

## MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

January 28, 2025

### Region 26 Council:

Present:  
Blaine Co: Matt Eggert  
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  
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman  
Tri-Co Municipalities:  
Valley, Greeley, Sherman  
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:  
Range Co. Municipalities:  
Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler  
Vacant

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

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Dave Larson to approve the agenda.  
Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Motion by Diana Hurlburt and seconded by Jack Van Slyke to approve the November 26, 2024 Minutes.  
Ayes (9) Nays (0) Abstain (1).

Public Comment: None

Motion by Jack Van Slyke and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the November and December 2024 Financial Statements. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

### Towers & Equipment Report:

- a. Alma explained the process of the equipment on the Howard County tower. We had an agreement drawn up for Howard County showing the use of the tower and that they were allowing us to utilize their tower at no charge at the "Little Sherman" or Farwell south reservoir site on Wausa Rd. Tom Bandur had sent the agreement to them and they had signed and returned. Joseph Smith made a motion with a second from Doug Pokorny for our chairman to sign the agreement. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).
- b. Alma and Jay went over the tower sites that had either battery problems or coolant leak. There was discussion on watching the batteries to not let them get over four years old before replacing.
- c. The generator maintenance was discussed and the contract was reviewed. The board asked that Alma reach out to Power Tech to see about changing the wording to increase importance of these sites now that they are also used for 911 transmission.

Alma informed the board that the Range County Municipal representative, Wade Neben, stepped down from the Thedford Village board and therefore would not be eligible to finish out his term on the Region 26 board. There were letters sent out to the Village/City Clerks of the Range County municipalities asking for nominations of

someone from their respective boards that would want to fill this position. With advisement from Attorney Sikyta, if no nominations are received then the spot can remain vacant until the election at the end of the four-year term. As of time of meeting there have been no nominations sent in.

Alma presented a picture of the 2000 Ford Explorer that has been sitting in storage for a few years. The question was if the board wanted to sell the vehicle. After discussion Dave Larson made a motion to prepare the vehicle for sale including install battery, repair tire, remove radios and then have it listed with Auction Time in Ord. Jordan Foltz seconded the motion. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

Diana Hurlburt reported on the Legislative bills that NACO reviewed and are supporting. LB576 was introduced by Senator Dorn to allow the 911 Wireless Surcharge to increase to \$1.00 per month per cell phone number for support of the 911 PSAP's across Nebraska. As we find out more on LB576, we will get this out to the board to allow time for anyone to send letters or emails in support.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Bergman said nothing to report but will be having Law Enforcement meeting next week.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous two months were passed out. For November they had 1376 Status Checks, 266 Paging, 195 Traffic Violations, 178 Wants/ Warrants/Registrations, 111 Messages, 83 Rescue Calls, 83 Minor Detail, 68 Gun Permit, 58 – 911 Accidents/Disconnect/Test, 55 Assist Other Agencies, 48 Assist Citizen, 31 Accidents, 26 Paper Service, 24 Reckless Driver, 21 Livestock Complaint, 20 Traffic Hazard, 16 Burn Permit, 15 Animal Calls, 12 Check Welfare, 12 Fire Calls, 11 Standby for Events/Fire/ Training, 10 Disturbance/Harassment/ Assault, 10 Motorist Assist, 9 Direct Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 9 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 9 Miscellaneous Tasks, 8 Alarms, 8 Siren, 7 Suspicious Vehicle, 6 Prisoner Transport, 5 Arrest, 4 Follow Up, 4 Fraudulent Activity, 4 Suspicious Events, 4 Transfer 911 Call, 3 Game Violation, 3 Suspicious Person, 3 Theft, 3 Trespassing, 2 Burglary/Break-In/Attempt, 2 Damage to Property, 2 Mutual Aid, 2 Parole/Probation/ Protection Order/Violation, 2 Radio Test, 2 Suicidal Threats/Attempts, 1 Burn without Permit, 1 Child Abuse and five various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of November was 2837 including 209 – 911 calls and 1133 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

For December they had 1405 Status Checks, 278 Paging, 214 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 174 Traffic Violations, 139 Messages, 98 Minor Detail, 70 – 911 Accidental/Disconnect/Test, 77 Gun Permit, 77 Rescue Calls, 53 Assist Other Agencies, 47 Assist Citizen, 28 Paper Service, 27 Livestock Complaint, 26 Burn Permit, 18 Accidents, 17 Miscellaneous Tasks, 15 Fire Calls, 15 Mutual Aid, 14 Reckless Driver, 12 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 12 Theft, 11 Motorist Assist, 10 Animal Calls, 10 Siren, 10 Traffic Hazard, 9 Alarms, 9 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 9 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 8 Check Welfare, 6 Arrest, 6 Suspicious Events, 6 Transfer 911 Call, 5 Follow Up, 4 Direct Traffic/Funeral/ Escort 4 Radio Test, 4 Suspicious Vehicle, 4 Uncontrollable Juvenile, 3 Gas Drive-Off, 3 Missing Person/ Juvenile, 3 Prisoner Transport, 2 Abandoned Vehicle, 2 Fraudulent Activity, 2 Terroristic Threats, 2 Vandalism, and eight various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of December was 2956 including 223 - 911 calls and 1301 Administrative calls into Dispatch only.

Dispatch Supervisor/Stena Seamann reported on the training for the two newest dispatchers they feel are able to dispatch solo but will still be scheduled with another dispatcher at this point since we have two on duty most of the time now.

- Stena reported on the last staff meeting having Region 3 and Boys town on a virtual call to discuss how it will work with a warm hand off of a 911 call that is in need of the 988 Suicide Hotline. The Public Service Commission will be sending out directives for dispatch to do the warm hand-offs to 988 possibly this year. Stena explained what we would be required to do and how it might work with Region 26 and the difficulties that may cause for our size of center.
- Will be meeting on the License Plate Readers at the Law Enforcement meeting next Friday with representatives from FLOCK present and have invited all Sheriffs from the North Central Region counties to attend.
- We have started a Region 26 LEPC committee to take the place of the three LEPC's that we had previously covering all eight counties. Our first meeting was in December.
- The annual Poster contest for all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders is underway and will be judging those soon.
- Stena handed out a copy of a task list that they have developed for the dispatchers to check mark each item on what they feel individually need additional training on. It was opportunity for the board to see what is expected of the dispatchers to be proficient in.

Director's Report:

- Alma reported on the LEOP, County emergency plan that had been completed on BOLD Planning software the last several years. NEMA informed us that they were not keeping the BOLD Planning contract due to cost and complaints that it was not user friendly and not being utilized. However, we were given a deadline to remove all counties information off of BOLD by January 15<sup>th</sup> to not lose any county information and they will have a training class in Lincoln to complete the County's emergency plans moving forward. Alma stated that much training had gone into BOLD with each of the County Emergency Managers as well, and we will assist moving forward with the emergency plans.
- FEMA had requested a report on each individual project we had in the North Central Region on the current three Homeland Security Grants that are still open. Stena was able to complete reports on 20+ projects we are still working on for the North Central Region by the deadline.
- Alma and Stena attended the NACO Conference in Kearney.
- We held an EMS Captain and Co-Captain meeting with dispatchers on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We had 14 of the 16 Ambulance squads represented and one outside of the Region that we often page out.
- The weekly Ice Jam conference calls have started for the season for the Emergency Managers with the Hastings Weather Service that covers conditions on Loup & Platte Rivers.
- Both Helicopter emergency air service companies (Apollo/Aircare and Air Methods/LifeNet) came to dispatch this past month to install software on our laptops at the dispatch workstations to be able to communicate with each of the companies to put a helicopter into service or monitor their location when in the air.
- Attended the Lou-Platte Mutual Aid meeting in Ansley in December and was able to get a verbal yes on the Task Force. If assistance was requested, we can call on them which this District is mostly Sherman County departments and Arcadia, North Loup, Ansley, Mason City and Ravenna.
- Attended the Loup Valley Mutual Aid meeting in Greeley and received a vote approving the Loup Valley Task Force for 14 departments in Garfield, Wheeler, Sherman, Valley and including towns of Primrose, Elba, Comstock and Sargent.
- Attended the Sandhills Mutual Aid this month in Thedford. In attendance with the North Platte Weather Service and looking at going into a dry spring.
- NEMA had notified us today that there has been a hold placed on all Federal funds beginning at 5 pm today, which would affect our grants that we are waiting reimbursement on. It will be temporary but unknown how long.
- Alma attended the Loup Basin MRC quarterly meeting last night in Ord. They are trying to get the MRC moving forward.

Other Business: Sheriff Smith said he wanted us to know of his satisfaction of the two new dispatchers and approval of the job they are doing and said that we have a good crew in dispatch.

Sheriff Bergman asked about the tower equipment for Little Sherman/East Sherman and how that was coming and if radio reprogramming was planned. Alma said things have been ordered and working on the equipment. They are not doing the reprogramming, but will if asked to do so.

Diana Hurlburt questioned the equipment for Garfield County and what had been found out for the tower in Burwell. We had no information yet from Hamilton Telephone about getting on tower. The concern was also to not run out of time getting this done in regards to funds deadline.

Next regular meeting date will be February 25, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

## ACRONYMS

<b>ALI</b> – Automatic Location Identification	<b>LBPHD</b> – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)
<b>ANI</b> – Automatic Number Identification	<b>LE</b> – Law Enforcement
<b>APCO</b> – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials	<b>LEPC</b> – Local Emergency Planning Committee
<b>CAD</b> – Computer Aided Dispatch	<b>LEDRS</b> – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
<b>CC</b> – Communications Center	<b>LEOP</b> – Local Emergency Operations Plan
<b>CERT</b> – Community Emergency Response Team	<b>MACH</b> – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
<b>CJIS</b> – Criminal Justice Information System	<b>MRC</b> – Medical Reserve Corp
<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* (see below)
<b>DR</b> – Disaster Recovery	<b>NIMS</b> – National Incident Management System
<b>DOR</b> – Department of Roads	<b>NIRMA</b> – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
<b>E911</b> – Enhanced 911	<b>NRIN</b> – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
<b>EAS</b> – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)	<b>NX-Gen</b> – Next Generation 911
<b>ECW</b> – Emergency Call Works (Reg 26 911 Equip)	<b>PD</b> – Police Department
<b>EM</b> – Emergency Manager	<b>*PET</b> – Planning Exercise Training* (see below)
<b>EMD</b> – Emergency Medical Dispatch	<b>POD</b> – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
<b>EMPG</b> – Emergency Management Performance Grant	<b>PPE</b> – Personal Protective Equipment
<b>EMS</b> – Emergency Medical Services	<b>PMC</b> – Page My Cell (to Page out Departments)
<b>EMT</b> – Emergency Medical Technician	<b>PSAP</b> – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
<b>EOC</b> – Emergency Operations Center	<b>PSC</b> – Public Service Commission
<b>EPA</b> – Environmental Protection Agency (Federal)	<b>PVC</b> – Platte Valley Communications
<b>ERG</b> – Emergency Response Guide (Orange Book – Hazardous Materials)	<b>RFP</b> – Request for Proposal
<b>FAA</b> – Federal Aviation Admin. (Report tower light outages)	<b>SEAT</b> – Single Engine Air Tanker
<b>FADD</b> – Foreign Animal Disease Diagnostician	<b>SEOC</b> – State Emergency Operation Center
<b>FCC</b> – Federal Communications Commission (for Radio Frequency Licenses)	<b>SHSP</b> – State Homeland Security Program
<b>FEMA</b> – Federal Emergency Management Agency	<b>SO</b> – Sheriff's Office
<b>FMD</b> – Foot and Mouth Disease (Livestock)	<b>SRS</b> – State Radio System
<b>FY</b> – Fiscal Year	<b>T-CPR</b> – Telecommunicator CPR
<b>GAN</b> – Grant Adjustment Notice (aka Grant Award)	<b>THIRA</b> – Threat & Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
<b>GIS</b> – Geographic Information System	<b>UPS</b> – Universal Power Supply (workstation backup power supply until generator starts)
<b>GPS</b> – Global Positioning System	<b>VFD</b> – Volunteer Fire Department
<b>gWORKS</b> – Public information on Property by County	<b>VOAD</b> – Volunteer Organization Aiding Disasters
<b>HAZMAT</b> – Hazardous Materials	<b>VOIP</b> – Voice over Internet Protocol
<b>HHS</b> – Health and Human Services (Federal)	<b>V-TAC</b> – Mutual Aid VHF Frequency Channels
<b>HSGP</b> – Homeland Security Grant Program	<b>WEA</b> – Wireless Emergency Alert
<b>ICS</b> – Incident Command System	<b>WCDHD</b> – West Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
<b>IPAWS</b> – Integrated Public Alert Warning System	<b>W.H.O.</b> – World Health Organization
<b>IPPW</b> – Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop	<b>WPC</b> – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
<b>J.A.M.I.N.</b> – Jail Administration Management Information Network (Part of Justice Data Solutions)	<b>WIRAT</b> – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team
<b>JDS</b> – Justice Data Solutions (Law Enforcement Records Management & CAD software system)	<b>WMD</b> – Weapons of Mass Destruction
<b>LASO</b> – Local Agency Security Officer	<b>* North Central PET Region Includes:</b>
<b>LBF</b> – Lee Bird Field – North Platte (Airport) Weather Service Location	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)