

MINUTES of the REGION 26 COUNCIL

March 31, 2026

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
Valley Co: Theresa Petska
Wheeler Co: Doug Pokorny
Law Enforce: Joel Bergman
Range Co. Municipalities:

Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler
Paige Ryschon

Tri-Co Municipalities:

Valley, Greeley, Sherman
Jay Meyer, Chairman

Absent:

Greeley Co: Jordan Foltz
Ord, City of: Branden Stoural

Staff Present: Alma Beland/Director, Virginia Michalski/Office Manager, Catie Larsen/Deputy EM, Miki Gerten/Chief Dispatcher/CTO

Visitors Present: Greg Gehl, Zac Thramer, Caden Johnson

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 Joseph Smith and seconded by Diana Hurlburt to approve the agenda.

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

Motion by Doug Pokorny and seconded by Joseph Smith to approve the February 24, 2026 Minutes.

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

Public Comment: None

Motion by Jay Meyer and seconded by Tom Bandur to approve the February 2026 Financial Statement.

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

Motion by Theresa Petska and seconded by Joel Bergman to approve the March 2026 Claims.

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

Tower & Equipment Report: Alma reported that no word has been received from Custer County regarding the Ansley tower other than communications with the village Clerk of Ansley on anything we had for access of the tower. Diana asked that Custer County be contacted regarding the Ansley tower.

Platte Valley was going to get cost on moving our radio lines to the microwave connection we currently have or if a second small microwave would be a better option for the radio lines that are being removed from copper lines. Hamilton had come back with a monthly cost to go over fiber which was considerably higher than we are currently paying.

Platte Valley was coming to Brewster today to work on radios and check paging with the Sheriff to find what has been causing some problems in that area.

Jay Meyer brought up the bid for the garage that was for an enclosed carport that would be the same size as the old dispatch. The board would demolish the old dispatch building and utilize the concrete for the carport. The carport would need electricity installed. The water, AC unit and phone block would need removed. Alma said the building permit was ready and held up knowing type of structure that would be going in. Theresa Petska made a motion with a second from Tom Bandur to approve the bid for the enclosed carport structure per the bid received. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstain (0).

A letter was received in from Wheeler County asking for a renewal of the Region 26 Interlocal Agreement for two years with a one-year notice of termination at any time during the term. After discussion the board asked that since the letter of termination was there, that they need to rescind the original motion of termination since it is still on the record. Jay asked for a copy of the minutes showing that a motion was made to rescind the original motion to leave Region 26 and showing that they want to stay in Region 26 with a signed new Interlocal Agreement that will be sent out this week to all the County Clerks and Ord City Clerk to be on their agendas for signature.

The Preliminary Budget review: Alma stated that she had not made any changes to what had been presented last month and had been working on the insurance valuation on towers and equipment/contents. Alma had question on the valuation of the buildings that she asked the board for assistance. They felt there was not anything they could do at this time without information from NIRMA on cost. The board was concerned that there was no information back on the breakdown of the budget and wanted all of that by next meeting. Discussion was held on the division of cost and stats and how can it be improved.

Diana Hurlburt had set up a time with Party Line Part 2 at the KNLV radio station for Tuesday, April 7th at 1:30 to talk about Region 26 and asked board members to come be a part of this. She also said this could be set up for future discussions and asked about times. The board suggested a monthly timeframe. The board discussed having a place on our web page to be able to make donations direct to Region 26 through a PayPal account that would need to have a specific bank account set for that which Catie had looked into.

Criminal Justice Board Report: Sheriff Bergman reported on Flock letter received on business registration and they wanted research information and he was questioning if it was a legitimate letter and was checking with Flock directly and waiting to hear any information back from them. There was a meeting coming up for a presentation on a different CAD system for the Law Enforcement and dispatch to attend and he had heard back from others to see what was coming from that.

Communications Center Report: Statistics breakdown for the previous month were passed out. They had 1340 Status Checks, 266 Pages, 265 Wants/Warrants/Registrations, 252 Burn Permits, 225 Traffic Violations, 94 Messages, 93 Minor Detail, 75 Assist Other Agencies, 74 Rescue Calls, 58 Gun Permits, 40 Assist Citizen, 35 – 911 Accidental /Disconnect, 33 Standby for Events/Fire/Training, 25 Accidents, 23 Fire Calls, 22 Paper Service, 19 Mutual Aid, 18 Livestock Complaint, 14 Animal Calls, 13 Reckless Driver, 12 Siren, 11 Arrests, 11 Disturbance/Harassment/Assault, 11 Follow-Up, 11 Patient Transport, 10 Traffic Hazard, 8 City Ordinance Violation, 8 Miscellaneous Tasks, 8 Suspicious Events, 8 Suspicious Vehicle, 5 Check Welfare, 5 Keys Locked in Vehicle, 5 Radio Test, 5 Transfer 911 Calls, 4 Direct

Traffic/Funeral/Escort, 4 Theft, 3 Fraudulent Activity, 3 Motorist Assist, 3 Truancy, 2 Abandoned Vehicle, 2 Criminal Mischief, 2 Death Investigation, 2 Driving Under the Influence, 2 Drug Violation, 2 Littering/Dumping, 2 Prisoner Transport, 1 Child Pornography, 1 Missing Person/Juvenile, and 11 various other incidents. Total number of contacts to the Communications Center for the month of February was 3146 including 202 - 911 calls and 1313 Administrative calls into Dispatch only. Miki Gerten/Chief Dispatcher gave her report on work done in dispatch and with the progress of the new trainees and training opportunities that they have coming up. There are the Storm Spotter trainings, Caden attended Lou-Platte Mutual Aid with Alma, Taylor and Virginia attended Job Fair in Burwell with multiple schools, The NIMS training in Ord with senior officials. She reported on the fires that they had 29 calls for service on fires alone as well as 107 Mutual aid calls for fires. The trainees done extremely well in assisting with the fire calls. She has now done training with Flock for use in dispatch. They have been planning to start ride-a longs with Law Enforcement. Virginia handed out a spreadsheet of stats divided by county that the board had requested.

Deputy Emergency Manager Report: Catie Larsen reported on sending out ideas for Mission Statement and handed those out and asked the board members to checkmark which one they liked and turn it in. She reported on the North Central PET funds and the Investment Justifications that were now being asked if the PET Region would do a cost share. She has been working to spend down some of the current funds we have and has the Active Shooter training scheduled for May and assisted Logan County with getting a hand on training set up. She was getting an additional TV for our EOC and possibly a smart board. There has been approval for additional Salamander equipment. She had all the counties set up for their storm spotter talks. She worked with the Brown/Rock Deputy on creating a North Central PET newsletter and getting additional THIRA workshops in our North Central counties for identifying needs. She has looked into having a LEOP training and submitting an application for a Deb Fischer grant for a new CAD System.

Director's Report: Alma had reports of the fires that they had this month but had been covered in previous reports. She did report on activating both the Loup Valley and Lou-Platte Task Forces for the Cottonwood fire near Brady and again the following week for the Hyannis Minor and Ashby fires. Reported on assisting the Howard County EM in calling out airplane for the Elba fire. She worked with CodeRED and testing the callouts with their new system prior to the Tornado Drill. Worked with CodeRed on retrieving reports to determine that we have everything with the new system set effectively for our call outs. The report from NEMA came on the Rocky Mountain CIMT 2 Team that would be staging in six locations for us to call upon for a while until there is moisture in the state. She clarified the information and how the were to be called out for help and if we were still okay to contact local air suppression if needed and that it would be paid for if the expectation was to contact the Task Force first. She sent the information to the Departments and helped with questions.

Chairman asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel. A motion was made by Theresa Petska and seconded by Dave Larson to go into executive session. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstained (0). Executive session entered at 8:24 pm.

A motion was made by Dave Larson and seconded by Doug Pokorny to reconvene to public session at 11:10 pm. Ayes (10) Nays (0) Abstained (0).

Findings: None

Other Business: Region 26 received a donation from the Valley County "Big Give" of \$1000 by Diana Hurlburt.

Next regular meeting date will be April 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Chairman Meyer adjourned the meeting at 11:12 pm.

Alma Beland, Director/Coordinator

ACRONYMS

ALI – Automatic Location Identification (for 911)
ANI – Automatic Number Identification (for 911)
APCO – Assoc. of Public Communications Officials
ASR # – Antenna Structure Registration (Tower ID #)
CAD – Computer Aided Dispatch
CC – Communications Center
CERT – Community Emergency Response Team
CJIS – Criminal Justice Information System
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)
CTO – Chief Training Officer
DEE – was DEQ ... Changed to DWEE July 2025
DHHS – Department of Health & Human Services (State)
DHS – Department of Homeland Security
DR – Disaster Recovery
DOT – Department of Transportation - (NDOT) Nebraska
DWEE – Department of Water, Environmental & Energy (State)
E911 – Enhanced 911
EAS – Emergency Alert System (FEMA)
ECW – Emergency Call Works (Reg 26 911 Equip)
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
gWORKS – Public information on Property by County
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
LBPHE – Loup Basin Public Health Department (covers Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley, Sherman)
LE – Law Enforcement
LEPC – Local Emergency Planning Committee
LEDRS – Livestock Emergency Disease Response System
LEOP – Local Emergency Operations Plan
MACH – Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling
MRC – Medical Reserve Corp
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* (see below)
NIMS – National Incident Management System
NIRMA – NE Intergovernmental Risk Management Association
NRIN – Nebraska Regional Interoperable Network
NX-Gen – Next Generation 911
PD – Police Department
***PET** – Planning Exercise Training* (see below)
POD – Points of Dispensing (Immunization)
PPE – Personal Protective Equipment
PMC – Page My Cell (secondary Paging to Depts.)
PSAP – Public Safety Answering Point (911 Centers)
PSC – Public Service Commission
PVC – Platte Valley Communications
RFP – Request for Proposal
RoIP – Radio over Internet Protocol
SEAT – Single Engine Air Tanker
SEOC – State Emergency Operation Center
SHSP – State Homeland Security Program
SME – Subject Matter Expert (Homeland Security Grants)
SO – Sheriff's Office
SRS – State Radio System
T-CPR – Telecommunicator CPR
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 Cent. District Hlth Dept. (Covers Thomas)
W.H.O. – World Health Organization
WPC – Weather Prediction Center – Norman, OK
WIRAT – Wildland Incident Response Assistance Team
WMD – Weapons of Mass Destruction

*** North Central PET Region Includes:**

Keith, Arthur, Grant, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Cherry-Keya Paha, Brown-Rock, Boyd-Holt and Region 26: (Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley, Valley and Sherman)