

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

September 24, 2024

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Thomas Co: Joseph Smith
Valley Co: Theresa Petska (Alternate)
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Blaine Co: (Vacant)
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman

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 seven (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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.
Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Jordan Foltz to approve the August 27, 2024 Minutes with corrections made to several misspelled words. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Joseph Smith and seconded by Wade Neben to approve the August 2024 Financial Statement.
Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma reported on a 9-Month Certificate of Deposit that had matured and needed to be rolled into another CD. She had rates for a 6- and 12-month CD through Union Bank. After discussion Wade Neben made a motion with a second from Doug Pokorny to roll into the 12-month CD at 4.47%
Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report:

- The beacon was out at the Greeley tower over the weekend. Platte Valley would be there tomorrow to check on it. Grossart's had done a service call to the site for AC freon.
- Stealth Broadband agreement for space at the Greeley tower site needed to be approved and signed. Theresa Petska made a motion and Dave Larson seconded for approval of the agreement and for the Chairman to sign. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).
- The control panels had been installed and working great at the Ord and Sargent tower sites. Alma stated what the approximate cost of \$1347 for a panel to be installed at Greeley as well.
- Alma had coverage maps for Ashton and Rockville if the tower at Little Sherman was utilized. The maps showed good coverages for both. Alma had estimated cost of equipment install with idea we could use the existing coax. Would need to discuss with Sherman County on what they

were able to do and what this looked like for their needs.

- The Litchfield generator transfer switch had been repaired and now the control panel on the generator is fixed. There were some adjustments that needed made and Tim Woods would be back out to work with Generac technician while on site. Discussion was held on the work load of Power Tech and another name was brought up that we could look at if Power Tech is unable to service us.

School Bus Monitoring: Alma reported on discussing with Platte Valley what our equipment was for the schools and has only been a low band mobile radio at the tower sites to communicate back to Region 26 from the buses that utilize it. Alma contacted Dunning schools and Ord public schools with the bus barn supervisor. Dunning has three routes and not all have radios. Ord has not always been able to reach school. Ord and Dunning would both like to reach back to their school when needed or if in trouble to talk to Region 26. They were told this was old system and if they were wanting to upgrade it would be a matter of seeing what the schools would respectively want to do. It was discussed with the board of allowing the schools for a space leased on a Region 26 tower for their equipment that would reach the school and Region 26 when needed. It would be up to the schools to update the equipment in their buses and equipment at tower sites.

Criminal Justice Board Report: No report given.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1576 Status Checks, 272 Paging, 251 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 231 Traffic Violations, 142 Messages, 104 Minor Detail, 99 Rescue Calls, 96 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect/Test, 68 Assist Other Agencies, 65 Assist Citizen, 56 Gun Permit, 49 Livestock Complaint, 39 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 34 Accidents, 34 Paper Service, 33 Burn Permit, 32 Reckless Driver, 20 Weather, 15 Check Welfare, 15 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 15 Motorist Assist, 14 Animal Calls, 13 Suspicious Person, 12 Siren, 11 Fire Calls, 10 Miscellaneous Taks, 10 Traffic Hazard, 9 Alarms, 8 Suspicious Vehicle, 7 Property Lost /Recovered/Dispute, 7 Radio Test, 6 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 5 Arrests, 5 Prisoner Transport, 5 Suspicious Events, 5 Terroristic Threats, 4 Transfer 911 Call, 3 Civil Matters, 3 Death Investigation, 3 Gas Drive Off, 3 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 3 Theft/Shoplifting, 3 Trespassing, 2 Auto Theft, 2 Child Abuse/Neglect, 2 Criminal Mischief, 2 Follow Up, 2 Minor in Possession, 2 Parole/Probation/Protection Order/Violation, 2 Utilities Complaint/Outage and 12 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of August was 3,421 including 390 - 911 calls and 1,578 Dispatch only administrative calls.

Stena Seamann handed out a written report as interim Dispatch Supervisor.

Tamika and Brayden have completed their academic training and have started with more hands on. Starting on the next schedule they will be split apart to get more one on one training and start working them in slowly on the radios with pager testing etc. Donna and Miki are doing most of their training with Caden doing a part of the training. The other dispatchers have been asking for more training with departments. There had been a number of serious accidents with ATVs that required air ambulance. There was discussion on the helicopter companies and how they were working on call outs. Questions came up from the board on when they were called and with ALS being called and how soon. Jay had questioned how we could get ALS started sooner rather than waiting until an ambulance squad is assembled and on scene before we get the okay to call for ALS. Discussion led to the need for possibly getting the EMS Captains together again to discuss issues on where changes could be made especially when several pages have to go out to get an ambulance crew together and a lot of time has lapsed to get ALS notified when needed.

Miki is doing a virtual training class to have certification for being a trainer. Stena felt what she was hearing from Miki on the quality of class that this will work instead of the in-person class that would require travel and room and board for another trainer for certification and would not be available for several months. Enough information out of the class shows that we are going in the right direction of

our training, however, it appears that several of our recently trained dispatchers need some remedial training on what they feel was missed on previous training. She discussed the idea of changing the dispatch cell phone to FirstNet so it would have priority if other problems with cell phones. Stena stated this was her last report as interim dispatch supervisor and had some specific demands regarding pay raises. She would also like to see a change in her hours to reflect more like a dispatch schedule and be able to not take lunch hour but leave at 4 pm to allow time to be gone for school events, parent/teachers' conferences etc. and spend more time with her family. When she does work overtime that it can be used as comp time for hours off instead of overtime pay.

Director's Report:

- Alma reported on the CERT grant funds for \$30,000 that NEMA awarded the North Central PET Region from returned funds from other regions. NEMA changed the North Central 2022 and 2023 grants to show an additional \$15,000 each for spend down. Alma asked for the board to approve the change to the fiduciary funds budget sheet to reflect the additional funds. Joseph Smith made a motion with a second from Jordan Foltz to make the necessary change to the budget sheet on the 2022 and 2023 Homeland Security grant. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (0).
- Stena attended an After-Action meeting with North Loup & Scotia on a suicidal call that had been received.
- The Lou-Platte Mutual Aid meeting was held here at Region 26 last week. This allowed the dispatchers to meet some of the fire chiefs. The Task Force was discussed for moving forward with those departments that were wanting it developed.
- Stena attended the Central District NACO meeting in Aurora last week and set in on an exercise with County Clerks and Emergency Managers on dealing with problems arising during election.
- The North Platte Weather came out to discuss having weather ready towns and what was involved.
- Our North Central PET meeting will be this Thursday and will have election of officer changes.
- Alma handed out a list of the projects on the 2024 Homeland Security grant for the North Central Region that was recently awarded with approval for spend down.

Chairman asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Jordan Foltz and seconded by Wade Neben to go into executive session. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered at 8:29 pm. A motion was made by Theresa Petska and seconded by Joseph Smith to reconvene to public session at 9:24 pm. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstained (0).

Findings: No findings at this time. Supervisor position will be on the next agenda as action item.

Other Business: None

Next regular meeting date will be October 29, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 9:34 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)