

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
JOINT SPECIAL SERVICE AREA COMMISSIONS
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

I. Call to Order

Commission Chairperson Trost called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Courthouse in Galena, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Roll Call was answered as follows: Present – LaDon Trost, John Schultz, Steve Endress, Ross Stumpf. Present: 4. Present electronically: 0. Absent – Laura Busch, Brynn Calow. Absent: 2.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Attending the meeting from the public were Ben Petitgout and Susan Miller with Galena EMS, and Lucas Bourquin with Warren Ambulance.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 6, 2025, Joint Special Service Area Commissions meeting was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.

V. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

VI. Unfinished Business

None.

VII. New Business

Discussion regarding the proposed changes to the existing contracts included a clarification of how the County distributes revenue collected on behalf of each SSA. The County is required to distribute the funds collected, but not interest earned. The new language clarifies this and the County will look at their software program to make changes to ensure each SSA account is zeroed out at the end of each fiscal year. Conversation continued regarding the contract requirement of reserve funds and how best to reflect the EMS providers intentions with capital projects. Representatives from Galena EMS stated they currently have everything in one fund, which gives the appearance of having a higher reserve, when in reality, they've been setting aside funds to pay for future projects. Their plan is to create a Capital Investment fund to clearly designate their financial intent. The Commission expressed concern that signing a revised contract now, before the EMS providers can establish a Capital Investment fund would immediately put them out of compliance. It was suggested the revised contract be forwarded for approval, but the execution could come once they have their plan in place, since they are still operating under the current contract. There were small grammatical edits suggested and applied.

These minutes are not the official record until final approval at the next committee meeting and all minutes may be changed until officially approved.

A motion to recommend clarifications to the Special Service Area Contracts between Jo Daviess County and Warren Ambulance Service, Galena Area EMS District, and Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service as presented was made by John Schultz and seconded by Ross Stumpf. The motion carried by voice vote.

VIII. Commission Member Concerns

There were no commission member concerns.

IX. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:06 PM by John Schultz and seconded by Ross Stumpf. Motion carried by voice vote.

The next meeting is TBD