

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
January 27, 2015

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Thomas Co: Kevin Hood, Chairman
Garfield Co: Paige Measner	
Greeley Co: Doug Wrede	
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel	
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur	
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke	
Wheeler Co: Jack Poulsen, Vice-Chair	
Law Enforce: Dave Weeks	
Range Co. Municipalities:	
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler	
Doug Reiter	
Tri-Co Municipalities:	
Valley, Greeley, Sherman	
Jay Meyer	

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Co-Chief Dispatcher

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Vice-Chairman Poulsen.

A welcome was done for the new members that were present at the meeting. Tom Bandur, Sherman County Commissioner representing Sherman County and Jay Meyer from the Village of Scotia representing the Municipalities of Valley, Greeley and Sherman Counties.

Roll Call was taken with eight (8) members present.

The meeting being duly posted and a quorum present, the Vice-Chairman proclaimed this meeting to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meeting Act was posted in the meeting room.

Motion by Paige Measner and seconded by Doug Reiter to approve the November 25, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Roger Guggenmos to approve the November 2014 Financial Statement. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Doug Wrede and Dave Weeks entered the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Jay Meyer to approve the December 2014 Financial Statement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma reported on the Financial Audit and the Single Audit that all had been done. The only thing that had been found was being out of compliance was funding the employee Self Insured Medical Reimbursement Plan in place of a Health Insurance Policy. Alma had discussed with Auditor, Health Insurance Agent and Attorney Greg Jensen. She had a concern of fines that could be imposed if we did not become compliant. Options were given by Attorney and Auditor on what changes could be made to be in compliance with the "Affordable Care Act". Cost of full insurance policies were discussed vs. a taxable payment amount for each employee. After a decision was made on one of the options, the board

tabled the decision until Alma could present this to Attorney Greg Jensen and bring it back to the next board meeting which would be prior to the payroll period to allow time for changes to be made.

Alma stated that she had checked on qualifications as public employees for the benefit of government retirement plan. She stated that a Union Bank representative would be here tomorrow to meet with employees to review their IRA's. There had been question on the current Union Bank plan on the return on mutual funds. Discussion was held on the issue for a possible change to the government retirement. Nothing to be done at this time.

Alma explained the necessary 911 telephone equipment upgrades for the new board members and the latest information she had regarding vendors. She explained the possibilities of sharing back room equipment with other centers to share the cost and that it was time to meet with surrounding counties to discuss this idea and capabilities. She had previously discussed with other centers and found an interest. Alma asked that with the upgrades that need to be done that there is a need to bring a Communications Committee back together to meet and review what needs to be done. After discussion, Vice-Chair Poulsen appointed to the Committee: Virginia Michalski, Doug Reiter, Paige Measner, Kevin Hood, Roger Guggenmos, Jay Meyer and Alma. Tom Bandur made a motion to accept these appointments to form the Committee, Jack Van Slyke seconded the motion. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma reported on the text to 911 that had been on the news. She stated that Kearney and Omaha begin at the first of the year to receive 911 text messages. She did not feel there was the need at this time for our area for the cost involved. Even if text were available it would still be most beneficial for a 911 call to come by voice. At this time if someone should use text to 911 in an area that dispatch does not have the capability to receive, the caller will receive a bounce back message that it is not available and they would need to call 911.

Alma also reported on the LB 652 that was read last week proposing the 911 Emergency Services Communications Act. One of the major items in the Bill was to change the 911 landline surcharge and cell phone surcharge to the same amount and be handled through the Public Service Commission.

Alma gave an update on the Ord Tower site with Verizon. She said since last meeting the only thing to report was that Verizon requested a copy of our landowner lease agreement.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks stated that they were planning a February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. They had meeting with Roads department here at Region 26 earlier this month regarding protocol on road closings and warnings for impassible roads.

#### Communications Center Report:

Co-Chief Dispatcher, Virginia Michalski gave a breakdown of the statistics for the previous two months. They had for the month of November, 12 Generator, 34 NAWAS, 27 Siren, 169 Alarm, 11 Office, 573 Page, 2000 Radio, 1602 Phone, 252 – 911 Calls, 62 Administrative, 683 Ambulance, 15 Bus, 289 Public, 34 Department of Roads, 274 Fire, 8 Guest, 8 Hospital, 2689 Law Enforcement, 601 Tests, 17 Weather. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for November 2014 was 9,360.

For the month of December there was 12 Generator, 34 NAWAS, 41 Siren, 193 Alarm, 17 Office, 487 Page, 1906 Radio, 1724 Phone, 255 911 Calls, 67 Administrative, 604 Ambulance, 13 Bus, 258 Public, 24 Department of Roads, 382 Fire, 9 Guest, 8 Hospital, 2660 Law Enforcement, 624 Test, 20 Weather for a total of 9,338 for December 2014.

#### Director's Report:

The sirens for both Litchfield and Hazard had quit working. Platte Valley had checked on both to make sure it was not a connection problem from us to set them off. It was not and both towns were working at having siren repaired.

Valley County Sheriff's office had excessive noise coming from the dispatch console. Platte Valley came out and made some changes but could not recreate the noise or find a specific problem.

One of our furnaces had a blower motor go out. Holcomb Mechanical replaced under warranty and felt it was due to switching from heat to air conditioning. Our system does not have the capability to handle that. We made dispatch aware of that and have signs attached to thermostats.

Alma reported on the credentialing and where we are with it and the possibility of getting additional equipment in the North Central Region for handling large events to make cards on the spot. This will be reviewed at our next North Central Meeting next month when we review remaining grant funding. Alma stated that in the next grants the regions will be competing for the funds with regional projects.

Alma reported further on the Roads Department meeting she had on January 6<sup>th</sup>. There were State and County Roads, both Hastings and North Platte Weather Services, Custer County and Region 26 dispatchers, Custer County, Region 24 and 26 Emergency Managers. The Roads Department provided a map for Alma to review that has road districts mapped out with a legend of Roads Superintendents, Supervisors and which roads each covers so that dispatch will know who to contact for a particular road. The Roads asked that we make this an annual meeting to be able to stay connected to discuss protocol.

On January 7<sup>th</sup> a Health Department meeting was held here at the EOC for Region 26, Custer and Howard County to meet with Loup Basin to discuss the Point of Distribution POD plans for a mass vaccination. The plans are needing updated. We went through part of the plan that day and will meet again in the near future.

Alma reported that the command vehicle was back in Taylor and housed at the Fire Hall. Platte Valley came out and went through the equipment functions with us. Alma will be getting this back to Ord for mechanical work and then the lettering to be done.

The letter that came out regarding FirstNet was discussed and the meeting to be held in Kearney on March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Alma explained the government broadband network that was going in for first responders. This was the first meeting for the County appointed representatives in Nebraska to meet with FirstNet.

Alma reported on the LEOP Local Emergency Operations Plan for each county and where they were at in the process of updates.

There were changes in Sherman County that created the need for ESN Emergency Service Numbers to be changed in the 911 system for Ashton and Rockville due to Ambulance districts changing. Alma's office was in the process of updating records for the system.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be February 24, 2015.

Vice-Chairman Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator