



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEMS BOARD

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Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Telephone Systems Board (E.T.S.B.) Minutes

TO: Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Telephone Systems (E.T.S.B.) Board Members
FROM: Jenna Hunt, PSB Records Clerk
DATE: February 23, 2026
SUBJECT: Galesburg/Knox E.T.S.B. Meeting Minutes Friday, February 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Galesburg/Knox County Emergency Telephone Systems Board (E.T.S.B.) was held on Friday, February 20, 2026 at 09:00 a.m. in the Police Chief's office of the Public Safety Building, 150 S Broad Street, Galesburg, Illinois, 61401.

PRESENT: Galesburg Police Chief Kevin Legate- E.T.S.B. Chairman, Sheriff Jack Harlan- E.T.S.B Vice Chairman, Galesburg Fire Chief Randy Hovind, Bill Stone- WIFA Representative, Richard Springer – EMS Member-at-Large, Amanda Jennings- 911 Coordinator, and Jenna Hunt – Records Clerk

ABSENT: Sid Carlson- EMS Representative, Jared Hawkinson- Knox County Board Member, Robin Davis- Knox County Treasurer and Zachary Crowl- Member-at-Large.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 09:06 a.m. by Galesburg Police Chief Kevin Legate. Fire Chief Hovind motioned to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2025 meeting. Sheriff Jack Harlan gave a second motion. Motion passed.

APPROVE:

FINANCIAL REPORT: The current fund balance is \$1,891,814.56

Liabilities:

Month	Bill Totals
January	\$168,110.05
February	\$737,262.99

There was a large payment for the Starcom project. The majority of the larger payments have been paid for the renovation project. The next larger payment will be for the decommission of the current dispatch center. Member Springer motioned to approve the financial report. Sheriff Harlan seconded. Motion approved.

REPORTS:

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

Month	911 & Admin Total	911 Calls	Cell	Landline	VOIP	Abandoned
December	8,259	1,716	1,432	31	244	128
2025	114,059	23,566	19,512	655	3,271	1,701
January	8,693	1,848	1,489	66	289	133

Amanda reported the following:

We have one trainee that is on the floor training currently on a day platoon and will transition to nights mid-March for the remainder of her training. In May, she will be going on maternity leave. When she comes returns, she will



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have extended training before being released for solo work. A new dispatcher was hired and her first day was on Monday. Dispatch has been on 12 hour shifts since the beginning of the year, and has had great feedback so far.

Police Chief Legate and Amanda will be attending 911 Goes to Springfield on Tuesday. This is for efforts to assist with the dollar increase on surcharge revenue. They have an appointment already with IL Representative Dan Swanson, and waiting to hear back from other state representatives. Illinois State Police is also requiring all ETSB's to have their own FEIN number. This was announced in January with a deadline at the end of next week. All departments are filing for extensions. Sheriff Harlan suggested to have Amanda also reach out to Representative Travis Weaver to get an appointment to speak with him as well. Amanda asked the board to reach out to the different associations they are a part of to try to get a push on the dollar surcharge. She is also hopeful that ISP will support the increase as well.

A tentative open house date for the new dispatch center is scheduled for Wednesday April 22nd.

A meeting was held with Yates City, Elmwood and Williamsfield Fire Departments, Knox and Peoria County 911 representatives, IT and Mobile Communications America Inc. regarding advance dispatch capabilities. MOUs will be required to move forward. Both 911 agencies have in-progress technology upgrades that need to be completed before moving forward.

NATE CLARK- Motorola
Absent

RANDY HOVIND- Galesburg Fire Department

The fire department will be swearing in the next recruit on Monday. The department will still be one short until Deputy Chief John Seitz retires at the end of March. Chief Hovind is hoping to send candidates to the fall academy.

Starting in March, the EMA (Emergency Management Agency) will be switching to IPAWS instead of using CodeRed for the county alert system. IPAWS is a nation-wide alerting system with no sign up required for the public. The alerts go over the phones automatically and they are also able to coordinate alerts to certain areas. Also, Fire Chief Hovind mentioned that the accreditation for EMA was extended to the summer of 2027, but ours will be finished by this summer.

BILL STONE-WIFA

There have been a lot of grass fires lately. Member Stone believes the WIFA Board members will stay the same but the secretary position may change. He also mentioned that discussions for the standardizations of the SOP's is going well, believed to be around 90% of the departments that are for the standardization.

JARED HAWKINSON- Knox County Board
Absent

SID CARLSON- EMS Representative
Absent

RICHARD SPRINGER- EMS Member-at-Large
He reported no formal updates.

KEVIN LEGATE- Board Chairman and Galesburg Police Department

The department is fully staffed until tomorrow with the retirement of Lt. Jason Shaw. We currently have four candidates in the academy that have approximately two months before graduation. We also have a new K9, Daum, with Noah Harlan being the handler. There is one more candidate on the current hiring eligibility list and the background process has started. There will also be a new testing cycle that will be conducted this Spring.



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

The Sheriff's Office is currently fully staffed on patrol and they are getting ready to hire three for the jail. The second K9 academy will start on March 2nd with twelve enrolled. County has three of those spots reserved. The department is projecting to have five K9 academies each year.

The jail has all new cameras and the courthouse is starting to get new cameras as well. County board is potentially looking into building a new courthouse. The current courthouse needs a lot of updating/fixing and would be more cost effective to build a new building.

The department has three new vehicles with three more coming.

The speed limit is going to be changing to 35mph for the entirety of S. Lake Storey Road. Sheriff is having the patrol deputies in the area doing a traffic detail for two weeks. The average speed from the issued citations so far has been 60 mph in a 35mph zone.

ZACHARY CROWL-Member-at-Large

Absent

OLD BUSINESS

Renovations for the new dispatch center and STARCOM are in the hands of Motorola, MCA and the IT Department. The anticipated "go live" date for the new dispatch center is April 28th.

NEW BUSINESS

Amanda had presented the annual financial report to the board that was reported to the state.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Fire Chief Hovind motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m. Sheriff Harlan seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. at the Galesburg Public Safety Building, 150 South Broad Street, Galesburg, Illinois.

cc: Kelli Bennewitz, City Clerk
Media