

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL
May 30, 2017

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	Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur	Law Enforce: Dave Weeks
Wheeler Co: Jack Poulsen, Vice-Chair	
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 7:35 PM by Chairman Hood.

Roll Call was taken with six (7) 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 Tom Bandur to approve the April 25, 2017 Minutes.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Jay Meyer and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the April 2017 Financial Statement.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma gave a report on the new 911 equipment and how well it has been working. Everyone has trained very fast on the equipment and the stats for the first few weeks came out at the same usage percentage per county that we had in 2016 stats. Alma discussed with the board about moving forward with getting Text to 911 started. She explained the process that will be required and the first step is getting funding approval from the Public Service Commission. At this time the Commission is paying 100% of the cost for this service with the wireless funds and Alma suggested to move forward as the process will take time. Also, Alma presented a quote from Stacen Gross for consultant services to do the Text to 911 process. She would also be able to present his bill to the Public Service Commission for payment through the wireless fund. After discussion, Jack Poulsen made a motion to start the process to get Text to 911 started and also to approve the contract with Stacen Gross Consulting. Doug Wrede seconded the motion.
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The CodeRED contract had come up for renewal and Alma explained the cost for this year as it will no longer be covered by grant funds. It was a 3-year contract ending in 2019 for the North Central Region. Alma had divided up the amounts and submitted to Region 24, Custer, Holt, Keith and Howard for their share to pay direct to CodeRED.

Roger Guggenmos entered the meeting at 8:10 PM.

Kevin Hood reported that he was not able to attend the last NRIN meeting and had no report on this month's meeting. He also reported to the board that he has resigned as the Thomas County Emergency Manager and will no longer be a representative on the Region 26 Council effective July 1, 2017. He asked that we consider nominating a replacement on the NRIN Board as he will no longer be a representative for the North Central Region on that board as well. He said he would be sending a formal resignation to the NRIN Board and also will be sending in writing to the Region 26 Council. He suggested that we send a letter to the Thomas County Commissioners requesting that they appoint a Commissioner for representation on the board due to the importance of the financial decisions made that affects the county.

Alma presented a preliminary budget for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year. After review of the budget Alma said that she had included a wage increase to help get us more competitive with other dispatch centers. Jay Meyer asked if that was enough to get us there or if we needed to increase the wage more to help retain employees. After discussion of how that could be managed and the base cost was discussed to allow the additional increase to be shared by all the counties by an increased base amount. Jack Poulsen made a motion to increase the County base amount to \$10,500 to offset wage increases and to review the budget next month after changes have been made. Doug Reiter seconded the motion. Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Weeks was unable to attend the meeting and had no report. Alma did report that she had the Sheriffs meet here last Friday for additional information on the State Radio System. Mike Jeffres from the OCIO and Mike Epley from Platte Valley Communications was at the meeting to go over questions that the Sheriffs had and also had a demo radio for them to borrow to see what it would be like using the State Radio System.

Communications Center Report: Co-Chief Dispatcher/Virginia Michalski gave a report from dispatch. They did get a new employee hired this month. Sandra Rowse started her training a week ago and will be a good fit for the Region.

Donna and Virginia will be leaving on Sunday for refresher training on Protection Orders through the State Patrol.

Tomorrow all the dispatchers will be in to receive recertification testing on the teletype from the State Patrol and then a teletype audit will be done with Donna.

Director's Report: Alma reported on the North Central Region board meeting for this month. NEMA had sent four people out. Sue Krogman went over more information on NRIN. Roger Conrad discussed exercises with us and using NEMA instructors for training. Troy Harris went over the IPAWS and how we could get registered and trained to use this form of notification. Alma said that she had started some of the training and was going to move forward to become IPAWS capable since now there was no cost through CodeRED to use the system. Mark Rempe reported on the Public Assistance training he went to in Lincoln and how the process has changed for the better when FEMA will come out and process a disaster. The Loup Basin Public Health Department explained what all nursing homes and hospitals have to do for full scale exercises before November if accepting Medicare and Medicaid so that we would know what was required if they reach out to Emergency Management.

Alma said the grant applications for Emergency Management and Homeland Security will be due by July but nothing has been sent out yet, so it will have a short turnaround time to submit to NEMA.

Alma reported on the meetings she had done this month which included a CERT informational meeting held in Loup City with the help of the Grand Island Emergency Manager speaking to the potential team members.

She and the Valley County Deputy EM met with the Lower Loup NRD to review maps of the updated campgrounds at the Davis Creek Reservoir and how we could utilize NRD for help in a disaster.

Linda done 911 talks for both Elementary schools in Spalding.

Alma met with the Howard, Sherman and Custer Emergency Managers and talked with the managers of Tour De Nebraska bicycle ride to know what there emergency plans and routes are for June.

Alma spoke at the Burwell Rotary Club on Region 26 activities and will also meet with the Valley County Fair Board this coming month on weather support for the fair.

The snow storm damages created disaster declarations from four counties due to Public Power Company outages and pole damage. NEMA was out tonight meeting with the City of Burwell on damages to city power. Alma said that Region 26 had equipment damages to battery supplies that were burnt out when we had low power during the storms.

Alma reported on the microwave equipment that is needing some repairs done. Platte Valley is also ordering some backup equipment for some of the equipment we used out of our supply.

The Public Service Commission had sent out the amounts of wireless funding that we will receive this next year in the amount of \$55,871.64. Alma went over a survey that the Public Service Commission had sent out to be returned that had questions including how we would like to see the funding managed and if we want all surcharges increased.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be June 27, 2017.

Chairman Hood adjourned the meeting at 9:35 PM.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Acronyms:

CAD - Computer Aided Dispatch

CC - Communications Center

CERT - Community Emergency Response Team

E911 - Enhanced 911

ECW - Emergency Call Works (New 911 Equip Company)

EM - Emergency Manager

EOC- Emergency Operations Center

ICS – Incident Command System

LEPC - Local Emergency Planning Committee

NACO - Nebraska Association of County Officials

NEMA - Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

NESCA - Nebraska Emergency Services Communicators Association

NCR - North Central Region

NCTC - Nebraska Central Telephone Company

NIRMA- Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Association

NRIN - Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network

NX-Gen - Next Generation 911

PET - Planning Exercise Training

PSAP - Public Safety Answering Point (911 Communications Center)

PSC - Public Service Commission

PVC - Platte Valley Communications