

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

March 29, 2016

Region 26 Council:

| Present: | Absent: |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos | Sherman Co: Tom Bandur |
| Garfield Co: Paige Measner | |
| Greeley Co: Doug Wrede | |
| Loup Co: Jack Ruppel | |
| Thomas Co: Kevin Hood, Chairman | |
| 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 7:31 PM by Chairman Hood.

Roll Call was taken with ten (10) 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 Jack Poulsen and seconded by Doug Wrede to approve the January 26, 2016 Minutes.
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Jay Meyer and seconded by Doug Reiter to approve the January 2016 Financial Statement.
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Paige Measner and seconded by Dave Weeks to approve the February 2016 Financial Statement. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma remarked that the agenda for this March meeting included the agenda items from the February meeting that had been cancelled.

Alma reported on the zoning meeting she attended in Garfield County on the tower that KNLV Radio was constructing in north Garfield. She had asked for the County to allow space on this tower for the purpose of emergency use equipment. The tower appears to be in line to work with the NRIN project and therefore Alma requested grant funds for a generator for this site through the Homeland Security grant program. The site for the Verizon tower in Valley County was discussed.

There were days in January and February that several went to the surrounding 911 centers to view equipment upgrades that has been done and vendors that have been used. Alma stated that she and Mark from Custer County Emergency Management has set up a vendor day in April for the Communications Committees to attend to have the vendors present their equipment and what they could do for us in upgrades.

Alma discussed with the board about a policy for employees that are wanting to assist or fill in at neighboring dispatch centers and what that policy needs to be. The board was not in favor of full time dispatchers working in other places in case they were needed here. Each case would need to be reviewed by the Director. Discussion was held on possible cross training for an MOU with other dispatch centers.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Dave Weeks reported on the recent Law Enforcement meeting in February that was held here at Region 26. He reported on the training classes that Region 26 was having with the North Central Region grant funds. Today and tomorrow is a class for Anti-Terrorism and Explosive Devices and Cyber Security. The most of the meeting time was spend doing hands on training with the Consolette to patch radio communications with State Patrol to local Law Enforcement. Sgt. Pat Benson of Troop C was here for us to test the patch with the local Sheriffs and was able to make the training that day possible for Region 26 dispatch to patch his State Patrol car radio to the Sheriff's. They also discussed starting the dispatcher ride alongs.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher Virginia Michalski gave a breakdown of the statistics for January and February. They had for the month of January 13 Generator, 26 NAWAS, 24 Siren, 209 Alarm, 18 Office, 571 Page, 1979 Radio, 1930 Phone, 248 – 911 Calls, 77 Administrative, 914 Ambulance, 5 Bus, 326 Public, 22 Department or Roads, 365 Fire, 5 Guest, 17 Hospital, 2651 Law Enforcement, 630 Tests, 6 Weather for a total of 10,036 contacts.

For February there were 19 Generator, 31 NAWAS, 24 Siren, 201 Alarm, 6 Office, 496 page, 1797 Radio, 1600 Phone, 212 – 911 Calls, 69 Administrative, 746 Ambulance, 5 bus, 285 Public, 45 Department or Roads, 318 Fire, 3 Guest, 7 Hospital, 2299 law Enforcement, 605 Tests, 4 Weather for a total of 8772 for February contacts.

Virginia reported on noise we had on Sherman county radio for a long time and have not been able to trace down what caused noise in dispatch. Platte Valley found it to be noise in a telephone line to the tower and has been resolved by NCTC.

Last month there was a glitch in the 911 calls coming from Greeley County. The telephone company found the problem in the phone lines in Howard County that was the issue. All was immediately repaired by NCTC Phone company.

The NDB directional signal alarm from the Burwell Airport was removed last month by the FAA from our equipment room and will be taken out of our console. We were informed by the FAA that most airplanes no longer use the directional signal and therefore Burwell chose to no longer have this system in place.

Virginia reported on the State Tornado Drill that held over to March 25th due to the snow storm on the 24th. All went well for weather testing. Alma said that she had done a Code Red test on the voice call out to the residents the same day and showed an increase well over 6000 calls that were made that day.

Director's Report:

Alma had passed out the completed audit report that had been printed and received from Contryman.

The CNEDD Central Nebraska Economic Development District – Disaster 101 Workshop was held in February in Atkinson and was well attended by citizens from the Region 26 counties. The North Central Emergency Managers helped to host this event. We had received a lot of feedback from the meeting as well as those wanting more information on what their duties would be in the event of a disaster.

Alma reported on the North Central PET meeting that was held here last month and the PET board members work on requests for Homeland Security grant funds. She listed the different projects Region 26 was applying for and then explained the process of presenting to the State and FEMA to get approvals.

The Code Red training class was held here the same day of the PET meeting for the North Central Region to get everyone up to speed on the updates and any changes with the Code Red system.

Alma and Linda had attended a full day workshop in Kearney on February 12th with personnel from the Weather Services in Nebraska and News media Meteorologist and Emergency Managers.

Alma explained the issues with the cell phone booster here in the building that had failed. Platte Valley has replaced it and now working at finding an Omni antenna for inside the building to reach all rooms.

The LEPC committees have been meeting on their scheduled dates. Alma said that the last one was in Bartlett for Greeley/Wheeler LEPC and all the board was put into place and are ready to move forward with the committee. The April meeting is the Valley/Sherman LEPC that will be held at the Ethanol Plant in Valley County to tour their facilities and discuss hazardous materials in the counties.

Alma said that Valley County Hospital is having a pandemic flu exercise in April that she will be attending. There is a pre-exercise meeting this Thursday she will be attending at the hospital to go over any last directions.

Alma had attended the Greeley Village meeting this month to deliver the County Emergency Plan to them and go over the plan and introduce their new County Emergency Manager. She will be attending the Wolbach and Scotia meetings in April.

The Credentialing/badging is moving forward for the towns. Linda has been around to a number of the village meetings to get their information and pictures for the badges. Since the Disaster 101 Workshop there has been towns asking for them.

Alma gave the dates for the rest of the Weather Awareness meetings to be held this year with March 31st in Purdum, April 6th in Thedford and April 18th in Litchfield.

The wireless funding application is due on April 15th and Alma said she would be working on that as well as finding out any information that has changed or that we needed to be aware of for this application.

Other happenings for the Region: Alma said she would be working on a Region 26 preliminary budget for the April meeting. The Nebraska Department of Revenue is requiring all of our deposits to them to be done electronically starting July 1st. Alma has signed up for the Garfield County health fair to have a booth to also promote the LEPC and then the same day is the grant presentation day in Kearney to NEMA/FEMA. Alma said that the Loup City Mayor came to the office to go over the LEOP and LEPC information that would be for their town and understand Emergency Management for them. The last thing that Alma reported to the board was the gratefulness that the employees had for the quiet room that was used numerous times during the blizzard last month and snow storm last week. It was truly beneficial to make it safer for the employees to not have to be driving during a storm to get to work.

Other Business: Jay Meyer said that the City of Ord had asked about Law Enforcement having their radio traffic to be handled through Region 26 for the after hour's calls when their office is closed. After board discussion on what it would take, the board asked Alma to come up with what the cost would be for them and to submit to Jay to give to their council.

Next regular meeting date will be April 26, 2016.

Chairman Hood adjourned the meeting at 9:20 PM.

Alma Beland
Director/Coordinator