

**BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
AND THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE COMMISSION BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
July 21, 2026**

A joint meeting of the Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District and the Braidwood Fire Commission Board was held July 21, 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. 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
- Chris Tennill, Discovery Works
- Joe Byers, Planning for a Safer Future Committee
- Debbie Rozak, Planning for a Safer Future Committee
- T.J. Sforza, Planning for a Safer Future Committee

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Chairman requested any additions or corrections to the District Board Meeting Minutes from the meeting on June 16, 2026. Trustee Ritze made a motion that the minutes be approved as distributed. Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman conducted a vote and announced that the motion unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report reflected an opening account balance of \$237,893.02 as of June 1, 2026, nine deposits totaling \$1,039,896.76, and sixty-five withdrawals totaling \$319,231.03 leaving an ending balance of \$923,689.98 as of June 30, 2026. Trustee Post moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; Trustee Boyd 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 \$319,231.03 (see attached list). Trustee Boyd moved to approve payment of the bills as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – No public comment

Communications – No communications

Chief's Report

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

- Reporting a total call volume of 181 in June, compared to 154 in May.
- This morning we had a significant call with 5 patients from a motor vehicle accident, and the semi involved leaked a full tank of diesel fuel from the impact.
- 2415 is out of service due to belt tensioner issues. An oil change will be done on the ambulance while it is at the shop for repair.
- 2419 is being put in service today. It will be O.O.S. this Thursday and Friday because it will be used at the Firemanship Conference.
- The LMTV is ready for training to be done, then it will be put in service. It was debuted at the Braidwood Summerfest Parade.
- The Rescue Task Force had a combined training at the elementary school with Braidwood P.D. It went well, and P.D. and the Task Force would like to train once per quarter moving forward.
- The new thermal drone has been purchased for a cost less than originally approved by the Board. The old one will be dedicated to training. Once all pilots are trained, the new drone will be put into service and assigned to 2491.
- 2422 – Captain Tenerelli reported the updated anticipated delivery is now mid-August.
- 2425 – the Vendor explained that the chassis will need to be purchased by the end of December 2027, and the start of assembly would begin July of 2028.
- 2415 – the ambulance chassis purchase and remount has an expected delivery of July 2027
- The fence at Station 1 behind the detached garage needs to be repaired due to storm damage from the neighbor's tree. Chief Jude is working with the neighbor on coordinating the repair.
- The Station 1 sign will receive a small update in which a "Station 1" embellishment will be added, mirroring the sign at Station 2.
- The forms have been completed and submitted to Verizon, so that they may begin paying their lease to BFPD via ACH transaction.
- Chief Jude will attend the 75th Illinois Fire Chief's Association Dinner on August 15th.
- Chief Jude will assist the Office of the State Fire Marshall's booth at the State Fair on August 21st.
- Chief Jude will be attending the Custer Township Board Meeting tonight, sole ownership transfer to Braidwood FPD for the Station 2 building is an Agenda item for this meeting.
- Chief Jude explained that he and Deputy Chief Pemble will not be in attendance at the First Due Conference due to a schedule conflict.
- Chief Jude will be sending 3 to attend the EMS Conference in Orlando this fall.

Attorney Legal Update and Report

Attorney Motylinski reminded the Board and BFPD employees to remain vigilant in checking their email and spam folders for FOIA requests submitted to staff members other than the FOIA officer, noting that all such requests must be answered per FOIA requirements to avoid non-compliance and possible fines or legal complaints.

Old Business

1. **Faircom (Energy Legislation / Exelon Agreement):** No update.
2. **Future Training Opportunities:**
 - a) Chief Jude requested permission to send and cover travel expenses up to the amount of a round-trip airplane ticket, lodging and conference fees for Tonya Cavanaugh, Nick Klucikowski, and Morgan Rogers to the EMS Conference in Orlando this fall.

- b) Chief Jude requested permission to attend the Illinois Fire Instructor Conference in Peoria on September 23-25, 2026.

Trustee Post moved to approve the registration, travel and accommodation fees for the EMS Conference and Fire Instructor Conference as presented. Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

- 3. **Unit 2422 Committee Update:** See Chief's Report.
- 4. **Unit 2425 Committee Update:** See Chief's Report.
- 5. **Annual Calendar and Checklist Review:** Secretary Post reported that the Tentative Budget will be posted for 30 days and notice will be published. The public hearing for the budget ordinance will be scheduled for the September District Meeting.

Closed Session

A closed session was not required.

New Business

- 1. **Fire Commission Business:**
 - a) Discuss updates regarding Full-Time Firefighters: The current eligibility list expires this fall. The Board would like another round of testing to be scheduled to establish a new list for full-time employees.
 - b) Discuss SAFER Grant Developments: The most recent reimbursement request distribution has been received.
- 2. **Purchases Requiring Board Approval:**
 - a) DSLR Pros, new drone, \$5,619.98
 - b) JP Exteriors, pavilion framing and finishing at the training ground \$9,950.00
 - c) Alpha Tactical Fire Fabrication, roof/floor and windows on training tower, \$12,000.00

Trustee Ritze 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 adding a new medical insurance option from One Digital:** Kristin distributed the presentation packet provided by One Digital which proposes to add 2 additional high deductible, lower premium BCBSIL coverage options that could be added and become effective September 1st for the rest of the current BCBSIL term.
Trustee Ritze moved that the Board approve to provide an additional medical insurance coverage options to the full-time firefighters, as presented; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 4. **Review and possibly approve the Group Term Life policy renewal from Railside Citrus:** Kristin distributed the presentation packet provided by Railside Citrus for Group Term Life renewal options, which included our current policy coverage from VFIS and Provident Option 1 and Provident Option 2.
Trustee Ritze moved that the Board approve the Group Term Life Policy Provident Option 2 with an annual premium of \$3,165.00; Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.
- 5. **Review and possibly act on the recommendations from the community lead committee of Planning for a Safer Future:** Chris Tennill gave a review of the information covered in the community; and also presented the results of the community survey responses to offer insight on support for a potential fire district referendum. TJ Sforza presented the Board with the recommendations determined by the Planning for a Safer Future Committee made up of District residents that have been conducting educational meetings, discussions and community workshops since October of 2025. The Committee as a whole is in favor of a referendum for 0.32 % levy increase to retain our qualified and experienced first responders, and maintain staff training, equipment, apparatus and fire station buildings to continue to

provide an excellent level of service to the steadily increasing emergency call volume within the fire district.

Trustee Ritze moved to approve placing a referendum question on the ballot for the upcoming General Election to take place on November 3, 2026. Trustee Post seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

6. **Review and possibly approve the Tentative Budget for FY 2027:** Chief Jude disseminated the Tentative Budget to the District for review. The Notice that the Tentative Budget is posted will be published in the local paper on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Ritze moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Teri Post. The Chairman to adjourn the meeting. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

- . The next regularly scheduled Fire District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2026.