

**BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
AND THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE COMMISSION BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
March 18, 2026**

A joint meeting of the Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District and the Braidwood Fire Commission Board was held on March 18, 2026, at the Braidwood Fire Station, 275 W. Main Street, Braidwood, Illinois, commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Trustee Charlie Boyd, acting as Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Trustee Teri Post served as Secretary and reported that a quorum was present.

Trustees Present

- Charlie Boyd
- Teri Post
- Bill Ritze

Also Present

- Fire Chief Chris Jude
- Attorney John Motylinski
- Executive Assistant Kristin Wexell
- James Howard, Government Accounting (via Zoom)

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Chairman requested any additions or corrections to the District Board Meeting Minutes from the February 17, 2026 meeting. Trustee Bill Ritze noted one correction: the minutes should reflect that he, not Charlie Boyd, presented the bills for payment. Trustee Ritze moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report reflected an opening account balance of \$270,263.24 as of February 1, 2026, seven deposits totaling \$93,466.82, and sixty-seven withdrawals totaling \$241,954.99, resulting in an ending balance of \$271,775.07 as of February 28, 2026. Trustee Boyd moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Bills for Payment

Trustee Ritze presented the bills for payment totaling \$241,954.99 (see attached list). Trustee Post moved to approve payment of the bills as presented; Trustee Ritze seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was received.

Communications

- Will County Supervisor of Assessments – Hearing on tax-exempt property for the Forest Preserve.
- Thank-you correspondence received from the family of Karen Bunting.
- Will County Clerk – Tax Calculation of 2025 Levy Rates, Values, and Extensions.

Chief's Report

Fire Chief Chris Jude distributed his written report (attached). The following items were discussed:

- **Call Volume:** Total call volume for February was 146 calls.
- **Calls of Significance:**
 - Braidwood FPD dispatched an ambulance with the MABAS 15 Task Force in response to a tornado in Kankakee on March 10, 2026.
 - Braidwood FPD responded to a large commercial fire in the Gardner business district.
- **EMS Equipment:** The cot and power-load system in Ambulance 2415 is 14 years old, four years beyond its expected service life. EMS Coordinator Tonya Cavanaugh compared purchase and lease options; the lease was determined to be the more cost-effective choice. A four-year lease for the cot and power-load combination is approximately \$75,000, with the first annual payment of \$10,000 due this fiscal year.
- **Apparatus Updates:**
 - Unit 2415 is out of service and is being evaluated for return to service; it is the next unit scheduled for a re-chassis.
 - Unit 2490 is scheduled to enter the CAMS shop next week and is expected to be returned on March 27, 2026.
 - Unit 2491 compartment door to be brought from Alexis and installation to be completed in house by Drew Crompt.
 - Unit 2422 Engine Committee: The truck chassis will be returned to Alexis on March 20, 2026, to re-enter the production queue.
 - Unit 2425 Ambulance Committee: The District is awaiting notification of when the ambulance will be placed back on the production schedule.
- **Roster Updates:**
 - FF/Medic Matt Hozian has submitted his resignation, effective March 26, 2026.
 - Alexa Kubinski has passed the National Medic Exam and will be testing into the Morris System in the near future.
- **Station 1:** The exercise bike requires a new internal battery, which will be replaced during the upcoming annual preventive maintenance service.
- **Station 2:** Heavy rainfall caused erosion around the septic tank area. Manny's Lawncare has been engaged to restore the landscaping and implement measures to redirect water flow and prevent future erosion.
- **Station 2 – Door Repairs:** Wunderlich provided a quote to replace the bottom seals on the overhead doors and to replace the side service door.
- **Community Engagement:** The next Discovery Works Community Engagement event is scheduled for March 26, 2026.
- **Swearing-In Ceremony:** Andres Olchawa, David Tatroe, and Eddie Theis will be sworn in on March 24, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Attorney's Report

Attorney Motylinski is researching new ADA website screen-reader compliance requirements. They should consult with the District webpage manager to be sure they will be able to meet the new compliance standard.

Old Business

1. **Faircom (Energy Legislation / Exelon Agreement):** Faircom will be preparing for the upcoming Constellation agreement negotiation.

2. Future Training Opportunities:

- a) Shabbona Pow-Wow class selections have been made, including a class addressing solar farm and lithium battery emergencies.
- b) The IAFPD Conference is scheduled for June 11–13, 2026, at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria, Illinois.

3. Unit 2422 Committee Update: See Chief's Report.

4. Unit 2425 Committee Update: See Chief's Report.

5. Tax-Exempt Property Adjustment (Will County Tax Assessor – Tower Lease): Attorney Motylinski reviewed with the Board the submission packet prepared by The Ottosen Group. Chief Jude executed the accompanying affidavit. Attorney Motylinski will submit the completed packet to Will County.

6. Annual Calendar and Checklist Review: Economic interest statements are required from District Board Trustee Teri Post, and Braidwood Firefighter Pension Board Trustees Austin Plumley, and Brandon Saunoris.

Closed Session

A closed session was not required.

New Business

1. Fire Commission Business:

- a) Discuss updates regarding Full-Time Firefighters: No update at this time.
- b) Discuss SAFER Grant Developments: No update at this time.
- c) Discuss and Approval of Official Employment Offer for a New Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic: The hiring of a new full-time firefighter/paramedic was previously approved by the Board, contingent upon acceptance of the employment offer and satisfactory completion of a fitness-for-duty physical and background check. All conditions have been fulfilled. Chase Miranda will begin his first full-time shift on March 28 or March 31, 2026, with a modified orientation to be completed on his initial shifts.

2. Purchases Requiring Board Approval:

- a) FPCO – Remaining balance for Discovery Works postcard mailing: \$1,206.51
- b) Stryker Service Agreement – Cot maintenance service: \$6,345.40
- c) Wunderlich Doors – Replacement of Station 2 overhead door bottom seals (4): \$1,255.00
- d) Wunderlich Doors – Replacement of Station 2 service door adjacent to maintenance bay: \$4,109.71

Trustee Boyd moved to approve the purchases as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Review and Possibly Approve the Quarterly Financial Report (Governmental

Accounting): James Howard reviewed the Quarterly Financial Report with the Board.

Trustee Ritze moved to approve the report as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Review and Possibly Approve Paramedic Billing Services Proposal: Executive Assistant Kristin Wexell reviewed the proposal and agreement submitted by Paramedic Billing Services, Inc., which quoted a flat rate of 4% for both ambulance and fire response billing. This represents a savings of 1% on ambulance billing and 16% on fire billing relative to current rates. The vendor also confirmed compatibility with the District's new reporting software for billing data uploads.

Trustee Boyd moved to approve the ambulance and fire billing agreement with Paramedic Billing Services, Inc., effective June 1, 2026 (the start of the new fiscal year); Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Review and Discuss the Annual Payroll Audit – Workers’ Compensation Carrier:** Chief Jude and Executive Assistant Wexell expressed concern regarding the most recent payroll audit conducted by IPRF for Workers’ Compensation Insurance coverage, which resulted in a premium adjustment of \$24,100.00. Chief Jude requested Board authorization to solicit quotes from alternative carriers. The Board concurred.
6. **Review and Approve the Additional Premium – Compass Insurance (Current Policy Term):** Executive Assistant Wexell requested Board’s approval to distribute the \$13,244.00 mid-term premium adjustment quoted by Compass Insurance across the remaining installment payments for the current policy year in equal amounts.

Trustee Ritze moved to approve the adjustment as described; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. **Discuss and Possibly Approve Notification of Possible Non-Renewal – Compass/VFIS (June 21, 2026 Renewal):** The Board approved Executive Assistant Wexell’s request to solicit competitive quotes from alternative insurance carriers for coverages renewing in June. If required by Compass or VFIS, Wexell is authorized to issue a formal notification of possible non-renewal indicating that the Board is seeking additional competitive quotes for the upcoming renewal period.
8. **Stryker Cot and Power-Load System Lease:** Chief Jude provided background on the need to replace the Stryker cots and power-load systems. The most urgent unit is 14 years old — four years beyond its useful service life — and is no longer eligible for maintenance coverage under Stryker’s service agreement. Stryker has quoted a four-year lease for a replacement cot and power-load system at \$75,000 total, with the first payment of \$10,000.00 due during the current fiscal year.

Trustee Boyd moved to approve and execute the lease agreement with Stryker as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed. Note: This item will be formally ratified at the next meeting on April 21, 2026, as it did not appear on the posted agenda.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The next regularly scheduled Fire District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Chairman

Secretary

Date	Deposit	Amount	# of	Checks / Withdraws	Amount	Reason
2/3/2026	AT&T rent	\$1,000.00				
2/6/2026	Comptroller (Custer FPD)	\$605.70				
2/6/2026	Comptroller (Custer FPD)	\$733.37				
2/6/2026	AT& T Refund	\$25.89				
2/13/2026	Fire Recovery	\$2,373.60				
2/26/2026	Deposit from Schwab account 150,000.00					
2/27/2026	Interest	\$14.00				
2/28/2026	AMB collections	\$88,714.26				
			1	Electronic Withdrawals 10	\$87,848.39	
			2	Checks Paid 57	\$154,106.60	
# Of Deposits 7				# Of Checks Written / Withdraws 67		
	Total	\$93,466.82			\$241,954.99	

12/31/2025	AMB collections		\$88,553.20	\$195,874.88
1/5/2026			\$20.46	\$195,895.34
1/5/2026	AT&T rent		\$1,000.00	\$196,895.34
1/6/2026	Zions Bank (Escrow account)		\$6,545.43	\$203,440.77
1/8/2026	Comptroller		\$1,388.13	\$204,828.90
1/13/2026	Fire Recovery		\$1,252.80	\$206,081.70
1/31/2026	Interest		\$19.76	\$206,101.46
1/31/2026	Electronic Withdrawals 11	\$143,916.25		\$62,185.21
1/31/2026	Checks Paid 61	\$174,943.09		-\$112,757.88
1/31/2026	AMB collections		\$83,021.12	-\$29,736.76
1/15/2026	Deposit from Schwab account		\$300,000.00	\$270,263.24
2/3/2026	AT&T rent		\$1,000.00	\$271,263.24
2/6/2026	Comptroller (Custer FPD)		\$605.70	\$271,868.94
2/6/2026	Comptroller (Custer FPD)		\$733.37	\$272,602.31
2/6/2026	AT&T Refund		\$25.89	\$272,628.20
2/13/2026	Fire Recovery		\$2,373.60	\$275,001.80
2/26/2026	Deposit from Schwab account		\$150,000.00	\$425,001.80
2/27/2026	Interest		\$14.00	\$425,015.80
2/28/2026	Electronic Withdrawals 10	\$87,848.39		\$337,167.41
2/28/2026	Checks Paid 57	\$154,106.60		\$183,060.81
2/28/2026	AMB collections		\$88,714.26	\$271,775.07
3/2/2026	LexisNexis		\$20.00	\$271,795.07
3/1/2026	AT&T rent		\$1,000.00	\$272,795.07
3/6/2026	Comptroller		\$438.56	\$273,233.63
3/13/2026	Village of Dwight		\$720.00	\$273,953.63
3/13/2026	Fire Recovery		\$848.00	\$274,801.63
3/13/2026	Comptroller (Custer FPD)		\$231.70	\$275,033.33
				\$275,033.33
				\$275,033.33



BRAIDWOOD
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
275 W. Main P.O. Box 309 Braidwood, IL 60408
Station (815) 458-2000 | Fax 815-458-3636



CHIEFS MONTHLY REPORT
March 2026

*Items in **BOLD** are new items

Call volume Report- **January- 144** **February- 146**

Calls of Significance:

- None to report

Meetings/Events Attended since last district meeting-

- **Development Review Committee meetings**
- **Discovery meeting**
- **Polar Plunge logistics meeting**
- **IPRF Loss control Meeting**
- **Attended the NIAPD Conference in Lombard**
- **Constellation HAB exercise kick off meeting**

Personnel

- New Staff- None to report
- Interns- None to report
- New Cadets- None to report
- Employees resigning- **Matt Hozian he has been hired by Naperville Fire**
- Full time Employee's- **Yearly physicals have been completed everyone has passed.**
- Staff In General- **Anthony Bernico going to fill in**

Fire Prevention/Inspections

- Still Working with City on replacing 4-inch mains with larger mains on S. Division, W. 3rd. St., W. Bergera - Nothing new to report
- Heros and Legends Bar and grill under construction
- Mastodon Fuel station at Route 113 and N. Division under construction
- Auto mechanic on N. Division under construction
- New overflow parking/car sales lot for ultimate rides going in across from Ultimate Rides
- Reviewed plans for a new Wendys
- Oasis truck stop corner of Reed and Frontage Road still waiting on Plans
- City wants to adopt the 2024 Building Codes along with 2024 IFC codes

- Reviewed plans for Arnie Bauer
- Reviewed plans for a Storage Facility off Hickory and Second St.
- City is wanting to create 2 new TIF Areas

Training

- Training Grounds- Continued work on the tower.

EMS –

- **Cots and Load systems are coming at the end of their shelf life must start replacing them soon.**

Vehicles/Apparatus-

- 2411- In Service
- 2412- In service
- 2413- Out of service for PM's
- 2414- In Service
- 2415- **Out of service evaluating if we will place back in service**
- 2424- In Service at Station 2
- 2425- In service,
- 2416- In service,
- 2419- In service Tires need replaced
- 2488- In service
- 2418- In Service Station 1
- 2490- **Camz will start working on roughly 2nd week of March**
- 2491- In service **Ordered replacement door for back box on driver's side.**
- Boat 1 – In service
- Command Buggies- In service
- LMTV- EVS has it for modifications,

Specialty Teams –

- *Rescue Task Force*- Nothing to report
- *Water team*- Attended monthly MABAS training
- *TRT*- Attended monthly MABAS training
- *DRONE Team*- Nothing to report

Committees –

- Engine 2422- Chassis going back to Alexis March 19th
- Ambulance 2425- signed contract, we will pay total amount when completed

Station 1

- **Exercise bike needs a new internal battery will be replaced as soon as it comes in, yearly PM'**

Station 2

- **Heavy spring rain has destroyed parts of the landscaping around the septic tanks; I am having Manny come out and fix and mitigate the water flowthrough that area.**
- **Waiting here from Wunderlich doors with a quote to replace bottom door seals on garage doors and replace side service door.**

AT&T tower project

- Construction work has started

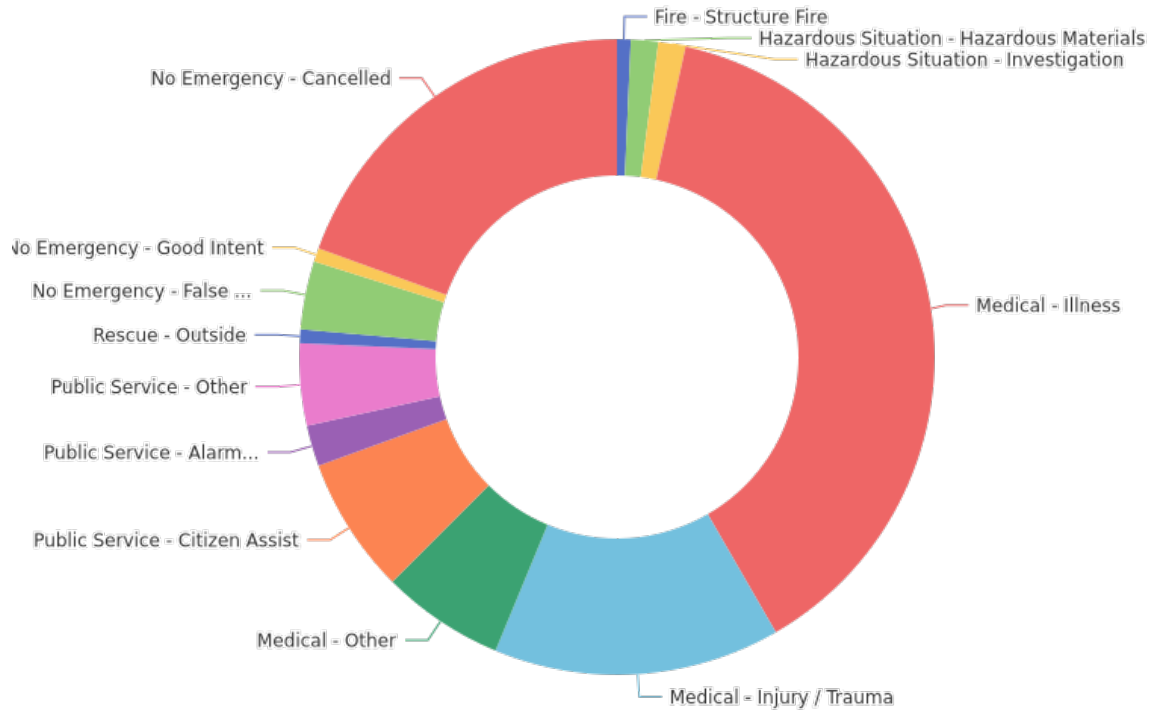
Discussion Items for BFPD District Meeting

- Misc.
 - **Approval Purchase orders exceeding \$1,000.00.**
- **Discovery Works project updates**
- **Question for Attorney, have any FPD's inquired about which new NERIS codes are billable. If so which ones and should we adjust our ordinances for the new codes.**
- **Update on SAFER grant funding**

This concludes my report for March



FDR-IR: Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Fire	1	0.69%
Fire - Structure Fire	1	0.69%
Hazardous Situation	4	2.78%
Hazardous Situation - Hazardous Materials	2	1.39%
Hazardous Situation - Investigation	2	1.39%
Medical	85	59.03%
Medical - Illness	55	38.19%
Medical - Injury / Trauma	21	14.58%

FDR-IR: Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group

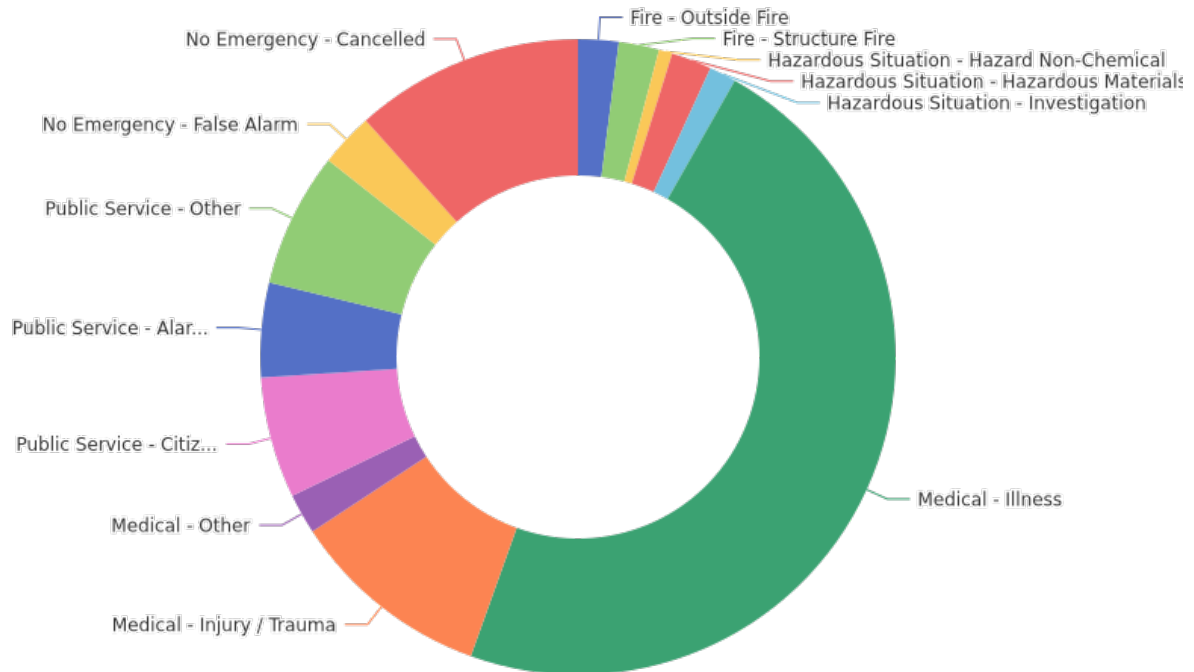
Braidwood Fire Protection District
Address: 275 W Main St, Braidwood, IL, 60408



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Medical - Other	9	6.25%
Public Service	19	13.19%
Public Service - Citizen Assist	10	6.94%
Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical)	3	2.08%
Public Service - Other	6	4.17%
Rescue	1	0.69%
Rescue - Outside	1	0.69%
No Emergency	34	23.61%
No Emergency - False Alarm	5	3.47%
No Emergency - Good Intent	1	0.69%
No Emergency - Cancelled	28	19.44%
Total	144	100.00%



FDR-IR: Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Fire	6	4.11%
Fire - Outside Fire	3	2.05%
Fire - Structure Fire	3	2.05%
Hazardous Situation	6	4.11%
Hazardous Situation - Hazard Non-Chemical	1	0.68%
Hazardous Situation - Hazardous Materials	3	2.05%
Hazardous Situation - Investigation	2	1.37%

FDR-IR: Incident Count by Primary Incident Sub Group

Braidwood Fire Protection District
Address: 275 W Main St, Braidwood, IL, 60408



PRIMARY INCIDENT GROUP / PRIMARY INCIDENT SUB GROUP	COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Medical	87	59.59%
Medical - Illness	69	47.26%
Medical - Injury / Trauma	15	10.27%
Medical - Other	3	2.05%
Public Service	26	17.81%
Public Service - Citizen Assist	9	6.16%
Public Service - Alarms (Non Medical)	7	4.79%
Public Service - Other	10	6.85%
No Emergency	21	14.38%
No Emergency - False Alarm	4	2.74%
No Emergency - Cancelled	17	11.64%
Total	146	100.00%