

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
AD-HOC PUBLIC SAFETY INTEGRATION STUDY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2026

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Trost called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM on Thursday, May 21, 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 – Dianne Allendorf, Steve Endress, Angela Kaiser, Klaus Kretschmer, Kirk Raab, LaDon Trost. Present: 6. Present electronically – John Creighton. Present electronically: 1. Absent: 0.

III. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026 Ad-Hoc Public Safety Integration Study Committee meeting was made by Dianne Allendorf and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

Discussion with representatives from the Village of Stockton regarding expectations, desired service levels, and financial capacity: Representatives from the Village of Stockton, led by Village President Mitchell Kappes, discussed long-term financial pressures affecting the village's ability to sustain its police department. Kappes described rising costs for insurance, vehicles, equipment, and pensions, noting that while the village is currently stable, projecting 10 years ahead reveals potential financial issues. He asked the committee to explore what full or partial county coverage might look like, including emergency-only response, part-time coverage, or full absorption of police services.

County staff presented a detailed financial model outlining the cost of the county providing full police services to Stockton. The County Administrator explained that the analysis assumed 10-year deputies under the county's collective bargaining agreement, with required equipment, benefits, and vehicles. She emphasized that based on the current village budget, it would cost more to outsource the coverage than to provide it under current village operations. She also noted significant variables such as training, staffing, and facility limitations.

The Sheriff and Chief Deputy discussed operational impacts, stating that reducing Stockton's current coverage would be *"a disservice to the citizens"* and that minimum staffing would require at least four

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officers assigned to Stockton to maintain safe coverage levels, especially given school locations and anticipated industrial park development. They also noted that the county currently provides valuable mutual aid to the village when needed, and that response times could lengthen significantly if the village eliminated its department.

Committee members discussed the implications for economic development, with one member cautioning that eliminating the local department *“would be seen as a massive negative to a potential tenant”* in the proposed industrial park. The group also reviewed how mutual aid agreements function today and how they might support reduced-hours models similar to Warren or Hanover.

Village representatives reiterated that they are not seeking immediate changes but are planning for long-term sustainability. They noted mixed public sentiment and indicated that any major change would require public input, stating they would hold a public hearing if and when it got to that point.

VII. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

VIII. Committee Member Concerns

Steve Endress recognized Stockton's strong police work and expressed concerns about losing 24-hour coverage and acknowledged shared staffing challenges across agencies. One member noted, *“once you lose that, it's kind of hard to get it back”*.

IX. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 10:45 AM by Steve Endress and seconded by Dianne Allendorf. Motion carried by voice vote.

Next committee meeting TBD