

MENARD COUNTY
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 20, 2026

Members Present: Ben Hollis, Mike Burg, Ron Cooley, Dalton Whitley, Jason Huffman, Neal Starkey and 911 Coordinator John Balster.

Meeting was held at the Menard County Courthouse Board Room and was called to order by Vice-Chairman Cooley at 18:02.

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

Vice-Chairman Cooley presented the meeting minutes from March 16, 2026, Huffman motioned to accept, Starkey seconded. Motion passed to accept minutes from March 16, 2026 with no changes.

Vice-Chairman Cooley presented the financial report and expenditures. Balster advised of 1-CD (100,000 at Petefish for 1 year) being renewed. Huffman motioned to accept report, Whitley seconded, motion passed.

911 Update: Still working on addressing issues with Athens.

PSAP: 3 dispatchers are taking the EMD class online. Also there may be some need for telecommunicator CPR to keep medical licensing up to date. There was a lengthy discussion on some agencies running limited or no medical calls. Greenview FD does not go on medical calls and Oakford FD has no more medically trained members to respond. There was agreement that these agencies should still be paged for MVA's and Cardiac Arrests. There was a discussion on new radio system interoperability. All agencies should look into dual band radios for the ability to operate on VHS digital and Starcom. Possibly looking into grants for purchase of these and how ETSB can help.

Hearing of citizens: None.

New Business: Hollis will contact Mission Critical for quote on next phase of radio project, getting bids from vendors and writing of RFP's.

Old Business: Hollis motioned to go with Mission Critical recommendation for Simulcast VHF and Starkey second, motion passed.

Special Committees: Nothing to report.

No other 911 business noted and Hollis motioned for adjournment, Whitley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 19:10. Next meeting May 18, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Burg, Secretary