

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
JOINT SPECIAL SERVICE AREA COMMISSIONS
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2025

I. Call to Order

Jo Daviess County Chairperson Trost called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, August 6, 2025 in the Jo Daviess County Board Room, Jo Daviess County Administrative Offices 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 – Laura Busch. Present electronically: 1. Absent – Brad Albrecht, Brynn Calow. Absent: 2.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Attending the meeting from the public were Francis Wachter, Rick Dittmar, and Joel Buss with Elizabeth Ambulance, Roger Kent and Lucas Bourquin with Warren Ambulance, Ben Petitgout and Gabe King with Galena EMS.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2024 Joint Budget Review of 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. Special Service Area #1

Discussion and possible action on Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc FY2025 annual reports: Roger Kent, President of the Warren Area Ambulance Service talked about last year's statistics; run totals were up by 47 from the previous year. He stated the tax rate increase has yielded additional revenue, which gives them more breathing room. Lucas Bourquin presented their audit and minutes from the past year. He was asked if they've been able to set aside funds for capital projects, to which he replied they were.

A motion to accept the Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc FY2025 annual reports was made by Laura Busch and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to approve the Warren Area Ambulance Service, Inc FY2026 service provider budget request and to set the levy rate at the maximum of .20% per \$100 of EAV was made by Laura Busch and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

VII. Special Service Area #6

Discussion and possible action on Galena Area EMS District FY2025 annual reports: Ben Petitgout presented the annual report and stated their calls increased by 12.8% last year. They hope to take

delivery of a new ambulance later this year. He introduced Gabe King, who has replaced Bill Bingham and is doing a fine job and together, they answered questions from the commission on audit categories, working capital, and whether they had surplus funds going into FY26.

A motion to accept the Galena Area EMS District FY2025 annual reports was made by John Schultz and seconded by Steve Endress. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to approve the Galena Area EMS District FY2026 service provider budget request and to set the levy rate at the maximum of .10% per \$100 of EAV was made by Ross Stumpf and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

VIII. Special Service Area #7

Discussion and possible action on Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service FY2025 annual reports: Joel Buss reported on the year's calls and spoke of their need for volunteers, as their group is aging and is not being replaced. Diane Heidenreich is training her replacement and will be retiring later this year.

A motion to accept the Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service FY2025 annual reports was made by Steve Endress and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion to approve the Elizabeth Community Ambulance Service FY2026 service provider budget request and set the levy rate at the maximum of .30 per \$100 of EAV was made by Steve Endress and seconded by John Schultz. The motion carried by voice vote.

IX. Commission Member Concerns

None.

X. Citizens' Comments

All provider representatives expressed their concern over aging volunteer groups. They have very few new volunteers and worry about the future of the services.

Ben Petitgout spoke at length about tourism and how it impacts Galena Area EMS. Property tax paid by the county's residents doesn't cover the added coverage needed for the daily influx of tourists. He'd like the County to pursue additional funding methods that aren't put on the backs of the residents, but instead, on non-resident tourists. He was asked if he'd reached out to Galena Country Tourism to express his concerns and he stated he had not, but will. The commission agreed the County's infrastructure cannot support the thousands of additional visitors each year.

Gabe King talked about the need for long-range projections and being prepared for the future.

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:13 PM by John Schultz and seconded by Ross Stumpf. Motion carried by voice vote.

The next meeting is TBD in 2026