

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

I. Call to Order

Committee Chairperson Trost called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 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 – Steve Endress, John Schultz, Ross Stumpf, LaDon Trost. 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 Gabe King with Galena EMS, Roger Kent and Lucas Bourquin with Warren Ambulance, and Francis Wachter and Joel Buss with Elizabeth Ambulance.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2026 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

VI. Special Service Area #1

Warren Area Ambulance reported a productive year with 340 calls, the highest to date. The service secured grant funding for equipment upgrades, expanded daytime staffing with an additional full-time employee, and maintained a strong volunteer base. **A motion to accept the Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc. FY2026 annual reports was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Warren Area Ambulance requested levy authority at the maximum tax rate. Based on current assessor estimates, projected 2026 payable 2027 revenue is \$374,558.73. **A motion to approve the Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc. FY2027 service provider budget request was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VII. Special Service Area #6

Galena EMS reported 998 patient responses during the fiscal year and noted receipt of several grants. The service participates in the Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) Medicaid reimbursement program, receiving quarterly payments and returning the required 50%. Galena continues transitioning from a volunteer model toward a hybrid paid staffing structure and anticipates adding a second paramedic in the fall. **A motion to accept the Galena Area EMS District FY2026 annual reports was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion**

carried by voice vote.

Galena EMS requested funding at the maximum rate of 10 cents per \$100 EAV. Based on current assessor estimates, projected 2026 payable 2027 revenue is \$712,290.44. Commissioners discussed wage increases, billing rate adjustments, and reserve levels. Commissioners asked for the submission of a five-year capital plan demonstrating compliance with reserve requirements, as required in the contract. **A motion to approve the Galena Area EMS District FY2027 service provider budget request once a five-year capital plan has been submitted was made by Ross Stumpf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.**

VIII. Special Service Area #7

Elizabeth reported 215 calls for the year, approximately 30 fewer than prior years. Staffing includes two full-time paramedics, four part-time paramedics, and one part-time EMT-Basic, with remaining coverage provided by volunteers. Recruitment challenges continue due to regional competition for paramedics. **A motion to accept the Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service FY2026 annual reports was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

Elizabeth requested levy authority at the maximum rate of 30 cents per \$100 EAV. Based on current assessor estimates, projected 2026 payable 2027 revenue is \$541,895.63. **A motion to approve the Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service FY2027 service provider budget request was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.**

IX. Commission Member Concerns

Members reiterated the importance of receiving five-year capital plans to ensure compliance with reserve requirements. Additional comments included concerns about missed opioid settlement funding opportunities. Commissioner Stumpf offered remarks expressing appreciation for EMS providers and acknowledging the difficulty of balancing fiscal oversight with service needs.

X. Citizens' Comments

There were no citizens' comments.

XI. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:00 PM by John Schultz and seconded by Ross Stumpf. Motion carried by voice vote.

The next meeting is TBD