

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
May 26, 2020
(Conference Call Meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic)

Region 26 Council:

Present:	Absent:
Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos	Loup Co: Jack Ruppel
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt	
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz	
Thomas Co: Gary Eng	
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair	
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke	
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny	
Law Enforce: Dave Weeks	
Range Co. Municipalities:	
Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler	
Doug Reiter	
Tri-Co Municipalities:	
Valley, Greeley, Sherman	
Jay Meyer, Chairman	

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Chairman Meyer.

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 was made by Dave Weeks and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the amended agenda to include another line item for computer bid. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Doug Reiter left the call.

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the April 28, 2020 Minutes. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Gary Eng to approve the April 2020 Financial Statement. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Alma gave an update on COVID-19 that at this time there is 82 positive tests in Loup Basin and 48 in West Central. 38/Howard, 36/Custer, 3/Valley, 3/Sherman, 2/Greeley and 47/Lincoln Co and 1/Thomas. For all of the Region 26 Counties there are 9 Positives total.

Thomas County had the National Guard out for testing last week with 22 in attendance and today was testing in Burwell with 94 in attendance. We should see results yet this week for any positives.

Things have been slowing down some for Region 26 in regards to COVID. The Conference calls have cut down with only one today with West Central Health. Alma has quit all the evening Region 26 calls with EMS, FIRE, County Emergency Managers and Law Enforcement. The two Health Departments are still having several calls a week for Alma to attend with NEMA and also the State 911 Director.

A new health Directive will be out for June that will allow more openings and loosen up the amounts of people that can be in bars and restaurants with 25 or 50% occupancy with 6 people in a group and 6' between tables. Gatherings, weddings or funeral 25 people same as bars. No buffets and no alcohol without a food order. If a large group as in rodeo or a place that can hold 500+ people, then a plan will need to be made to turn in to the local Health Department for approval.

Alma was able to get more PPE delivered out to care facilities, EMS and Law Enforcement since our last meeting. Alma did order some PPE for Region 26 to get some in to have for ambulances if they should run low.

Alma said she had received calls from Fire Departments asking about July BBQ and if they can have them. It was discussed with some departments to have it ready to go and if they need to then have a drive through for people to pick up and carry it home since it is their one time to get donations for the year.

Alma went over the preliminary budget that she had sent out to the board. After discussion on the line items and more toward wages it was determined that the Communications Committee needs to come together to review the funding that is left from the current year's budget in wages to see how that can be utilized. Alma stated that the later in the month would help with knowing how it was going to come out at the end of the year. Gary Eng made a motion to have a Communications Committee meeting at 1pm on Monday, June 22nd to discuss the wages. Seconded by Jay Meyer. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma had a bid from Sterling Computers for three laptop computers to replace those that have been failing and to utilize left over funding in the current year's budget. Diana Hurlburt made a motion to purchase the laptops with a second from Doug Pokorny.

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

Alma made a request to be able to send out the updated Interlocal Agreement that has the 5-year renewal for July 1st. Usually she attends all board meetings and has each member county/city sign all on the same signature page. This year due to the COVID-19 Pandemic she will not be able to accomplish that if some meetings are still by conference call and just having one month, too many are on the same day to accomplish all before the July 1st date. After discussion all agreed without a motion that it would be acceptable to mail out the Interlocal renewal with a separate signature page to each Interlocal Member entity for them to approve and sign.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks spoke on the meeting that was held with Alma and Virginia and the Region 26 Law Enforcement for their quarterly meeting with a conference call.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher, Virginia Michalski, gave a report from dispatch and talked about 911 recordings that were requested from dispatch and how that was being handled with the help from our attorney. Alma spoke on the equipment repairs that were made with generator, battery replacements at two sites and air conditioner blower motor replacement in equipment room at dispatch. There were additional problems with the Taylor paging over the weekend during the storm as well as equipment going down when power went out at two of the workstations. Platte Valley communications is concerned of an additional problem going on that needs to be checked at our workstations and will be here on Monday.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on the virtual weather meetings that were held by both North Platte and Hastings Weather Services for the Departments and appears that it might be something they will continue to do in addition to coming to fire departments for storm spotters.

The NRIN Equipment had been placed on the Sargent tower site with the sites scheduled for Greeley and Ord but have not been there to see if all is complete. The equipment for the dispatch center was delayed due to COVID and having the Dispatch center closed down to outside workers for now.

Alma did report on Conference Call meeting her and Custer County had with Dave Sankey, State 911 Director from the Public Service Commission. We were able to go over what was needed and planned for our counties when it comes to the Next Generation equipment and what we are expected to do and what

would be best for our counties.

We were able to get more information on what it will do to us to remain in forming a 911 region with Custer and Region 26 or if we both need to be looking at the East Central 911 Region. There were things to consider as in the cost of sharing host equipment expenses with more 911 centers other than the two centers. Dave Sankey was going to do more research for us to know what it would require for us to join the East Central Region for the purpose of backup and sharing backroom equipment vs. a region of only two centers.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be **Tuesday, June 30th at 7:30 PM** with an in person meeting.

Communications Committee meeting will be **Monday, June 22 at 1 PM** with an in person meeting.

Committee members: Jay Meyer, Gary Eng, Roger Guggenmos, Diana Hurlburt, Doug Reiter, Virginia Michalski and Alma Beland.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:15 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Acronyms:

APCO – Association of Public Communications Officials

CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch

CC – Communications Center

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team

C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)

DR – Disaster Recovery

DOR – Department of Roads

E911 – Enhanced 911

ECW – Emergency Call Works (Mfg. of 911 Equipment at Region 26)

EM – Emergency Manager

EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch

EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant

EMS – Emergency Medical Services

EMT – Emergency Medical Technician

EOC – Emergency Operations Center

FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency

FY – Fiscal Year

GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice

HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program

ICS – Incident Command System

J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)

JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)

LE – Law Enforcement

LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee

LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System

LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan

NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers

NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials

NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

NENA – National Emergency Number Association
NESCA – Nebraska Emergency Services Communicators Association
***NCR** – North Central Region*
NCTC – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PC – Police Chief
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training*
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Communications Center)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
TEPW – Training Exercise Planning Workshop
THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment

*** North Central PET Region Includes:** Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Holt, Region 24 (Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd) and Region 26 (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)