

Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch Board

LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby & Mendota ETSBs

Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was held Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at the Peru Municipal Building, 1901 4th Street, Peru, Illinois. Chairman King called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Voting & Quorum Members Present: Leo Hochstatter (David Boelk), John Duncan, Brent Bader (Jeff Grove), Jamey Mertel (Ken Kolowski), Steve Maltas, Mike Margis, Art Smith, Jason Stubler, Nathan Tolley, Vice Chairman Jerry Janick, Chairman Jeff King. Absent: Jason Curran, Brian Fisher, Jason Martin, Gregory McDermott, Sarah Raymond

Also Present: Executive Director Doug Bernabei

Non-Voting Members Present: None

MINUTES

Chairman King presented the minutes of the IVRD meeting of August 25, 2026. Steve Maltas made a motion the minutes be received and placed on file. Jason Stubler seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM (CITIZEN COMMENT)

None

PRESENTATIONS

Executive Director Doug Bernabei recognized the five original telecommunicators who are celebrating their 10-year anniversary at Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch. Executive Director Bernabei stated before board members, "Today, I have the honor of recognizing five very special members of the Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch family. On September 1st, Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch celebrated its 10-year anniversary. Ten years ago, IVRD was created as part of the consolidation of 911 emergency communications in our area. At that time, there were separate 911 dispatch centers serving LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby and Mendota. Changes in Illinois law and the 911 system ultimately required the consolidation of those operations, and that led to the creation of Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch. Creating IVRD was a significant undertaking. We weren't simply moving dispatchers into a new building or changing a name. We were bringing together people, agencies, policies, procedures and technology—and creating an entirely new regional emergency communications center. And when that happened, there were a number of telecommunicators who took a leap of faith and became part of something that was brand new. Today, five of those original telecommunicators are still here. They are Rachel Sienkiewicz, Jennifer Hunter, Julie Dean, Randy Simpson and Kim Blair. They were here from the very beginning. They helped build IVRD. They learned new technology and new procedures. They adapted to a new way of doing business. They worked through the challenges that naturally come with starting a new organization, while continuing to do the most important job of all—answering 911 calls and providing critical communications to the police officers, firefighters and EMS personnel who serve our communities. For ten years, these five individuals have been a part of the foundation of this organization. And when you work in emergency communications, you don't always get to see the results of what you do. You don't always get to meet the person whose call you answered. You don't always get to hear how things turn out. But every day, every shift, every call and every radio transmission matter. The work these five telecommunicators have done over the past ten years has helped make IVRD the organization it is today. So today, on behalf of the Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch Board, our member communities, our public safety agencies and everyone at IVRD, I want to express our sincere appreciation. Thank you for your dedication. Thank you for your professionalism. And most importantly, thank you for staying committed to IVRD for these first ten years. This crystal award represents ten years of service, but it also represents something more: it represents being there from the beginning and helping build the organization we have today. Ten years ago, you were part of the beginning of IVRD. Today, we recognize you as an important part of its history. Congratulations, and thank you for everything you have done—and continue to do—for IVRD and for the communities we serve."

COMMUNICATIONS

John Duncan made a motion to receive and place on file a letter from the City of Mendota appointing Mendota Fire Chief Nathan Tolley to serve on the IVRD Board. Steve Maltas seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Mike Margis made a motion to receive and place on file a letter from IVRD Attorney Michael Jurusik to the City of Mendota regarding the IVRD response to Mendota Resolution No. 08-03-26. Jerry Janick seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Executive Director Doug Bernabei reported receipt of an updated resolution from the City of Mendota on Friday. Because it was too late to add to the September agenda, it will be on the October agenda to receive and place on file.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Jason Stubler and Executive Director Doug Bernabei provided a summary of the September 9th committee meeting including discussion on trespass warnings, status time extensions, Signal 100, emergency requests for transport, storm protocol and iPhone crash.

FIRE/EMS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A committee meeting will be scheduled next month.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

John Duncan reported working on scheduling dates for fall negotiations.

MEMBER FEE STRUCTURE COMMITTEE

John Duncan reviewed the fee structure spreadsheet that was provided to board members, including the \$26 per capita rate recommendation. John Duncan re-summarized the factors and considerations taken into account as part of the recommended rate, including coordination of the Dalzell, Dimmick and Oglesby Fire Districts. Board members discussed the Troy Grove Fire District's intention to approach LaSalle County for dispatching needs.

Jason Stubler made a motion to approve the attached Member Fee Schedule for the period effective November 1, 2026. Mike Margis seconded the motion. Melissa Carruthers called the roll with Hochstatter, Duncan, Bader (Grove), Mertel (Kolowski), Maltas, Margis, Smith, Stubler, Tolley, Janick and King voting aye; Curran, Fisher, Martin, McDermott and Raymond absent; motion carried.

REPORTS

IVRD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Executive Director Doug Bernabei provided the following report:

1. Audit

IVRD received a clean audit, which will be on the October agenda to receive and place on file. If anyone would like a representative from Hopkins to attend the October meeting for review of the audit or to answer any questions, please contact Director Bernabei at least a week in advance.

2. Staffing Update

A part-time employee returned from leave.

John Duncan inquired about the status of the Troy Grove Fire Protection District. Nathan Tolley said he spoke with the Troy Grove Fire Protection District and believes they intend to pursue dispatching through LaSalle County. John Duncan asked if the Troy Grove Fire Protection District had discussed the potential dispatching move with the JETSB, because he believes it would need to be approved by the JETSB. It was discussed that the Troy Grove Fire Protection District is an independent fire district. Leo Hochstatter said Mendota has no intention of supplementing the Troy Grove Fire Protection District's share of dispatching fees, and suggested IVRD contact the Troy Grove Fire Protection District separately.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Chairman King presented and reviewed the August financial report. Jason Stubler made a motion to receive and place the August financial report on file and to approve and pay bills in the usual manner. Steve Maltas seconded the motion. Melissa Carruthers called the roll with Hochstatter, Duncan, Bader (Grove), Mertel (Kolowski), Maltas, Margis, Smith, Stubler, Tolley, Janick and King voting aye; Curran, Fisher, Martin, McDermott and Raymond absent; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES

None

PUBLIC FORUM (CITIZEN COMMENTS)

None

EXECUTIVE (CLOSED) SESSION

None

SCHEDULE NEXT IVRD MEETING

The next IVRD meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 27, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

Jason Stubler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Steve Maltas seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.