

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**  
June 30, 2020

Region 26 Council:

Present:		Absent:	
Blaine Co:	Roger Guggenmos	Greeley Co:	Jordan Foltz
Garfield Co:	Diana Hurlburt	Loup Co:	Jack Ruppel
Thomas Co:	Gary Eng	Wheeler Co:	Doug Pokorny
Sherman Co:	Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair		
Valley Co:	Jack Van Slyke		
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 7:30 PM by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with eight (8) 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 Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Dave Weeks to approve the May 26, 2020 Minutes.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Gary Eng and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the May 2020 Financial Statement.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

COVID-19 Update: Alma reported on the latest numbers of tests done and deaths in Nebraska and showing 104 Positives total in the Loup Basin Health Department with one in Thomas. Currently only seven remaining positives with others having recovered. Our counties are currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase Directive of reopening until July 31<sup>st</sup>. It could change sooner if the Governor deems okay and will just be a matter of allowing larger gatherings and for restaurants/bars to allow a larger occupancy. Alma reported on what the Health Department gave out on Conference Call today that there would be county fairs but no parades are allowed if attending viewing crowds are not in their cars.

Alma was on briefing with NEMA on what they are doing for getting applicants on the portal to sign in to "Request for Public Assistance". There is not an ending date for COVID disaster funding. Projects have to be more than \$3300. Also there was information on the CARES Act. Alma had sent information out to all Counties, Towns, Irrigation Districts, Public Power Districts, schools and churches. She has been trying to get complete list of churches to send information and has been struggling to get that list. Had found that churches were in line to receive CARES Act funding for operating expenses. They would just need to check with their bank the same as the small business owners to see what is available to them. Then they could also register for reimbursement of loses that they had incurred from COVID.

Communications Committee: The Committee met last Monday to go over the budget to assist in what needed to be included in the budget regarding salaries and changes to the budget to make that work and

also Alma had additional agenda items for the Committee to review while here. Jay Meyer gave a short synopsis of the meeting and what was reviewed beyond the budget. The 911 backup system in Ord was discussed and considering the age of equipment and monthly costs there which also creates the need to be connected to Custer County for a backup and what that backup would look like. Jay talked about the need for Alma to possibly have consulting help on getting that connection made. The point layers needed by GeoComm for each village/town in the Region for the Next Generation 911 and what the costs were going to be and for Alma to find out what the breakdown would be for each town instead of a lump sum for the project. The equipment in dispatch was reviewed including the logging recorder, CAD, MACH System, workstation furniture repairs, copier and chairs. The planning is moving forward to connect to a language translation line for 911 calls and also the need for gravel at the Sargent tower site that Chairman Myer stopped to inspect after the meeting and planned for some millings to be brought in.

FY 2020-21 Budget: Alma presented the budget that she had redone since the last meeting to include some increases to the salaries that was worked through at the Communications Committee meeting and also changes that included an increase on the NIRMA insurance package. After discussion over the budget then Gary Eng made a motion to approve what was listed as Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget/Plan B and to include paying the time from being contacted to returning to home for the on-call dispatcher for the times they are called out. Dave Weeks seconded the motion. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Audit: Alma discussed the annual audit and the Auditors Engagement letter to be returned to Contryman. It was discussed if the Audit needed to go out for bid. Alma had talked to Contryman that the board would possibly want a bid and she said she would be willing to go down \$500 if we could do it all by email and they would not come to Region 26 physically. The board did ask for it to go out to bid. Alma will get notices sent out.

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 four months since we had been having Conference Call meetings due to COVID Pandemic. All past months stats are filed at Region 26 office. For May they had 1614 Status Checks, 312 Paging, 276 Alarms, 146 Messages, 132 Traffic Violations, 130 Wants – Warrants – Registrations, 121 Minor Detail, 103 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect Calls, 90 Burn Permit, 65 Rescue Calls, 58 Animal Calls, 31 Miscellaneous Tasks, 29 Citizen Assist, 28 Weather, 24 Assist Other Agencies, 22 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 22 Bun Permit, 19 Paper Service, 18 accidents, 15 reckless Driver, 13 Check Welfare, 12 Motorist Assist, 11 Suspicious Person, 8 Criminal Activity, 7 Fire Calls, 6 Direct Traffic, 6 Theft, 5 Siren, 4 DUI, 4 Gas Drive Off, 4 Shots Fired, 4 Suspicious Events, 4 Traffic Hazard and 29 various other Incidents. Total number of Incidents for the Communications Centre for the month of May was 3372 which included 285 – 911 Calls.

Virginia did talk about the duties that have been divided up in dispatch to give everyone a change to be in charge of something from online training, MACH System, Warrants, and CAD etc. It seems to be working very well.

Director's Report: Alma talked about the Interlocal Renewal and that she had only received four signature pages back at this time from Members.

The North Central PET Meeting was held here last Friday with limited Emergency Managers, only voting members were invited to allow for social distancing. One NEMA representative was here and helped give direction on the Public assistance funding on COVID. It gave the Emergency Managers a chance to discuss how they were handling COVID etc. in their Regions/Counties and also work on the grant spend downs.

Alma said the Thomas and Wheeler LEOP's had been completed by Linda with the assistance of the county Emergency Managers. Alma will be attending the upcoming respective county board meetings to get a signed resolution to approve the LEOP/Emergency Plan.

Alma said that the only weather support she had done so far this year was a full week with the Nebraska High School Rodeo finals in Burwell a couple weeks ago.

Election of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Board Officers: Dave Weeks made a motion to retain the same officers with a second from Doug Reiter. Roger Guggenmos made the motion to cease nominations. All said aye to approve retaining the same officers. The officers will remain as Jay Meyer/Chairman, Tom Bandur/Vice-Chairman and Alma Beland/Secretary.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be July 28, 2020.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

**Acronyms:**

APCO – Association of Public Communications Officials

CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch

CC – Communications Center

CERT – Community Emergency Response Team

COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019

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

MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling

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  
PMC – Page My Cell  
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)