

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

August 27, 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: Theresa Petska (Alternate)
Law Enforce: Dustin Spanel (Alternate)

Absent:

Blaine Co: (Vacant)
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny

Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 7 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 Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the agenda.

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

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the July 30, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

Ayes (8) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Alma explained the budget report and how the grants were listed for spend down. Some of the reimbursement came through in August and does not show on the report ending the fiscal year in July.

Motion by Tom Bandur and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the July 2024 Financial Statement.

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

Towers & Equipment Report:

- Alma reported on the security cameras that were updated and the large screen in the EOC utilizing the EOC grant funds.
- Alma had a planning meeting last week with the Sherman County Law Enforcement, Fire Chiefs, EMS and Commissioner to discuss the best options for better communications in the County to reach back to dispatch. Radio communications providers were in attendance to help with planning and suggestions of what would work.
- The generator at Litchfield tower needs repair work done after the last lightning damage that we had repairs done to the transfer switch. The control panel needs replaced or update of generator. The generator quote from Power Tech was \$6300.

- Platte Valley from Grand Island came today to install the new alarm panels at the Sargent and Ord towers. Our Silent Knight system is now offline and alarms will come from the Central Alarm company by telephone call and to cell phone. They assisted in the security camera install for the EOC while here.
- The new Cameras have been installed at Greeley Tower site. We need to approve the signing of the contract with Stealth Broadband, and will be on the next agenda. They will be adding the camera views with our security cameras that we have in the building here.
- The Garfield Equipment was discussed and the repeater is in and ready for install.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Loup County Sheriff, Dustin Spanel was introduced as the alternate for the Criminal Justice Board and that Sherman County Sheriff, Joel Bergman would be the representative on the board taking the place of Sheriff King. However, Sheriff Bergman was unable to attend tonight due to a training conflict. Dustin reported on the Law Enforcement meeting that was held on August 2nd. He stated that the dispatch center done a terrific job during the Burwell Rodeo week with all other traffic from other counties that was happening at the same time. Dustin talked about the CodeRed system being discussed at the meeting and how it could be utilized better if the Sheriffs could have access to the system and put out messages instead of relaying to the office. He said it would be something for them to discuss more.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1758 Status, 337 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 327 Pages, 264 Traffic Violations, 137 Messages, 109 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect, 105 Minor Detail, 100 Rescue Calls, 75 Assist Citizen, 52 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 50 Burn Permits, 48 Accidents, 45 Assist Other Agencies, 44 Gun Permits, 42 Livestock Complaint, 38 Weather, 26 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 25 Paper Service, 22 Reckless Driver, 16 Animal Calls, 15 Motorist Assist, 14 Suspicious Person, 11 Suspicious Events, 10 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 9 Alarms, 9 Siren, 8 Check Welfare, 8 Fire Calls, 8 Traffic Hazard, 7 Fireworks Complaint, 7 Suspicious Vehicle, 6 Transfer 911 Call, 5 Arrests, 5 Keys Locked In Vehicle, 5 Miscellaneous Tasks, 5 Prisoner Transport, 5 Radio Test, 4 Death Investigation, 4 Follow Up, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Gas Drive Off, 3 Liquor Violations, 3 Theft, 3 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 2 Burglary/Break In/Attempt, 2 Gas Leak and 12 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of July was 3796 including 318 - 911 calls and 1530 Administrative calls into Dispatch.

Stena Seamann handed out a copy of her written report to the board and expressed how it was going in dispatch. She would like to see the dispatchers being able to attend additional trainings such life flight training at the departments and attend some fire meetings. Stena has been recreating the training books and working with Donna on what is needed. She is trying to get one dispatcher into an APCO virtual training in September.

She is doing commendable performance forms and looking at some retraining where needed instead of a performance plan or probation. They have been doing the quality assurance peer reviews and it was met with mixed reviews but they will keep working with that. Virginia worked with Stena to get the necessary paperwork done for Donna as TAC and LASO officer to be compliant.

Director's Report:

- NEMA was here on the 14th discuss restarting our LEPC meetings back and giving us ideas. They stayed for the evening to hold a training class in Burwell at the Health Department for a "Stop the Bleed" Training. This was a kick off to look for volunteers for the Loup Basin MRC and CERT.
- Viaero is doing testing this week on 17 of their towers in the Region 26 counties which was 911 calls from each side of each tower.
- The NCR-PET meeting in Broken Bow last week was to work on this years THIRA for the grants and also worked on the mandatory exercise calendar to be turned in.
- Platte Valley had contacted Alma to get a quote for Sargent and Ansley schools for space on our

towers for equipment for their school buses to communicate to the school. After discussion considering what we charge now and need to move forward with Diana Hurlburt made a motion with a second from Dave Larson to charge \$1000 annually for school use of our towers. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

- Alma had attended the NRIN meeting with Jay. Still do not have a final build out of the system in the very southeast corner of Nebraska or the northeast. Having discussion on what we can do to make it a sustainable system moving forward. It is working well. For our North Central Region that we represent, there is an issue for Valentine connecting their new radio console to the system. It is a problem with the fiber connection in that area and not the wireless. We did have left-over PET money to purchase some equipment this year to replace some equipment that needed upgraded.
- The financial audit was done a couple of weeks ago by Abel and Kaps but will not be complete before next meeting.
- Wheeler County Commissioners did come over to discuss their contract with Region 26. They did not feel their County Attorney maybe understood the contract. They asked if our Attorney could contact him so there was no confusion.
- Alma reported on a written request received for a 911 recording. Alma sent it to our Attorney and was given the statute that shows it does not fit under Freedom of Information Act.
- There will be a hearing with the Department of Labor regarding unemployment that will be this next week.
- Alma asked about the security cameras to allow the Loup County Sheriff to have access for our security in an enclosed building. Joseph Smith made a motion with a second from Diana Hurlburt. Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (0).
- The accountant informed us that we did not need to become a 501c3 in order to receive donations. Discussion on how we can move forward to get the information out for donations.

Other Business: Radio equipment was asked about for the schools we have using our towers now. We only have two schools that are utilizing the service and not all the time are testing. Due to age of equipment and what would need replaced if the still wanted the service would need to be discussed. Alma will talk with the schools to determine if still able to use their radios or still have them and bring to next meeting.

Joseph Smith gave a report on his meeting with Senator Ricketts through a Sheriffs meeting. He brought up the funding for 911 Centers and made him aware of the issues.

Dianna Hurlburt reported on grants and what she found from CNEDD for the garage and also the Senator Fischer and Representative Smith's grants.

Next regular meeting date will be September 24, 2024..... 7 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

Approved by the Region 26 Council:

Chairman

Date

ACRONYMS

ALS – Advanced Live Support
APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch
CC – Communications Center
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
CNMRC – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp
COADs – Community Organizations Active in Disasters
COOP – Continuity of Operations Planning
COVID-19 – Coronavirus Disease 2019
C.R.I.M.E.S. – Calls & Records Information Management Software (part of Justice Data Solutions)
DEE – Depart. of Environmental & Energy (State)
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
DR – Disaster Recovery
DOR – Department of Roads
E911 – Enhanced 911
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)
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
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)
FAA – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for **Radio Frequency Licenses**)
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)
FY – Fiscal Year
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)
GIS – Geographic Information System
GPS – Global Positioning System
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program
ICS – Incident Command System
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop
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)
LASO – Local Agency Security Officer
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location
LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)

LE – Law Enforcement
LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEDRRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Rapid Response System
LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MRC – Medical Reserve CORPS
NA911 – Nebraska Association of 911 Managers
NACO – Nebraska Association of County Officials
NAEM – Nebr. Association of Emergency Managers
NEMA – Nebraska Emergency Management Agency
NENA – National Emergency Number Association
NESCA – NE Emergency Services Communicators Association
***NCR** – North Central Region*
NCTC – Nebraska Central Telephone Company
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PC – Police Chief
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training*
POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PMC – Page My Cell
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
RFP – Request for Proposal
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
TAC – Terminal Access Control Officer (Teletype)
THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
WCDHD – West Central Dist. Health Dept. (Thomas Co.)
W.H.O. – World Health Organization
WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)
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)

