

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
January 28, 2014

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Garfield Co: Paige Measner
Greeley Co: Doug Wrede	Thomas Co: Kevin Hood, Chairman
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel	Sherman Co: Vonnie Dzingle
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	
Richard Anderson	

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Vice-Chairman Paulson.

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 Doug Wrede and seconded by Dave Weeks to approve the November 26, 2013 Meeting Minutes. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Doug Reiter to approve the November 2013 Financial Statement. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Dave Weeks and seconded by Roger Guggenmos to approve the December 2013 Financial Statement. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Building Committee Report was presented by Doug Wrede. They had met on January 15<sup>th</sup> with the Architect and Contractor on the progress. The windows are in and dry wall is up. The interior painting and drop ceiling will be next. The type of flooring was discussed and the wet spots on the floor which Alma will check into. The board asked about an inspection being done before accepting the building when complete. The cabinet for workstation three was discussed for dispatch and Berggren is getting a bid for that. The drainage from the building was discussed.

Alma presented the progress on towers and the NRIN Project wanting MOU agreements for equipment on the Greeley tower. Alma stated there were problems with the Greeley generator and was having BJ Harris look into this. There is a possibility that it will need replaced before we can add anything to the tower site. She will be looking at any grants that would help with replacement. Alma had just received back the heights that the NRIN project would need on the Ord site for microwave dishes. This was being discussed with Verizon. She had also received a chart from Platte Valley Communications identifying all antennas on the tower with the heights of each that Verizon was waiting for.

Alma reported to the board that one of the dispatchers with a recent injury was off work with a written notice from her Doctor. She had additional hours off that was over her amount of collected sick leave hours. She has since returned to work. Alma asked the board for permission to pay her 36 additional hours out of the Employee Sick Leave pool hours that was over her sick leave amount that she had saved.

Alma discussed with the board the need for additional help. She stated that the time has come for additional help in dispatch to be able to have more than one on duty during heavy traffic times. Due to the employee that was off on injury status, it created a large amount of overtime hours which can cause a burn out for employees. They also have not been able to leave out of the dispatch area with only one on duty. There is starting to be too many times that calls are taking too long to answer due to only one on duty. Dave Weeks stated the fact that there have been a number of times they have had to wait for a response when radioing in to dispatch when dispatchers are busy with a 911 call. The new building was discussed on how they will not have a location to take a break to smoke since it will be a closed facility. Ideas were suggested from the board on possibilities to resolve this issue. Alma asked to have one of the part time dispatchers be given full time hours equivalent to three shifts and to hire two additional part time dispatchers. After discussion of how this would work and fit into the budget, Dave Weeks made the motion to offer Libby Burk full time status and to advertise for one additional part time employee. Doug Wrede seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The need for new office chairs were presented to the board. Alma said that Office Net was having a sale right now and she was going to have them bring several chairs to try out. All of the task chairs for the conference room and work area tables have already been purchased for the new building but nothing had been done for office chairs. She would report back on what she found.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Dave Weeks told of the classes that Region 26 had for Law Enforcement and Schools on helping the schools with an All-Hazards plan. Alma explained some of the additional training that would be coming that was a part of the North Central Region Homeland Security training funds.

Communications Center Report: No Report given.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on FirstNet the broad band network workshop that was held in Kearney. There will be reports to be sent back to the State that shows where we would have a need to have broad band coverage in each County to give them a starting place to work on a plan. This would be a nation-wide Broad Band network for emergency responders use only. Nebraska could opt out of the program but would need to develop their own plan on how they would connect to the network. Alma will try to meet with the County Emergency Managers and Law Enforcement to work on the County report to turn in.

The equipment audits that were sent out to the departments to do a physical inventory was reported by Alma to have received approximated 75% back in to her office.

The Disaster #4156 briefings have been held for Sherman and Greeley County. As a result of the disaster from road flooding there has been an approval of a mitigation grant for the counties and villages to use for any projects that would protect lives and property. Project requests would need to be submitted immediately.

Alma asked about the surplus items that would be left after moving to the new building as in steel desks etc. The board suggested advertising in all the Region 26 newspapers with a list of items to sell and ask for a bid.

Alma explained the LB911 that was in legislature and had a hearing on Monday. The bill was to create an advisory board for exploring the Next Gen 911 Equipment and what it will entail and how we will pay for it. The board would advise the Public Service Commission on what funds would be used toward the new equipment for Nebraska dispatch centers. Alma said she sat in on the hearing online and there was opposition due to the advisory board suggested was made up of too many state agencies that have nothing to do with dispatch vs those in the dispatch field.

Alma attended the Garfield County Board meeting last month to help explain the FirstNet broad

band and also to go over the details of doing the card badging for all of the county employees, which Linda went the next week to do the badging.

Due to the excessive cold and some warm up the weather service had asked if she could watch the river levels which was causing ice jams north of Taylor and also causing some flooding.

Other Business: Alma had a spend down sheet from the Contractor on the building as to where we were at on the fund amount that was yet to have the work finished for us to pay out. There is \$136,999 left before completion.

Next regular meeting date will be February 25, 2014.

Vice-Chairman Poulsen adjourned the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator