

**MENARD COUNTY**  
**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**February 16, 2026**

Members Present: Ben Hollis, Ron Cooley, Daniel Schirding, Chris Henderson, Mike Chandler, Neil Starkey, Jason Huffman and 911 Coordinator John Balster.

Meeting was held at the Menard County Courthouse Boardroom and was called to order by Vice-Chairman Ron Cooley at 6:03 pm.

Vice-Chairman Cooley presented the Consent Agenda, motion to accept by Hollis, second by Schirding, motion passed.

Vice-Chairman Cooley presented the meeting minutes from December 15, 2025, Huffman motioned to accept, Henderson seconded. Motion passed to accept minutes from December 15, 2025 with no changes.

Vice-Chairman Cooley presented the financial report and expenditures for December and January. Schirding motioned to accept report and Hollis seconded. Motion passed.

911 Update:

Balster presented that the Annual AFR Report had been filed with the ISP, Reported on CD's That have been renewed, Presented an Equipment List, CAD Fees that have been paid, Yearly Maintenance Fees that have Been Paid, the Board was informed that he now has an office in the new annex building

PSAP:

Hollis talked about having a full staff at PSAP and that there are 3 employees that need EMD training yet. His is working on where to send them for classes.

Hearing of citizens: No citizens present at meeting.

New Business: Discussion on the High Prairie Plat Map issue with the 2 entrances both being High Prairie Drive, Hollis motioned to accept renaming the North Entrance extension to Zepher Drive and Henderson seconded. Motion passed.

Quote from Oakley Services for a remote panel for the PSAP was discussed and tabled till the next Meeting, Balster is to contact Ryan Electric to get a Quote and Oakley services to see if WIFI could be used instead of having to run cable from the Generator into the Control room.

Discussion was made on the New Mandatory Procedures for CESSA by the State of Illinois, Hollis was going to get a bid from Lexipol that already writes SOP's for the Sheriff's Office and report back at the next Meeting.

Mission Critical Radio needs assessment Final Report was discussed at length as far as going to Digital VHF or Starcom and finding funding for this project. The Board has tabled this until next meeting so Balster can send the report to all Agencies and invite them to the next Meeting so they may come and discuss their opinions on how to proceed. Balster is also going to contact Vicker's about Grant opportunities and report back.

Eventide Recording equipment is at the end of its life span and needs to be replace, Balster will get a Quote from Nelson Systems and GTSI for a new system and report back.

Old Business: Discussion on our Backup PSAP and Tabled to next Meeting

Special Committees: Nothing to report.

No other 911 business noted and Chandler motioned for adjournment, Henderson seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm. Next meeting March 16, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

John Balster – 911 Coordinator