

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
April 28, 2015

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Absent:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Garfield Co: Paige Measner
Greeley Co: Doug Wrede
Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Thomas Co: Kevin Hood, Chairman
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 and Virginia Michalski/Co-Chief Dispatcher

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Hood.

Roll Call was taken with eleven (11) 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 Dave Weeks to approve the March 31, 2015 Minutes.
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Motion by Jay Meyer and seconded by Paige Measner to approve the March 2015 Financial Statement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

There was a bid opening for the RFP on Law Enforcement training for the North Central Region. The North Central Region was needing a recommendation from Region 26 to move forward with a bid. The only bid received was from the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center for \$69,988 for a Law Enforcement training project for the 22-county North Central Region utilizing the Homeland Security grant funds that were designated to be used for Law Enforcement. Alma explained what was involved in the project for a number of training classes that were going to be set up in the region to help Law Enforcement receive continuing education hours without having to travel very far outside their Counties. Dave Weeks made a motion for the recommendation to accept the Public Policy Center bid. Tom Bandur seconded the motion. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0)

Communications Committee Report: Kevin Hood reported on the meeting held in March. Platte Valley had explained all the back room equipment and what was needing upgraded. The sharing of 911 backroom equipment and connectivity was discussed. Alma had discussed in detail the NRIN

(Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network) and the progress of work done for the possibility of sharing 911 equipment. They went over the equipment budget line item that was for equipment upgrades and the money that was sitting in the wireless fund for upgrades. Alma gave information on the 911 equipment vendors that she had been in contact with. Stacen Gross had sent a quote on doing consulting work for helping us locate the right vendor through the process of equipment upgrade and installation. The Committee did not feel we were at that point yet and did want to see what it was going to take to get the NRIN project complete. Custer County had been here to tour the building and discuss the possibility of working together on equipment sharing. Alma was going to keep in touch with them and work with NEMA to keep moving on the NRIN needs through the Region 26 counties. Kevin also reported on the FirstNet meeting that was attended in Kearney in March for the initial meeting for Nebraska and FirstNet on information gathering for the first responder broadband network.

Alma handed out a preliminary budget for review on the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. There will be some adjustments made to review again at the next month's meeting.

The employee benefits were reviewed. From last month's meeting, Alma had brought a couple of bids for group health insurance benefits for the full time employees. After much discussion on what would be best for the Region 26 budget in moving forward with insurance, the decision was made to do a group health plan. The Emergency Management agreement to cover insurance was brought up. A taxable employment bonus was discussed for employees to use how they wanted. Alma was to check with NEMA in regards to Emergency Management on insurance. Tom Bandur made a motion and Jay Meyer seconded to give a monthly bonus to full time employees for \$535 and \$270 for part time employees beginning with the new budget in July. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0)

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks had nothing to report.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher Virginia Michalski gave a breakdown of the statistics for the previous month. There was 10 Generator, 35 NAWAS, 64 Siren, 224 Alarm, 17 office, 687 Page, 2687 Radio, 1977 Phone, 270 – 911 Calls, 96 administrative, 851 Ambulance, 13 Bus, 263 Public, 12 Department of Roads, 948 Fire, 11 Guest, 8 Hospital, 3062 Law Enforcement, 656 Test, 51 Weather. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of March was 11,942. Virginia also reported that one dispatcher had turned in her resignation which was effective today due to having purchased the local restaurant. We are putting out an ad for employment. Alma also stated there had been problems with paging down and was due to a battery backup that had failed and caused equipment to go down. Platte Valley had replaced equipment.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on the Emergency Management conference last month in Grand Island that was all centered on the disasters at Beaver Crossing, Pilger, Wayne and surrounding areas. Topics ranged from checking in volunteers to a disaster, credentialing disaster victims, staging resources, managing large donations to the picking up and sorting of debris by FEMA regulations. Alma explained to the board what some of the cost had been for those counties in clearing of debris and where the responsibility of the county lays.

The wireless funding application deadlines were earlier this month and Alma had finished and sent an application for Region 26 to the Nebraska Public Service Commission.

Alma stated she had attended the NIRMA Human Resource meeting in Kearney.

Some of the North Central board met here last week to plan the projects and prepare a presentation for the Investment Justification workshop and grant committee in Lincoln for this year's round of Homeland Security grants.

Alma stressed the need for getting the LEOP's (Local Emergency Operation Plans) done for the counties of Blaine, Valley and Greeley. They had to be done this summer so it would not hold up

the North Central grant funding.

Alma reported on the National Weather Service in Hastings asking for event information in our region so they could help with any direct reporting ahead of or during the event if a large crowd was expected during unstable weather. Alma was working up a list of large events to give them.

Alma reported that she would be attending the Communications workshop in Lincoln next week and attending the Loup City board meeting on her return trip to discuss credentialing for the city board and employees.

The sewer issues have not totally been resolved but have found that the problem is less if more water is run through the system.

Next regular meeting date will be May 26, 2015.

Chairman Hood adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator