

**MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL**

October 29, 2024

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert  
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt  
Loup Co: Dave Larson  
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith  
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair  
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny  
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman  
Tri-Co Municipalities:  
Valley, Greeley, Sherman  
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz  
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke  
Range Co. Municipalities:  
Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Wade Neben

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county for posting and sent in advance to all members of the Board.

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. Introductions were done for Joel Bergman/Sherman County Sheriff and Matt Eggert/Blaine County Commissioner.

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.  
Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Doug Pokorny and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the September 24, 2024 Minutes.  
Ayes (6) Nays (0) Abstain (2).

Alma reported on the 2024 EMPG Grant that was awarded and the amount of \$35,326.16 was added to the Financial Grant Sheet. Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the September 2024 Financial Statement. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report:

Alma presented a copy of the coverage maps for the tower site known as "Little Sherman" located just across into Howard County. This would allow good coverage for the Ashton and Rockville areas that are suffering from bad radio transmission. Alma will get on the Howard County meeting agenda to see if that would be a possibility to utilize their tower and also allow them use of the frequency when needed for mutual aid.

The Garfield repeater has been purchased and paid for. We are waiting for Hamilton Telephone to approve the change of equipment from tower on Windy Hill Road to the tower on the east edge of Burwell.

The Ord tower generator had problem starting and found low coolant that will be taken care of by Power Tech. The Litchfield site is waiting for Power Tech to work on the generator working erratically. Waiting to hear back from Power Tech this week.

CodeRED – Administrative Privileges: Sheriff Joel Bergman had asked about the Region 26 Sheriffs having access to our CodeRED emergency warning system as users to be able to send out messages in their respective counties. After discussion on how it would work Joseph Smith made a motion to allow the Sheriffs to be users of the System with a second from Joel Bergman. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The Dispatch Supervisor position was discussed and had been offered to Stena Seamann. Tom Bandur made a motion to approve Stena being appointed the position with a second from Joel Bergman. Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (0). As per the Chairman the salary would be worked out with the Director.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Bergman reported that there would be a Law Enforcement meeting this Friday and would maybe have more to report at next meeting.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1461 Status Checks, 289 Pages, 235 Want/Warrants/Registrations, 206 Traffic Violations, 141 Minor Detail, 135 Messages, 107 Rescue Calls, 73 - 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 60 Assist Other Agencies, 59 Assist Citizen, 46 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 44 Gun Permits, 44 Livestock Complaints, 31 Accidents, 24 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 24 Reckless Driver, 21 Fire Calls, 20 Paper Service, 17 Motorist Assist, 13 Animal Calls, 13 Check Welfare, 13 Miscellaneous Tasks, 12 Siren, 12 Traffic Hazard, 11 Alarms, 11 Keys Locked In Vehicle, 10 Burn Permits, 10 Follow Up, 10 Suspicious Person, 8 Prisoner Transport, 8 Suspicious Events, 6 Radio Test, 6 Suspicious Vehicle, 6 Transfer 911 Call, 5 Arrests, 5 Theft, 4 Civil Matters, 4 Gas Drive-Off, 4 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 3 Abandoned Vehicle, 3 Littering/dumping, 3 Missing Person/Juvenile, 3 Special Assignment, 3 Terroristic Threats, 2 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 2 Drug Violation, 2 Emergency Committal, 2 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 2 Trespassing, 2 Vandalism and 6 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of September was 3241 including 323 - 911 calls and 1523 Dispatch only administrative calls.

Dispatch Supervisor/Stena Seamann gave an update on the training with new employees and trainers and their progress. She gave a review on the amount of activity in dispatch and the severity of the calls that have been happening recently with concerns for dispatchers. She discussed performance and counseling with documentation. Stena reported on the fires in the counties and the school fire and safety days she attended. There were several things for dispatch that was requested that the board would review at the next meeting.

Director's Report:

Alma reported on the APCO NENA 911 Conference attended.

The fires were discussed in detail of the aerial suppression used and the CodeRed for evacuation of area. The Loup Valley and Sandhills Mutual Aid meeting were attended and was able to go over the aerial suppression for the fires and review of how they are used and called out.

Alma and Virginia attended the NIRMA Conference in Kearney. Region 26 received a \$1352.00 dividend check.

Region 26 hosted a flu clinic last week for Loup Basin Public Health.

Other Business: What time to set the meeting for the winter months. It was determined at 6:30 pm.

Next regular meeting date will be Tuesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

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