

Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

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Minutes from January 7, 2026

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Ludeking at 1933hrs @ The Cedarville Fire Station.

Guest: Julie Bickelhaupt, She is running for the US Congress in the IL 17th District. Julie is from a farming family and a current Carroll County Board Member. The primary election is March 17, and she would appreciate your support.

A motion to accept the Minutes from the October meeting was approved. A motion to accept the Treasures report was also approved.

Committees

- **Training:**
 - Local classes were listed.
 - Pearl City Fire is hosting:
 - Fire Behavior and Reading Smoke, Jan 17, 0800-1200hr, Free
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
 - The December calls were submitted:
 - 16 total calls.
 - 7 EMS & 5 Fire within the Division
 - 0 EMS & 4 Fire from outside the Division
- **TRT:**
 - Coordinator Tim Randecker was at the meeting and discussed the 2026 training. Div 8 would like to come out and do some Grain Bin rescue training.
- **Hazmat:**
 - All 15 of the Hazmat suits have passed the annual inspection.

Represented Departments

Cedarville Fire
Dakota Fire
Davis Fire
Freeport Fire

Freeport Rural Fire
German Valley Fire
Lena Fire

Orangeville Fire
Pearl City Fire
Rock City Fire
Winslow Fire

- ***Maintenance:***

- The Battery Tender in the 2006 F550 was replaced.
- The Hazmat & TRT SCBA units will have the Annual Flow Testing done Feb 11-12.
- The Hazmat & TRT radio batteries are starting to not hold charge. It was approved to replace all 24 batteries at a cost of \$1,600.

- ***Sheriff:***

- The Sheriff is planning to file for a Communications Grant for Emergency Operations Center equipment. He is expecting to open up the request to area agencies to also make requests. More to follow.

Old Business

- Chiefs were reminded to sign up their personnel for the IL Volunteer Tax Credit.
- The minimum enrollment for the Active Shooter/School Safety class has been met. Class dates: Feb 12 & 13, 2026.
- Dakota, Davis, Freeport Rural, Lena, Rock City & Winslow have all made changes to their Box Cards. These new cards can be accessed on our website.
- Reminder of the new fee to access the regional Box Card website. This is maintained by the Pecatonica Fire Chief and as of 2026, he is charging a fee of \$30 to access the data. This site usually has current Box Cards for Divisions 8, 17, 18, 38, 101 & 104.

New Business

- The Division Asset, Resource & Contact lists need to be updated. Look for that email and send in any changes, additions or corrections.
- Announcement of the Durand dispatch change, Northwest Fire basic ambulance in service and the new South Beloit Fire Chief Scott Fisher.
- Chief Miller will be retiring from Freeport on Jan 30. Tom Korte will be stepping into that position, and Hillary Broshous will be the Deputy Chief. The Fire Marshal position will be fill in the next couple months.

Announcements

- The MABAS-IL Summit will be held Feb 16-20 at Bloomington with the Executive Board Mtg at 1700hrs on Feb 17. Secretary Korte will be attending the Command portion and Jessica Saavedra-Carlson will be at the Dispatch portion along with 2 City Dispatchers.

The next meeting will be February 4 @ Davis Fire.

The meeting was adjourned at 1955hr.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

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