm with no action taken. A second from Joseph Smith. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Dispatchers Miki Gerten and Caden Johnson asked if they could go into executive session with the board to discuss personnel. Jordan Foltz made a motion with a second from Dave Larson to go into executive session at 8:30pm. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Diana Hurlburt made a motion with a second from Jordan Foltz to reconvene to public session at 9:00pm. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0). No action taken.

Jay Meyer reminded the board that we were still on the budget on the agenda and a budget did need to be passed at this meeting. Discussion was held on the budget and the board requested to look at a higher base amount to bring it to \$40,000 per member jurisdiction. The board discussed last minute changes to the budget and that it was hard for board members to take back to the County Board of these changes. Jordan Foltz made a motion to approve the proposed Budget labeled "Plan F" with a higher base amount. Diana Hurlburt seconded the motion. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Joel Bergman had nothing to report.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1356 Status checks, 291 Pages, 276 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 157 Traffic Violations, 132 Messages, 101 Minor Detail, 93 Burn Permits, 70 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect/Test, 64 Assist Citizen, 58 Rescue Calls, 51 Assist Other Agencies, 40 Livestock Complaint, 33 Accidents, 33 Fire Calls, 33 Weather, 31 Gun Permit, 31 Paper Service, 29 Reckless Driver, 24 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 24 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 22 Patient Transport, 19 Animal Calls, 16 Check Welfare, 14 Mutual Aid 11 Alarms, 10 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 10 Siren, 8 Abandoned Vehicle, 8 Arrests, 8 Follow Up, 8 Radio Tests, 7 Property Damage, 7 Traffic Hazard, 6 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 6 Motorist Assist, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 6 Utilities Complaint/Outage, 5 Miscellaneous Tasks, 4 Gas Drive-Off, 4 Suspicious Events, 4 Suspicious Person, 4 Theft, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Death Investigations, 3 Fraudulent Activity, 3 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 3 Terroristic Threats, 3 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 2 Burglary/Break In/Attempt, 2 Littering/Dumping, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 2 Transfer 911 Calls, 2 Trespassing, 2 Vandalism and 4 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of May was 3156 including 260 - 911 calls and 1533 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

Virginia reported that Taylor Guest had just completed Protection Order training in North Platte at State Patrol. Virginia will be working with Intrado this next month on Text-2-911 testing. They had found some issues why we still were not able to get Text on the console but only Rapid SOS.

Director's Report:

- Custer County will be taking over the position from Region 26 as Fiscal Agent to manage the Homeland Security Grants for the North Central PET Region due to the need of budgeting awarded grant funds to meet the FEMA guidelines.
- Alma attended the Lou-Platte Mutual aid meeting in Ashton. We had one of the Fire Marshalls and also the head of the Cairo Task Force there to discuss working at the Plum Creek fire at Johnstown and being called out as a Task Force. They started planning for donations to fill a trailer with essential needs items to take with the Task Force when deployed.
- NEMA is processing the payment for the Flock cameras. Also, Flock is working on the forms for Department of Roads for permit requests.
- There was aerial fire suppression training with Arrow Aviation and Wells Flying Service at the Ord Airport last night. We were able to meet with the new Nebraskaland Aviation pilot that will be working out of Ord and Loup City. They will be considering the fire suppression in the future.
- Storms on June 19th caused a lot of wind damages in Garfield and Valley counties with the west bleachers at the Burwell fairgrounds being destroyed and power outages. Alma reported that she had turned in disaster declarations for both Garfield and Valley counties if needed.

Election of Board Officers – Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Joel Bergman made a motion with a second from Diana to retain the current officers with Jay Meyer as Chairman, Tom Bandur as Vice-Chairman and Alma Beland as Secretary. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Chairman Meyer asked to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Dave Larson made the motion with a second from Doug Pokorny. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

A motion was made by Dave Larson and seconded by Joseph Smith to reconvene to public session at 10:04pm. Ayes (11) Nays (0) Abstained (0).

Findings: Jay said that the board was wanting clarity on Dispatch Supervisor if Alma had made that clear to Donna that she would be Dispatch Supervisor. Alma stated she thought she had but Donna must not have taken it that way. Jay stated that the Board is asking that it be made clear that Donna is being appointed Dispatch Supervisor and also, the board is appointing Donna to do evaluations, wage determination and all scheduling for dispatch. She will be their immediate supervisor. Alma and Donna and a dispatcher of Donna's choice will do all interviews for hiring in dispatch with all applications submitted. The board would like to see clear separation between supervising Dispatch and Emergency Management to not overload duties.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be July 29th at 7 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

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