

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL Meeting

November 26, 2024

Region 26 Council:

Present:

Blaine Co: Matt Eggert
Garfield Co: Diana Hurlburt
Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Loup Co: Dave Larson
Sherman Co: Tom Bandur, Vice-Chair
Valley Co: Jack Van Slyke
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Wade Neben

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Thomas Co: Joseph Smith

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Stena Seamann/Deputy EM, Dispatch Supervisor

Visitors Present: Holly Phillipps/State Livestock Investigator

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Meyer. Notice of the meeting and agenda were sent to County Clerks of each member county for posting and given in advance to all members of the Board.

Roll Call was taken with ten (10) 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 Tom Bandur to approve the amended Agenda to include CJIS Consulting and Justice Data Solutions. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the October 2024 Minutes. Ayes (7) Nays (0) Abstain (3).

Public Comment: Holly Phillipps, State Livestock Inspector, explained what she does as inspector watching for livestock being tagged that is moving across state lines. She had information that she handed out and also explained that they had CodeRed and how to sign up to receive emergency messages such as a livestock disease outbreak. It worked the same way as our Region 26 CodeRED that we have for disaster emergencies and severe weather.

On the financial Statement Alma explained the payments made for the equipment refresh and Next Gen connection with the East Central 911 and the Logging Recorder maintenance renewal. The 911 equipment refresh and Next Gen connection was paid with the Wireless 911 set aside funds. Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the October 2024 Financial Statement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Towers & Equipment Report: Alma reported on attending Howard County Commissioner meeting with Tom Bandur and Joel Bergman and received approval from them to utilize the Howard County tower located at what is called Little Sherman reservoir. Also receiving approval from the Sherman County

board to purchase radio equipment to install at the tower to service Ashton and Rockville for radio communications. The question came up about radio programming for the frequency. Alma will check more with Platte Valley Communications. Licensing fee to amend license was included in bid but if there were any problems with current line kit at the site then costs might be different. Platte Valley suggested we have someone with radio that currently has a frequency off that tower to go to Ashton and Rockville to check how well it works before we put equipment up.

Alma stated that Corey with Platte Valley was on site today at our office and then went to the Hamilton tower at Burwell to see if equipment would work there at planned tower site and we are waiting to hear from Hamilton that they have the okay from Verizon to be on the same tower. Alma had given all information to Hamilton of what would be installed.

Alma brought up the backup system at Valley County to remind the board we did not do the Motorola Maintenance Contract. Corey with Platte Valley had discussed with Alma about the system. The board asked to determine costs of having the backup in Ord and bring to next meeting for further discussion. There were problems with the Burwell frequency this week with a lot of noise. Platte Valley checked that today and found an audio card causing the problem and was able to correct it.

There were other equipment issues that needed attention in dispatch that was handled with speakers and with recordings.

Employee Benefits: The Simple IRA renewal of company match was due. Tom Bandur made a motion to keep the 3% company match for the employee Simple IRA through Union Bank. Dave Larson seconded the motion. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

The holidays were reviewed. Employees had asked about Christmas Eve to become an observed holiday for Region 26. After discussion on Region 26 having to be open through all of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day the board approved the extra Holiday. Dave Larson made the motion for December 24th to be listed as an additional Holiday with Jordan Foltz seconding the motion.

Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Employee handbook changes were discussed on how we needed to work annual leave, sick leave, compensation time and length of probation period. After discussion, Stena will work on getting information from some of the county's handbooks and bring new wording and changes back to next meeting.

Donation Fund: Alma had set up a "Donation Fund" account in NPAIT for Region 26 donations. After approval of having the fund set up, Diana Hurlburt was the first to make a donation into the account.

Stena reported on test results she received back from Ward Laboratories on our water. There had been questions on the water coming into the building but it checked out to be silica and not harmful.

Alma presented a request of utilizing the services of CJIS Operational Protection Services to help with the teletype compliance and filling out audits. The Consultant was previously with State Patrol working with the teletype. Alma presented the annual costs for the service and how important the compliancy with CJIS was to keep our teletype for Law Enforcement. There was more work with teletype and the FBI audits that we were expected to have complete. Diana Hurlburt made a motion with a second from Doug Pokorny to acquire the services of the Consultant, Steve Carey. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Alma explained the Justice Data Solutions on how we use the system for all calls for Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS. Two of the counties were going out on their own for Justice Data Solutions for their calls to service to remain private. Alma explained how the system was working for stat keeping and was asking the board that we need to look at this becoming a county cost instead of us doing the book work of charging the Law Enforcement for it to come out of their budgets. It would be easier to maintain and it still needs to be in place for Fire and EMS. After discussion of how it was working in the counties and what it will look like for Region 26 the board said to have it on the agenda for next meeting and have all the information from Justice Data Solutions how it will continue to work.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Bergman stated that at the last quarterly meeting the Justice Data Solutions was the main point of discussion and that he didn't have anything further to report on.

Communications Center Report: Dispatch Supervisor/Stena Seamann turned in a written report on how the training was going and further developments on what they were improving for training for all of dispatch.

Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1492 Status Checks, 2907 Pages, 246 Traffic Violations, 234 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 131 Messages, 108 Minor Detail, 93 Rescue Calls, 65 Gun Permits, 62 Assist Citizen, 55 Livestock Complaint, 46 911- Accidental/ Disconnect/Test, 46 Assist Other Agencies, 44 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 34 Mutual Aid, 30 Reckless Driver, 29 Paper Service, 25 Accidents, 23 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 22 Fire Calls, 19 Animal Calls, 16 Alarms, 9 Arrests, 9 Motorist Assist, 9 Suspicious Events, 9 Transfer 911 Calls, 8 Direct Traffic/Funeral Escort, 8 Traffic Hazard, 7 Check Welfare, 7 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 7 Siren, 6 Suspicious Person, 5 Death Investigation, 5 Fraudulent Activity, 5 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Theft, 3 Burglar/Break In/Attempt, 3 Miscellaneous Tasks, 3 Radio Test, 3 Suicidal threats/Attempts, 3 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 3 Vandalism, 2 Abandoned Vehicle, 2 Burn Without Permit, 2 Child Custody Violation, 2 Civil Matters, 2 Drug Violation, 2 Follow Up, 2 Gas Drive Off, 2 Missing Person/Juvenile, 2 Prisoner Transport, 2 Property Lost/Recovered/Dispute, 2 Trespassing, 2 Weapons Violations and 5 additional various incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of October was 3263 including 305 - 911 calls and 1521 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

Director's Report:

- Cyber Security training/seminar in Burwell with Loup Basin Public Health.
- Stena attended Purdum Fire meeting for badging follow up.
- Stena met with Health Department and Burwell Schools to review emergency plans.
- North Central PET meeting was held virtually to start the process of Investment Justifications for the next round of Homeland Security Grant requests for 2025.
- Started the discussion with Sheriffs outside of Region 26 to work on the License Plate readers and will be working with the Company to determine the best placement.
- Met with Senator Ricketts' staff to discuss needs in the PSAPs.
- Stena and Alma will be attending the NACO Conference in December.
- Alma presented the new County threshold amounts for determination of disaster for 2025.

Other Business: Diana Hurlburt presented information on a Legislative Bill that is going to be introduced by Senator Dorn for increase of the 911 wireless surcharge.

Diana also had information for a possible grant that we will be exploring but does have a December deadline. There was discussion that Diana brought up on the need for garage for the Region pickup instead of in rental or the possibility of using the Burwell storage units.

Next regular meeting date will be on set for **Monday**, December 30th at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:37 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
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System	MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
CNMRC – Central Nebraska Medical Reserve Corp	MRC – Medical Reserve Corp
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 (Reg 26 911 Equip)	NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
EM – Emergency Manager	PD – Police Department
EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch	*PET – Planning Exercise Training*
EMPG – Emergency Management Performance Grant	POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
EMS – Emergency Medical Services	PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
EMT – Emergency Medical Technician	PMC – Page My Cell
EOC – Emergency Operations Center	PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
EPA – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	PSC – Public Service Commission
ERG – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	PVC – Platte Valley Communications
FAA – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)	RFP – Request for Proposal
FADD – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
FCC – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)	SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency	SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	SO – Sheriff’s Office
FY – Fiscal Year	SRS – State Radio System
GAN – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	THIRA – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
GIS – Geographic Information System	UPS – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
GPS – Global Positioning System	VFD – Volunteer Fire Department
HAZMAT – Hazardous Materials	VOAD – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
HHS – Health and Human Services (Federal)	VOIP – Voice over Internet Protocol
HSGP – Homeland Security Grant Program	V-TAC – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
ICS – Incident Command System	WEA – Wireless Emergency Alert
IPAWS – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	WCDHD – West Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
IPPW – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop	W.H.O. – World Health Organization
J.A.M.I.N. – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
JDS – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team (State Fire Marshalls)
LASO – Local Agency Security Officer	WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction
LBF – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	
LBPHD – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)	

*** 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)