

Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

Loren Ludeking
Rock City Fire
President
815-541-3585
rcfd3581@yahoo.com

Brad Strong
Lena Fire
Treasurer
815-275-5933
lenafire@hotmail.com



Eric Bruning
German Valley Fire
Vice President
815-238-7596
ebruning@gvfpd.com

Tom Korte
Freeport Fire
Secretary
815-541-8667
tmkjlkc@comcast.net

Minutes from October 7, 2026

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Ludeking at 1930hrs @ Dakota Fire.

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

Committees

- **Training:**

- Local classes were listed.
- Cedarville Fire, Freeport Rural and the Stephenson County Sheriff's Department are hosting a School Bus Rescue drill, November 10, 1800-2200hrs on Crossroads Ln, North of Freeport. The training drill will consist of a damaged school bus and a couple passenger vehicles. They will discuss options and scenarios with the bus drivers, practice stabilization, extrication options and collaboration with neighboring departments. All interested departments need to RSVP 815-291-9109 to let them know who and what is coming so they can make appropriate plans.

- **Communications/Dispatch:**

- The September calls were submitted:
 - 20 total calls.
 - 15 EMS & 0 Fire within the Division
 - 4 EMS & 1 Fire from outside the Division

- **Hazmat:**

- The team participated in a Validation Exercise today. The exercise went well with the usual planning and Logistic issues that come with most planned exercises.

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

- **EMS:**

- Cedarville Fire said they have 3 members for the EMR class this winter. German Valley & Orangeville both are planning on having 2 students.
- Ashley stated that having EMR's responding to area calls makes the dispatchers job easier because they are able to respond quicker than some ambulances.
- Deputy Backus advised us that a law was passed in IL, called the Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA). This is intended to provide mobile response teams to respond to area mental and behavioral health issues instead of EMS & Law Enforcement. This is just getting started in the Stephenson County area and an informational meeting has been scheduled for November 2, 1800hrs at the County Courthouse.

- **Maintenance:**

- The UTV trailer tires have been replaced and bearings greased.
- Information on the Smokehouse is needed for our records.
- The Smokehouse repairs have been made, and it is currently being used at schools throughout the Division. Chief Feltmeyer stated that Davis Fire will pay for the repairs.

- **EMA:**

- Kerry stated that the EMA UTV now has a lightbar installed.

Old Business

- There have not been any leads for asset storage. Everyone is encouraged to continue looking.
- Deputy Backus had more information about the ComEd / Pecatonica Prairie path work. ComEd is not interested in providing us a storage container to house the UTV's. At this time the Sheriff's Dept UTV will be at the Office. Details are still being worked on for the MABAS unit until the work gets closer to Ridott.

New Business

- A reminder was given about US Cellular/T-Mobile and I am Responding accounts. With the buy out of US Cell by T-Mobile, members that were US Cell customers must update their IaR information to continue receiving alerts. The new email suffix's are listed on the IaR member account page.
- The new City Dispatch Coordinator has advised the Secretary that the City 911 was going to discontinue sending out IaR notifications because they have problems confirming that the proper messages/alerts were being sent. She was advised that was currently not an option as it affects all the first responder groups in the county. She was advised to reach out to me after I returned from vacation if further discussion was needed. I have not heard from her at this point.
- The group was informed that IFSI has changed their Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) program back to the "RIT Under Fire" format in case anyone is planning to host a class in the future.

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

- We have been notified that the OSFM has changed their Certification Testing format. They previously had multiple Scantron tests set up on specific dates, times and locations. From there, they transitioned to doing computerized testing at a designated testing site and through a company called Pearson Vue. They are now changing to a hybrid of the 2 systems. OSFM will be setting up specific locations, dates and times and will bring a cache of laptops to the site and conduct the testing that way. They are still trying to line up the logistics of the plan so more details to come.

Announcements

- Firefighter Stag, Oct 17 @ Davis Fire

Our next meeting will be on November 4 @ Freeport Rural Station #3.

The meeting was adjourned at 1957hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

Cedarville Fire
Dakota Fire
Davis Fire
Freeport Fire

Represented Departments

Freeport Rural Fire
German Valley Fire
Lena Fire

Orangeville Fire
Pearl City Fire
Rock City Fire
Winslow Fire