



TO: Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Telephone Systems (E.T.S.B.) Board Members
FROM: Amanda Jennings, 911 Coordinator
DATE: August 21, 2026
SUBJECT: Galesburg/Knox County E.T.S.B. Meeting Minutes on Thursday, August 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Telephone Systems Board (E.T.S.B.) was held on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 09:00 a.m. in the Chief of Police Office of the Public Safety Building, 150 South Broad Street, Galesburg, Illinois, 61401.

PRESENT: Galesburg Police Chief Kevin Legate- E.T.S.B. Chairman, Galesburg Fire Chief Randy Hovind, Bill Stone- WIFA Representative, Sid Carlson- EMS Representative, Zachary Crawl- Member-at-Large, Amanda Jennings- 911 Coordinator, Deputy Chief Sage, and Ray Martinez- City of Galesburg IT

ABSENT: Sheriff Jack Harlan- E.T.S.B. Vice Chairman, Jared Hawkinson- Knox County Board Member, Richard Springer- EMS Member-at-Large, Robin Davis- Knox County Treasurer, and Nate Clark- Motorola.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 09:04 a.m. by Galesburg Police Chief Kevin Legate. A quorum was present. Member Crawl motioned to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2026 meeting. Member Stone seconded. Motion passed with no opposition.

APPROVE:

FINANCIAL REPORT: The current fund balance is \$1,299,968.86. Amanda reported receipt of approximately \$85,000 in returned surcharge funds from the prior year. Larger expenses included remaining Motorola STARCOM payments and the recording system update associated with the Motorola project. Member Carlson motioned to approve the financial report. Fire Chief Hovind seconded. Motion approved.

Liabilities:

Month	Bill Totals
May	\$205,590.41
June	\$70,242.33
July	\$22,567.54
August	\$35,387.72

AGENDA ORDER: Fire Chief Hovind presented his report first because he needed to leave early. Member Crawl motioned to amend the agenda order to address New Business before returning to the remaining reports. Chief Legate seconded. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

AMANDA JENNINGS- Galesburg/Knox County 9-1-1 Coordinator

Month	911 & Admin Total	911 Calls	Cell	Landline	VOIP	Abandoned
April	8,943	2,005	1,640	78	281	142



May	9,571	2,102	1,761	97	241	138
June	10,786	2,333	1,889	94	335	179
July	11,409	2,182	1,835	56	285	145

Amanda reported that the move to the renovated communications center and the STARCOM radio transition went smoothly, with only minor issues and no interruption of service. Staff are adjusting well, morale has improved, and visitors have provided positive feedback. Chief Legate credited the teamwork among Dispatch, City IT, Motorola, and MCA.

Two trainees are expected to complete training by the beginning of October, which would bring Dispatch to full staffing. One trainee has returned from maternity leave. In-house training was held in July to prepare staff for the updated Fire and EMS SOPs.

Several staff members are attending a Survive and Thrive stress resilience course in the new conference room today. The peer support team is expanding, with additional training scheduled for the following week.

NATE CLARK- Motorola

Absent

RANDY HOVIND- Galesburg Fire Department

Chief Hovind reported that work continues on the Emergency Operations Plan and communications annex as part of the accreditation process. Accreditation is due in July 2027, and he hopes to complete the work this year. Five additional tabletop exercises are needed. He discussed coordinating with Amanda and the local amateur radio group regarding ARES/RACES involvement and the group's certification process.

Approval has been received to begin filling the vacancy created by John Seitz's retirement as a Fire Marshal position. Additional information will be provided at a future meeting.

BILL STONE- WIFA

Member Stone reported that fall fire school will be held Saturday beginning at 8:00 a.m., with approximately 100 firefighters expected to attend. He thanked the Galesburg Fire Department, including Brock and Josh, for their continued assistance and preparation.

JARED HAWKINSON- Knox County Board

Absent

SID CARLSON- EMS Representative

Member Carlson reported that EMS call volume and emergency room activity remain very busy throughout the area. He also noted the 89th annual New Windsor Rodeo taking place this weekend.

RICHARD SPRINGER- EMS Member-at-Large

Absent

KEVIN LEGATE- Board Chairman and Galesburg Police Department

Chief Legate reported staffing at 52 of 53 authorized officer positions. Two officers will be hired Monday, bringing staffing to 54 until an anticipated January retirement returns the department to 53. School



Resource Officer Todd Olinger plans to retire in mid-January and is training the new school resource officer. Four officers are completing field training, improving patrol coverage.

JACK HARLAN- Board Vice Chairman & Knox County Sheriff's Office

Absent

ZACHARY CROWL- Member-at-Large

Member Crowl noted that school is back in session. No additional report was given.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT RADIO CONNECTIVITY PROJECT: Amanda presented quotes and discussed replacing aging copper radio circuits with fiber connections. Copper equipment is becoming obsolete, repairs are increasingly difficult, and audio quality has deteriorated. Mid Century currently serves Altona, Maquon, Williamsfield, and Victoria, and its network could also serve Knoxville, Abingdon, and Yates City.

Proposed pricing includes \$100 per month per agency circuit, \$325 per month for the PSAP connection, and a one-time installation fee of \$500 per agency and the PSAP. MCA hardware is estimated at \$5,297.58 per department, or \$63,570.96 for 12 agencies. Existing equipment at the backup site may reduce the hardware needed for some locations. Final equipment requirements and connectivity options remain to be determined.

Altona was proposed as the initial test site so MCA, Mid Century, and City IT can verify the equipment and fiber configuration before expanding the project. The Board discussed potentially retaining existing radio frequency links as backups and finding connectivity options for agencies outside Mid Century's service area.

Member Crowl motioned to approve Altona as the test site. Member Stone seconded. Motion approved. A more detailed plan will be brought back to the Board following testing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Member Stone motioned to adjourn the meeting at 09:30 a.m. Member Carlson seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

cc: Kelli Bennewitz, City Clerk
Media