



MANITOWOC COUNTY

JOINT DISPATCH BOARD

Meeting Minutes

DATE: November 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Manitowoc County Communications & Technology Building
1024 S. 9th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220
Room 111/112

Committee Members Present: Paul Granger, Dan Hartwig, Joe Jeanty, Mark Knier, Ben Meinnert, John Musial, and James Falkowski. Virtual, Dennis Rabas.

Non-Committee members in attendance were Bill Jones, Angela Obry, Rhonda Green, Luke Kalista, Josh Stradal, Chris Dallas, Danny Hang, Connie Bashaw, Todd Olig, Ashley Smits, Kevin Haese, Todd Cummings.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Granger at 09:00 am.

Roll Call/Introductions: Roll call was completed at 09:04 am.

Public Comment: None

Approve Minutes of April's Meeting: Joe Jeanty approved June's meeting minutes and seconded by Ben Meinnert.

Old Business:

- a. EMABAS – Chris Dallas stated nothing to report.
- b. Automatic Crash Notifications Discussion – Angela shared the iPhone crash alerts were 30-40% actual crashes and will get the numbers for the next meeting.

New Business:

Updates from IT

- a. Upgrades
 - Danny Hang reported NERIS is replacing NEFRIS. As of now, 2024 CAD has no commands for it, but the 2025 CAD does and IT is upgrading. Chris Dallas stated that every department in the country must be operational by the end of 2026.
- b. New Password Policy
 - Ashley stated that federal guidelines mandate that users of EGIS will have to start using passwords that are 20-60 characters long, and will have to be changed annually.
- c. Department Changes
 - Luke Kalista announced to the group that Gerry Neuser has retired. The IT and DPW departments are now stand-alone departments. Bill Jones is communications and will be working under the IT department. Luke is now the director of the IT department.
 - Luke also reminded the group of a past email reminding everyone of the after-hours call for services. If the issue can wait until the next morning, please don't call the after-hours technician.
 - Tyler is moving to the cloud in 2027, process will start in August/September of 2026.
- d. Communications
 - Bill Jones Motorola training starts for joint dispatch consoles next week. The Motorola upgrade starts around thanksgiving and should not disrupt any services.

- Bill identified all county radios and will be visiting the county fire departments to read their radios (LLA on 800 Radio Systems). Bill can read all the radios with a device with the exception of the dual head radios. They will have to be read by Motorola. All radios must be done by December 1st, 2025.,
- Bill explained to the fire/EMS departments that the "skip" they are getting from Marathon County was an error when the system was first set up. Marathon County had a PL Code set up but was idle for a very long time. When our system was set up, the PL sniffer didn't pick up on their code and we were issued the same PL code and to "fix" the issue would cost over one-hundred thousand dollars. This is not feasible. The skip across Lake Michigan in Benzene County Michigan is less frequent but is still irritating. Nothing can be done about this.

Update from Emergency Services Department:

- a. Rhonda was in Minnesota last week for the Mid-West REP Conference.
- b. Tornado Exercise in September went well. Lots of take-aways of how our county isn't prepared enough in the event of a major disaster. Rhonda announced that this year's off-year exercise will include WEB-EOC training. Exercise participants can enter their notes in WEB-EOC and everyone can see them.
- c. The PIO class held last week was also a success. Many participants from a variety of disciplines from all over the state participated.
- d. No activities scheduled for the rest of the year. Grant submissions due by December (FY25 & FY26 Applications)

Update from Joint Dispatch

- a. Monfiles Informant – a form used many years ago is in question. The form is offered to a reporting party who wishes to remain anonymous. The form is rarely used and recently has surfaced. Ben Meinnert explained that not all callers who wish to remain anonymous need to be offered this form. This form is more for an officer who is investigating a larger issue to use and offer to an informant.
- b. Pre-Alerts – EMS agencies are asking Joint Dispatch to set tones on the first alert to enable those who work around loud machinery, or those sleeping to hear their department's tone. It was agreed with/by the EMS and Fire that JDC will set the first alert with a tone, and the 2nd alert will follow with the details of the call. There will be no third tone. Mark Knier will discuss this with the EMS Committee on December 3rd, and the decision will also be brought up at the Fire Association meeting on November 12th.
- c. JDC has two in training, and is recruiting for 3, one has accepted the position.
- d. Connie Bashaw stated that she is adding a call-type for Vagrancy.
- e. Residential Alerts – These alerts are placed on certain calls for law enforcement and responding agencies safety. An example would be a patient who has declining mental health issues.

Next Meeting Date: January 6, 2026, 9:00 AM at the EOC

Adjournment: A motion was made by Ben Meinnert and seconded by Joe Jeanty to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda Green

Rhonda Green
Director
Manitowoc County Emergency Services Department