

BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes of Special Meeting

March 23, 2023

A meeting of the Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District was held on, March 23, 2023 at the Braidwood Fire Station located at 275 W. Main St. in the city of Braidwood, Illinois at 5:00 P.M.

Braidwood Fire District Trustee, Bill Ritze called the meeting to order and acted as Chairman, and Charlie Boyd, Secretary of the District, acted as Secretary.

The following Trustees were present:

Charlie Boyd

Bill Ritze

Absent:

Mike Dillon

Also present in person were Fire Chief Chris Jude, Deputy Chief Mike Pemble, Captain Mike Tenerelli, EMS Coordinator Tonya Cavanaugh, Firefighter Ryan Cavanaugh, Firefighter Austin Plumley, Executive Assistant Kristin Wexell, Attorney John Motylinski, Custer Park Fire District Trustees Kathy Anton, Andy Kooistra, Michael Newbrough and Ron Pruss, Custer Park Fire District Fire Chief Frank DaVito, Braidwood Fire Protection District Resident Chris Cavanaugh, Custer Park Fire District residents Kelly Cavanaugh and Carl Davies. (1 CPFPD Trustee was absent)

- 1) This meeting is an open meeting with the Custer Park Fire Protection District Board of Trustees to discuss the possibility of an Intergovernmental Agreement for Braidwood Fire Protection District to provide service to the Custer Park Fire Protection District.

Deputy Chief Mike Pemble gave a presentation which included:

- a. The history of the relationship between Custer Park Fire Protection District and Braidwood Fire Protection District
- b. Previous IGA's and services that Braidwood FPD have provided to Custer Park FPD residents as it relates to emergency response.
- c. The current financial constraints of Custer Park FPD for providing emergency response to their residents.
- d. What Braidwood FPD can potentially do to provide EMS and Fire Service to the residents of Custer Park Fire Protection District, as discussed between Deputy Chief Pemble and Custer Park Trustee Ron Pruss.
- e. How an IGA and eventual consolidation would mutually benefit both Fire Districts and their taxpayers.

Once the presentation was completed both District Boards thanked DC Pemble for his time in preparing and delivering that attached presentation. The District Board then began discussion on their preferences and needs relating to the potential agreement. Both Boards agreed that their attorneys should work together in drafting an IGA for Braidwood Fire Protection District to provide all emergency response to the Custer Park Fire Protection

District, with intent for eventual consolidation of the two Fire Districts into Braidwood Fire Protection District. Custer Park Fire Protection District invited Braidwood Fire Protection District to the Town Hall Meeting at which they would like Deputy Chief Pemble to make the presentation that was given today, to the residents of Custer Park FPD at said Custer Township Town Hall Meeting.

Bill Ritze moved that Attorney Motylinski begin preparing a draft IGA for Braidwood Fire Protection District to assume responsibility and provide all emergency response within the Custer Park Fire Protection District.

Public Comment:

Custer Park resident Kelly Cavanaugh made the following comments:

- He would like to see the Custer Park FPD residents receive consistent fire and EMS response 24/365, which is currently not the case.
- He believes that Braidwood has been the best neighbor ever, as represented by BFPD past IGA's, as well as the successful combination of the Reed-Custer School District.
- He feels that the lifeline being thrown by Braidwood Fire Protection District is the best option to ensure the safety of Custer Park FPD residents.
- He believes that both Fire Districts are able to work together and focus on the success of providing the services necessary to protect the Custer Park FPD residents.
- He would like to see further discussion about combining both Fire District rosters and ensuring that everyone on the combined roster would meet the standards for those positions as required by current BFPD policy.

Braidwood resident Chris Cavanaugh expressed his concern about Braidwood FPD tax income and the need to increase it, as it is currently the lowest in the area and our ability to continue to retain employees will become increasingly more difficult as there is a nationwide shortage of firefighters and EMS employees. This has caused the taxing bodies who can afford to increase their wages, to keep and attract new employees. Without Braidwood FPD increasing the tax rate or adding a tax line (i.e.. tort, pension, or rescue), Mr. Cavanaugh fears that over time BFPD will not be able to compete to meet their staffing needs, therefore recommends a referendum for such action.

Carl Davies, resident of Custer Park, expressed his concern about the current level of emergency response of Custer Park Fire Protection District firefighters and EMS. He is of the opinion that CPFDP has no options but to consolidate with Braidwood FPD in order to provide the level of service and response that Custer Park FPD is obligated to provide their taxpayers but currently does not.

Closed Meeting:

None

The Chairman then stated that the next Braidwood Fire Protection District Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on April 18, 2023, at 9:00 A.M. at the Braidwood Fire Station.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the meeting was adjourned.

Consolidation Proposal



March 2023





Mission Statements

Custer Fire Protection District:

“The Custer Fire Protection District and its volunteers are dedicated to serving the Custer Park, IL community and its surrounding neighbors.



Braidwood Fire Protection District:

It is the mission of the Braidwood Fire Department to provide the highest level of life and property protection services through aggressive fire control systems, an integrated pre-hospital care system, fire prevention, public education and emergency management. To accomplish our mission we will provide fire suppression and prevention programs, state of the art pre-hospital care and effective scene management. We will stand ready to support and assist other fire service organizations in accomplishing their missions. Through prevention, education and training efforts we will strive to prevent, prepare for, or otherwise limit the extent of any fire damage or other emergency situation.



“

*Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress; working
together is success. -Henry Ford*





Background

- ◆ Initial IGA for Braidwood to provide EMS services while Custer operated a Volunteer FD.
- ◆ Volunteer FD was closed for approximately 5 years, in which Custer and Braidwood entered into an IGA to provide Fire & EMS services.
- ◆ March 20, 2018: Custer passed a referendum to begin servicing the district
 - ◆ Vote of 194 to 139
- ◆ In September of 2018, communications began between both districts to restart Custer FPD.
- ◆ Braidwood terminated services to the district officially in January of 2019





ISO Rating

ISO stands for Insurance Services Office (ISO), which is an independent, for-profit organization. The ISO scores fire departments on how they are doing against its organization's standards to determine property insurance costs.

After analyzing the data it collects, the ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC) on a scale from 1 to 10. The higher the ISO fire protection class (with Class 1 being the best), the "better" the department.

Fifty percent of a community's overall score is based upon the fire department's structure fire suppression system.

ISO's field representative evaluates:

Engine and ladder/service vehicles including reserve apparatus

Equipment carried

Response to reported structure fires

Deployment analysis of companies

Available and/or responding firefighters

Training





Current ISO Ratings

Custer

Effective Date: Rated ~2 1/2 years ago

Public Protection Classification: **09/10**



Braidwood

Effective Date: April 01, 2018

Public Protection Classification: **03/10**

03 Rating: Properties > 5 road miles from a recognized fire station

10 Rating: Properties > 5 road miles from a recognized fire station



2021 Tax Rate & Levy

Custer

Corporate: .3376

Ambulance: .1100

Total: .4476

Braidwood

Corporate: .1745

Ambulance: .1745

Total: .3490

2022 Preliminary Tax Rate Calculations for Will County:

Custer

Total: .4933

Braidwood

Total: .3760





Personnel on Duty

Custer

Shift Personnel: 1-2 daily when staffing permits

Minimum requirements for Shift Personnel:

Minimum (1) EMT-B on duty when station is staffed.



Braidwood

Shift Personnel (24/7) – 5

M-F (0800-1600) manning is 6 w/ full-time District Chief

Minimum requirements for Shift Personnel:

Basic Operations Firefighter

Emergency Medical Technician - Basic

Shift Paramedic Manning: minimum: 2

preferred: 3



Department Personnel Overview

Custer

Total Members: 10

(5) EMT-Basics

(5) Paramedics



Braidwood

Total Members: 42 + 4 Interns

Fire Chief: Full-Time /Paramedic

Deputy Chief: Part-Time/Paramedic

Officers: 3 Captains, 1 Lieutenant

3 Full time FF/Medics- Used as ACO's, can operate all our apparatus.

Firefighters: 42 of which 17 live within Fire District boundaries and respond as POC's to fire calls and large scale incidents

All members are IDPH Licensed as EMT's or Paramedics

EMT-B: 14 + 4 interns

EMT-Paramedic: 22



Vehicles & Equipment

Custer

Engine: 1

Tender/Pumper: 1

Brush Truck: 1

Service Vehicles: 1

ALS Ambulances: 1 (Not in service as of yet)

BLS Ambulances: 0

Aerial Tower/ladder Truck: 0

Rescue Squad: 0

Boat / Water Rescue vehicle: 0

Command Vehicles: 0



Braidwood

Engine: 1- front line, 1- reserve

Tender/Pumper: 1

Aerial Tower/ladder Truck: 1

Rescue Squad: 1

Brush Truck: 1

Service Vehicles: 1

UTV with water: 1

Boat / Water Rescue vehicle: 1

ALS Ambulances: 2- front line, 1- reserve

Command Vehicles: 3



Specialized Response/MABAS Division 15

Custer

Unknown if any members or equipment of the Custer FPD are active on any of the MABAS Division 15 specialty Teams.



Braidwood

MIST/IMT

MABAS Division 15 Incident Management Team/Incident Stabilization Team:

- 2 members

Technical Rescue Team

- TRT Certified members w/ varying or multiple specialties: 10

Water Rescue Team

Rescue Boat w/ specialized water rescue tow vehicle: 1

MABAS Division 15 Water Rescue Responders

RTF

Multiple members trained to respond RTF



Future Shift Expansion

Custer

Unlikely budget can support additional personnel 24/7



Braidwood

- ◆ Chief Officer's desire to increase daily staffing from 5 personnel to 6 personnel in 1-2 years.
Subject to board approval and budget
- ◆ Increase to 3 paramedics around the clock
- ◆ Increase from 3 FT FF/Medics to 6 FT FF/Medics
- ◆ Promotional process to promote 3 FT Lieutenants once FT staffing is at 6
- ◆ Expected call response to surpass 2,000 annually in 1-2 years



Current Pressing Challenges

Custer

- *Daily Staffing in Station*
- *Expense of Personnel*
 - *ALS Ambulance Approval*
- *No Reserve Apparatus*
- *Limited Administrative Support*
- *Response to behavioral school ^*

Braidwood

- *Staffing*
- *Recruitment*
- *Retention*
- *Unfunded mandates*
- *Call Volume ^*
- *Revenue streams*
- *PTELL Districts*
- *Maintenance costs ^*
 - *Vehicle costs ^*
 - *Industry delays ^*

- *Immediate growth in TIF Districts*



Public Act 102-1088

AN ACT concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act.

Section 5. Definition. As used in this Act, "governmental
unit" includes all units of local government that may levy any
tax, except municipalities and counties.

Section 10. Formation of committee; members; vacancy;
administrative support.

(a) Within one year after the effective date of this Act
and at least once every 10 years thereafter, each governmental
unit must form a committee to study local efficiencies and
report recommendations regarding efficiencies and increased
accountability to the county board in which the governmental
unit is located.

June of 2023 to form
committee

Applies to Fire Districts

"Study Local
Efficiencies and report
recommendations"





Sustainability

With the rising costs of nearly everything in the industry, the most pressing question we must ask ourselves:

Question: *Is continuing to operate two fire districts independently sustainable?*

Braidwood, Wilmington and Coal City have 2-3 ambulances each. Amongst each of our agencies, 1 or 2 ambulances were out of service for prolonged periods of time. Braidwood for example in 2022-2023:

- Ambulance vs. Vehicle Accident
- Ambulance vs. Deer
- Unrepairable engine failure. Rechassis required to place back in service

What is the contingency if Custer ambulance is out of service?





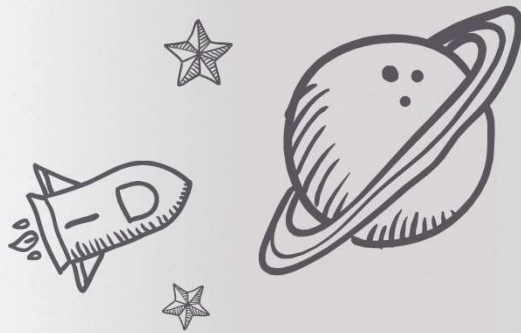
2022-2023 Calls & Response

BFPD incident response to Custer has increased since the cancellation of the Riverside contract.

2022: 194 calls for service in Custer
Braidwood was dispatched 73 times and responded to 70 of them.

2023: 38 calls for service so far
Braidwood has been automatically dispatched to all 38 and responded to 30 of them.





BIG CONCEPT

Consider a mutually beneficial consolidation of all resources to better serve both communities permanently.





Recent Case Study-Local

Source:
manhattanfire.org/content/consolidation



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

MANHATTAN - PEOTONE
Fire Protection Districts

DATE: August 14, 2020
SUBJECT: Manhattan-Peotone Fire District's Board of Trustees Approve One-Year Intergovernmental Agreement
CONTACT: Jackie O'Hara, Manhattan Fire Protection District
(815) 478-3197, johara@manhattanfire.org
RELEASE: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MANHATTAN - PEOTONE, IL - The Manhattan Fire Protection District (MFPD) and Peotone Fire Protection District (PFPD) are rich in tradition with a long history of working together for the betterment of their residents. This month both organizations took a huge step to enhance the relationship.

On August 13, 2020, the **Manhattan Fire Protection District** and **Peotone Fire Protection District** Board of Trustees voted to enter into a one-year intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to share administrative services.

"Both parties expect that this agreement will result in better utilization of financial resources and enhanced services to the residents of each Fire District," said Peotone Fire District Board President, Brian Hupe. "We would like to reassure the residents of both Peotone and Manhattan that this agreement will not increase taxes or disrupt the current level of operational services."

In this agreement, the MFPD will provide the PFPD with the service of its Fire Chief and Administrative Staff. The IGA will not involve the sharing of fire and emergency medical personnel other than automatic and mutual aid agreements already in place that have proven successful for many years.

"The sharing of Fire District administrative services will promote administrative staff level efficiencies while maintaining the response capabilities currently appreciated by the residents of both Fire Districts," stated Manhattan Fire Protection District Board President, William Moncrief. "More importantly, this effort will offer a more robust response capability which will allow the enhancement of operational support and emergency response oversight for both our organizations."

In 2020, Peotone and Manhattan entered into an IGA that shared Administrative personnel. Manhattan Administration ran all operations of Peotone for nearly two years until full consolidation in 2022.



Source:
manhattanfire.org/content/consolidation

Manhattan-Peotone Continued..

- August 31, 2021: Press Release by Peotone FPD: "The Peotone Fire Protection District today announced that it believes that consolidation with neighboring Manhattan Fire Protection District would deliver benefits to **both communities**"
- "Ultimately, Peotone residents would be taxed for fire protection services at a rate lower than what they're currently paying."
- "Consolidation would reduce taxpayer's bills while also strengthening our ability to provide the full range of services that our residents expect and deserve," said Peotone Fire Protection District Board of Trustees President Brian Hupe.
- "Currently, budget growth in Peotone and Manhattan over the next 5 to 10 years does not support the ability to implement more stable, full-time staffing models, renovate dated facilities, invest in modern equipment or keep up with regional growth without seeking significant tax increases".



Duplication of Expenses Present Day

- Dispatching
- Apparatus (see next slide)
- Small Equipment & Maintenance (IE: Extrication equipment)
- Administrative Costs: FOIA requests, Fire Recovery Billing, Ambulance Billing, etc.

Every function of the department takes time, commitment and people.





Redundant Resources miles apart

Custer

- ◆ Tender
- ◆ Engine
- ◆ Ambulance
- ◆ Brush Truck
- ◆ Utility Vehicle



Braidwood

- ◆ Tender
- ◆ Engine x2
- ◆ Ambulance x3
- ◆ Brush Truck
- ◆ Utility Vehicle x2



Response Estimates

From Braidwood Fire Station, traveling at approximately 55-60 mph:

- 113 to Gray Road: 7 mins, 42 secs
- Farthest East Point: 12 mins, 16 secs

Consider response times for previous Riverside Ambulance Contract: CAD information could exclusively show an average response time.

Note: Response estimates are averaged and based on numerous non-emergency driving calculations with favorable weather conditions. Response also assumes all resources are available in station.

Response does not depict the positive effects of having a paramedic or ambulance staffed in the Custer station.





**If we entertained this....
What is next?**





Proposed Operations w/ IGA - NOW

Upon Draft of a Finalized IGA for all Operations:

- Braidwood to increase daily staffing from 2-Paramedics/3-EMT-Bs to 3-Paramedics and 2-EMT-Bs as minimum. (5 Total)

Staffing Model (5) Total:

- Braidwood Station Staffing Daily: (4) when full manning
 - (2) ALS Ambulances and Engine Jump Company
- Custer Station Daily Staffing: (1) Paramedic/Utility Vehicle response

Immediate decision to add a paramedic back into Custer station, similar to Riverside contract previously.





Proposed Operations- Long Term

FY 24-25/25-26 depending on projected revenue and/or grant funding:

- Increase daily staffing to (6) per day. (3) Paramedics, (3) EMT-Bs minimum.
- (3) ALS Ambulances daily

Staffing Model (6):

- (2) Staffed in Custer: Jump Company Tender/ (1) ALS Ambulance
- (4) Staffing in Braidwood: Jump Company Engine/ (2) ALS Ambulances





“One fire protection district serving both communities and residents equally”

What’s in it for each district?

- Stability of resources and personnel. It is near impossible to recruit individuals to fill staffing positions. By combining our personnel, we have a more robust workforce of committed individuals that possess the certifications and licenses needed to support the organization.
- Both agencies currently have newer and aging equipment and apparatus. Combining both, will allow the district to reduce cost and re-evaluate capital projects to protect both districts.
- Staffing on the other side of the train tracks for Braidwood. Once we move to (6) personnel on duty, we will have ambulances and fire engines/tender on each side of the train tracks.

What are the largest challenges?

- Accepting that personnel are hard to come by and we are more robust together.
- Overcoming pride and tradition in having two individualized Fire & EMS agencies.





Process





If there is no struggle, there is no progress.

Frederick Douglass

"In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or to step back into safety."

ABRAHAM MASLOW

There will be no more 'them and us', only us, sharing struggles and challenges as part of being human.

Laurie Davidson

Growth hurts because change isn't easy, that's why they call it growing pains.

Tony Gaskins

THE ROAD TO SUCCESS
IS ALWAYS UPHILL

INFLUENCER

"WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS LIKE AN UPHILL STRUGGLE, JUST THINK OF THE VIEW FROM THE TOP"

"Almost everything worthwhile carries with it some sort of risk."

— Chris Hadfield

The world hates change, yet it is the only thing that has brought progress.

— Charles Kettering —





FUTURE

Voter Approval

Looks like...





Vote YES ☒

BRAIDWOOD & CUSTER
Fire District Consolidation



Vote YES ☒

BRAIDWOOD & CUSTER
Fire District Consolidation

THANKS!

Any questions?

You can email me @

mpemblem@braidwoodfire.org

