

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

April 30, 2024

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:
Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben
Tri-Co Municipalities:
Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Blaine Co: Roger Guggenmos
Law Enforce: Dale King

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager & Stena Seamann/Deputy EM

Visitors Present: Klint Arnold/Stealth Broadband

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm by Chairman Meyer.

Roll Call was taken with nine (9) 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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.

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

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the April 1, 2024 Minutes (postponed from March 29, 2024). Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (3).

Motion by Doug Pokorny and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the March 2024 Financial Statement. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report:

- Alma introduced Klint Arnold from Stealth Broadband that had attended meeting due to purchasing the equipment from Applied Connective that is located on our Greeley tower site. Klint had informed the board that in purchasing the broadband side of Applied Connective that they acquired the equipment at our site and had reached out before about access to the tower but would need a new agreement between them and Region 26. The purchase had been done in April 2023. He was asked about new equipment that had been placed on the tower without our consent. He said he did not think anything had been added and then found out they had an emergency situation of losing a site and had to add a small point to point dish. Klint said they are not supposed to add anything to tower without our knowledge or acceptance which is their goal. The board discussed with him what they were expecting for service including keeping the

two cameras updated that was part of the Applied Connective agreement and if we can work out something that the landowner would accept and our board would approve. The agreement Stealth had sent was reviewed and pointed out changes that we would like to see made. Jay told him we did not want being exclusive on tower and can't request that from us. Klint said he can work with that and does not need to be any more than 150' on the tower. Our agreement with landowner is that anything extra going on the tower that generates revenue, they are to be notified. Klint said to send him the changes that we were requesting in the agreement and he would work on that. Jay said he was to negotiate with Alma and the Board could look it over at next meeting to approve. Jay asked about revenue he would pay Region 26 and going back to the starting date and he said yes, they would look at that.

- Alma reported on the Litchfield tower being struck by lightning in this last week's storm which had possibly done damage to the generator and transfer switch. Power Tech was going to check it out and get back to us with damages and a quote on what needs replaced. Platte Valley was out to get us temporarily up and running. We would check on how and who was paying for this when we get more information.
- Spalding paging was not working well for Spalding Fire and Rescue. The equipment is located on a city owned tower. Platte Valley from Grand Island came out to repair. It was a power supply that was causing voltage problems. There were other problems when they arrived with a hole in roof of building. The fire chief in Spalding was going to take care of that.
- Alma had Platte Valley in Kearney look over the radio and page situation at Ashton and Rockville Looking over the options that we have in those two towns of what might work for both places.
- Alma pointed out the increased cost of lines into backup site from the west counties. The board discussed at length the cost of these lines and feel we need to have them disconnected at this time and use other means of backup and could see if there is something else that could be used. The additional phone lines for 911 can be reduced to one line into the backup site.

Jordan Foltz made a motion with a second from Tom Bandur to shut down communications line for backup from west counties and two extra phone lines for the backup center.

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

Alma presented a preliminary budget for the board to review which took into account the amount for wage increases for last year and this year both. The budget was discussed at length.

The equipment cost for insurance was discussed at the tower sites and what it would do for the counties if the equipment in each County was shifted to the county insurance instead of Region 26 covering the costs. The board asked for Alma to breakdown the policy and send the amount out to each county for them to quote the amount with NIRMA to see if that would be an option.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Alma reported that there would be a Law Enforcement meeting this Friday with the Departments and Dispatch.

Communications Center Report: Alma reported that there had been a new dispatcher hired from Taylor and has started her training.

Director's Report:

- Alma gave a report on the recent fires. One on April 13th in Wheeler County that required aerial suppression from Arrow Aviation. Four separate fires happened on April 15th in Cherry, Thomas and Hooker that was due to dry lightning and high winds that total 4000+ acres. Disaster Declarations had been turned in for those counties affected.
- Mutual Aid Meetings were attended with the Task Force development being the topic at Loup Valley Mutual Aid and the recent complex fires discussed at Sandhills Mutual Aid.
- There were three tornadoes in Region 26 on Friday the 26th. Two were located in Sherman and

one in Greeley County. Disaster declarations were turned in for both counties. Alma reported on meeting with Hastings Weather Service and starting in Sherman to track down the tornado paths to allow them to determine size and wind speed. Also, it allowed us to make a report of damages to NEMA for possible State declaration and FEMA assistance. There were enough damages from the Public Power Districts to meet the County thresholds; Loup Valley PPD reporting \$14,000, Dawson PPD \$15,000, NPPD \$744,000 and Howard Greeley \$245,724 (Substation in Howard Co at \$812,000).

- The June 12th date is still on track for Region 26 to install the upgrade of 911 next generation equipment.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be May 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:48 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials	LE – Law Enforcement
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch	LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
CC – Communications Center	LEDRRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Rapid Response System
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team	LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
CNMRC – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp	MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disasters	NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
COOP – Continuity of Operations Planning	NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019	NAEM – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)	NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
DEE – Depart. of Environmental & Energy (State)	NENA – National Emergency Number Association
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)	NESCA – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
DHS – Department of Homeland Security	*NCR – North Central Region*
DR – Disaster Recovery	NCTC – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
DOR – Department of Roads	NIMS – National Incident Management System
E911 – Enhanced 911	NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)	NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Mfg. of 911 Equipment at Region 26)	NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
EM – Emergency Manager	PC – Police Chief
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch	PD – Police Department
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant	*PET – Planning Exercise Training*
EMS – Emergency Medical Services	POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician	PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
EOC – Emergency Operations Center	PMC – Page My Cell
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	PSC – Public Service Commission
FAA – Federal Aviation Administration (Report tower light outages)	PVC – Platte Valley Communications
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	RFP – Request for Proposal
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)	SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency	SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
FY – Fiscal Year	SO – Sheriff's Office
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	SRS – State Radio System
GIS – Geographic Information System	THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
GPS – Global Positioning System	UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials	VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)	VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program	VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
ICS – Incident Command System	V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop	WCDHD – West Central District Health Department (covers Thomas County)
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	W.H.O. – World Health Organization
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)
LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)	WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction

* North Central PET Region Includes:

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