

DU-COMM

DuPage Public Safety Communications

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CHIEFS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES

Tuesday, July 14, 2026 – 1:00 p.m.

DU-COMM, 420 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL

Chief Schar called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL / AGENCY:

Chief William Gabrenya	Bartlett FPD	Chief Tim Smeltzer (<i>left 1:27</i>)	Roselle FD
DC David Allen	Burr Ridge PD	DC Matt Coppock	Roselle FD
Chief Dave Godek	Clarendon Hills FD	Chief Bob Barreto	Roselle PD
Chief Ed Leinweber	Clarendon Hills PD	DC Frank Reposh	Villa Park FD
DC Jason Norton	Darien PD	Chief Jeff Keefe	West Chicago FPD
Chief Jimmy Lahanis	Darien-Woodridge FPD	DC Ric Ciszewski	West Chicago FPD
DC Rob Pekelder	Downers Grove FD	Chief Robert Brill	Wheaton FD
DC Jim McGreal	Downers Grove PD	DC Pete Vassios	Wheaton FD
DC Steve Reynolds	Elmhurst FD	Chief Lauren Kaspar	Willowbrook PD
DC Steve Mandat	Elmhurst PD	Chief Steve Evans (Vice Chair)	Winfield FPD
Chief Chris Clark	Glen Ellyn FD	DC Tim Roman	Winfield FPD
Comm Kyle Duffie	Glen Ellyn PD	Chief Dave Schar (Chairman)	Winfield PD
Chief Rich Cassady	Glenside FPD	Chief Rick Sanborn	York Center FPD
Chief Michael Rodriguez	Lisle PD	DC Bret Mowery	York Center FPD
Chief Keith Krestan	Lisle-Woodridge FPD		
Chief Rick Sander	Lombard FD		

ABSENT: Chief Ryan Conway – Bartlett PD; Chief Matthew Beyer – Bloomingdale FPD; Chief Rob Schultz – Carol Stream FPD; Chief Don Cummings – Carol Stream PD; Chief Guy Papa – DuPage County Sheriff; Chief Eric Fors – Hanover Park FD; Chief Andy Johnson – Hanover Park PD; Chief Jefferey Pindelski – Hinsdale FD; Chief Brian King – Hinsdale PD; Chief Joe Grage – Lombard PD; Chief Kevin Fleege – Oak Brook FD; Chief Brian Strockis – Oak Brook PD; Chief John Turkovich – Oakbrook Terrace FPD; Chief Casey Calvello – Oakbrook Terrace PD; Chief Todd Kubish – Villa Park PD; Chief Kevin O'Hare – Warrenville FPD; Chief Sam Bonilla – Warrenville PD; Chief Colin Fleury – West Chicago PD; Chief P.J. Youker – Wheaton PD; Chief Tom Stefanson – Woodridge PD

DU-COMM STAFF: Director Robb, Deputy Director Benjamin, TS Manager Maplethorpe, MIS Manager Roberts, TM Krause, QAM Miller, SMO Pirog, Executive Secretary Regalado

2. Public Comment

- None

3. Approval of Minutes

A. June 17, 2026

Chief Sanborn made a motion to approve June 17, 2026 minutes and Chief Keefe seconded. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

4. Executive Committee

A. June 17, 2026

Chief Evans noted

- Topics were largely related to ETSB; detailed updates provided later in Director's Report.

5. Report of the Committees

A. Support Services (Chief Robert Brill)

- Weather siren follow-up completed and removed from agenda.
- The next meeting is September 2.

Bartlett FPD • Bartlett PD • Bloomingdale FPD • Burr Ridge PD • Carol Stream FPD • Carol Stream PD • Clarendon Hills FD • Clarendon Hills PD • Darien PD • Darien-Woodridge FPD • Downers Grove FD • Downers Grove PD • DuPage County Sheriff • Elmhurst FD • Elmhurst PD • Glen Ellyn FC • Glen Ellyn PD • Glenside FPD • Hanover Park FD • Hanover Park PD • Hinsdale FD • Hinsdale PD • Lisle PD • Lisle-Woodridge FPD • Lombard FD • Lombard PD • Oak Brook FD • Oak Brook PD • Oakbrook Terrace FPD • Oakbrook Terrace PD • Roselle FD • Roselle PD • Villa Park FD • Villa Park PD • Warrenville FPD • Warrenville PD • West Chicago FPD • West Chicago PD • Wheaton FD • Wheaton PD • Willowbrook PD • Winfield FPD • Winfield PD • Woodridge PD • York Center FPD •

B. Police Operations (Chief Lauren Kaspar)

- No report.
- The next meeting is July 22nd.

C. Fire Operations (Chief Eric Fors)

Chief Evans noted

- Reviewed/approved board-up company list.
- Reviewed emergency fire dispatch policy.
- Discussed mutual aid/automatic aid call type handling.
- The next meeting is August 20th.

6. ETSB Report

A. ETSB

Director Robb reported

- Budget Planning
 - ETSB entered its annual budget planning cycle.
 - Reviewed operating budget, total obligations, 9-1-1 State Advisory Board goals, and ETSB goals.
 - Next month: Treasurer's report, cash projection, and capital budget requests from PSAPs.
- State Update
 - Representative from Springfield reported the state budget is balanced.
 - Additional funding requested for MABAS and ILEAS was rejected.
 - Surcharge increase unlikely to be addressed until early 2027 due to election year and statutory review timing.
- Communications & Technology Updates
 - DU-COMM radios: MOU approved and radios fully programmed.
 - Discussed ETSB measurable goals for 2026–2027 including:
 - Supporting surcharge increase.
 - Developing a strategic plan with consultant-led workshops.
 - Creating 3-year spending plan and long-term financial.
 - Cybersecurity and risk assessment.
 - Increasing text-to-911 awareness.
 - Completing mobile radio replacement by 2027.
 - Completing encryption conversion project.
- Encryption Update Discussion

Significant discussion regarding fire/police radio encryption rollout:

 - Updates pushed agency-by-agency, reverse alphabetical order.
 - Radios must cycle power to receive updates.
 - Departments requested clearer communication on timing.
 - Full interoperability will not occur until ETSB performs final system switch-over.
 - Mobile units (vehicular radios) will require additional work; some older models (e.g., 7500) may not support required changes.
 - ETSB will provide agency-specific update completion lists.
 - Chief Schar will speak with ETSB after the meeting to get an update for Fire agencies.
- Drone as First Responder Discussion
 - State Advisory Board reviewing whether drones qualify for 9-1-1 surcharge funding; currently cautious due to limited surcharge resources.
- Future Radio Replacement Funding
 - ETSB reintroducing discussion on budgeting toward next radio purchase cycle.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15th.

B. PAC Update

Deputy Director Benjamin reported

- Meeting held on Monday; due to meeting schedule all items have already been approved by ETS Board and reported on by the Director. No additional updates.

7. Staff Reports

A. Directors Report

DU-COMM

- No additional updates beyond the written memo.

B. Operations/Training Report

Deputy Director Benjamin reported

- Continued technology exploration: RTCC (Real-time Crime Center), Live911, camera monitoring, etc. Need to plan for all agencies before offering to individual agencies.

Training Manager Krause noted

- Staffing update:
 - Two trainees determined the telecommunicator role was not a good fit for them.
 - One telecommunicator promoted to Operations Manager; one part-time returning to full-time.
 - Next academy scheduled for September.
 - Current staffing 79 out of 99; expected increase to 80 next month.
- DU-COMM TCs are participating in Division 10 high-rise drills and West Chicago RTF (Rescue Task Force) drills; agencies encouraged to coordinate drills with DU-COMM.

C. Support Services Report

TS Manager Maplethorpe reported

- Encryption main hurdle over, Motorola will complete acceptance testing on the consoles.
- DU-COMM Technicians work with Leonardo-Selex and Motorola to implement DFSI for the 800 PD backup channels.
- A conditional offer was accepted; Technical Services will be fully staffed at the end of August.

MIS Manager Eric Roberts reported

- Firewall replacement is planned. We're not expecting any issues, but we'll send out notifications prior to the upgrade.

D. Human Resources Report

- Memo in packet.

8. Old Business

A. Mental Health CESSA Update

Director Robb noted

- A special 10-digit line for transferring 9-1-1 calls to 9-8-8 was successfully tested.
- EMD protocols updated to align with new CESSA directives, including pediatric weight and fire-related changes.
- Final policy integration nearly complete.
- Telecommunicators completed refresher training on Protocol 41.
- Target go-live for updated protocol: mid-August.

9. New Business

A. DU-COMM Chiefs Committee-Nomination/Election of Vice-Chairman

Director Robb explained the Vice-Chairman moves to the Chair. The seats alternate between police and fire. Chief Schar is interested in being nominated.

Director Robb asked for a motion to open nominations for the Chiefs Committee Vice-Chairman.

Chief Keefe made a motion to open nominations and Chief Barreto seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Director Robb asked for nominations and asked two more times for other nominations, and there were none.

Chief Keefe made a motion to close nominations and Chief Barreto seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chief Krestan made the motion to name Chief Schar Vice-Chairman of the DU-COMM Chiefs Operations Committee and Chief Sandar seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10. Other Business

A. Wall of Life 100th Save

- Wall of Life commendations are scheduled for the July 22 BOD meeting.
- A notable milestone (100th Save) will be formally recognized.

- Suggestion made to share Wall of Life Awards to the Chiefs Committee, so agencies better understand the significant work dispatchers perform.
- Director agreed and will begin including commendations in Chiefs packets going forward.

11. Adjournment

At 1:28 p.m. Chief Keefe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Chief Lahanis seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Regalado
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