

**BRAIDWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD
AND THE BRAIDWOOD FIRE COMMISSION BOARD
Minutes of Meeting
September 15, 2026**

A joint meeting of the Trustees of the Braidwood Fire Protection District and the Braidwood Fire Commission Board was held September 15, 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

Public Hearing

The public hearing was called to order at 9:01 a.m., at which time the Budget and Appropriations for the fiscal year of June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027 were presented and reviewed. There was no public comment. Trustee Boyd made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Trustee Ritze. A voice vote was taken and the Chairman declared that the motion passed, closing the public hearing at 9:02 a.m.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Chairman requested additions or corrections to the minutes of the District Board meeting held on August 18, 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 passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report reflected an opening account balance of \$261,074.42 as of August 1, 2026, fifteen deposits totaling \$199,417.64, two transfers from the investment account totaling \$200,000.00 and fifty-nine withdrawals totaling \$522,549.11, leaving an ending balance of \$136,981.75 as of August 31, 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 \$522,549.11. Trustee Post moved to approve payment of the bills as presented; Trustee Boyd seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment – No public comment

Communications – No communications

- The Illinois Fire Safety Alliance has invited the Board to their Annual Fire Safety Luncheon on October 8, 2026 at Bobak's in Woodridge.

Chief's Report

The written report from Fire Chief Chris Jude is attached. The following items were discussed:

- The total call volume in August was 198, compared to 228 in July.
- Calls of significance:
 - A lifeguard at Braidwood Recreation Club will receive an award for taking action to save the life of a drowning teen.
- D'Orazio Ford continues construction of its new dealership, with an anticipated opening in November 2026.
- A new storage unit facility is planned for construction behind Jewel.
- Engine 2411 – will be going in to have a sticking valve repaired and have its preventative maintenance completed.
- Station 1 bay doors need repair and paint due to rust.
- The training tower at Station 1 needs a new roof and to have windows and doors painted.
- The detached garage at Station 1 has battered aging roofing and siding. The extent of the deterioration was noticed during tree removal.
- Station 2 needs a new front entry door.
- DC Pemble has been asked to provide additional information for the AFG grant submission for the purchase of a gear washer and dryer as well as sets of gear.
- A grant application will be submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for improvements to Station 2.

Attorney Legal Update and Report

Attorney Motylinski informed the Board that should the referendum pass, a black box hearing notice will need to be published in the newspaper's November 11th edition and run for 10 days. A special meeting must be held before the end of November to review and approve the levy ordinance in order to meet the filing deadline.

Old Business

1. **Faircom (Energy Legislation / Exelon Agreement):** No update.
2. **Future Training Opportunities:**
 - a) Kristin Wexell reported that a table has been reserved for the IFSA Fire Prevention program on October 8th.
3. **Unit 2422 Update:** The engine is on target for delivery this fall.
4. **Unit 2425 Committee Update:** No new report.
5. **Annual Calendar and Checklist Review:**
 - a. Copies of the FY26 Audit are to be filed with Grundy and Will counties.

Closed Session

Not needed

New Business

1. Fire Commission Business:

- a) Discuss updates regarding Full-Time Firefighters: Chief Jude reported that the targeted test date to compile a new full-time firefighter eligibility list is still scheduled for November 21, 2026.
- b) Discuss SAFER Grant Developments: Chief Jude reported that the most recently requested reimbursement was received this week.

2. Purchases Requiring Board Approval:

- a) Aventis Systems – IT, three desktops and three Microsoft Office 2024 licenses, \$5,546.97
- b) Alpha Tactical – RTF equipment, \$9,300.00

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

3. Review, discuss and possibly approve Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Budget Ordinance 26-106:

Trustee Boyd moved to approve Budget and Appropriations Ordinance 26-106 as distributed, seconded by Trustee Ritze. The Chairman conducted a roll call vote and announced that the motion passed. (3 Ayes – Boyd, Post and Ritze, 0 Nays)

4. Review, discuss and possibly approve FY 2026 Audit presented by Mack and Associate:

Tawnya Mack reviewed the completed audit with the Board

Trustee Ritze moved to approve the FY 2026 Audit as presented, seconded by Trustee Post. The Chairman conducted a vote and announced that the motion passed unanimously.

5. Review, discuss and possibly approve entering into an Emergency Response Reimbursement Agreement with the City of Braidwood and D'Orazio Ford relating to potential emergencies involving the D'Orazio sign, Ordinance # 26-107:

Trustee Boyd moved that the Board approve and enter into the Emergency Response Reimbursement Agreement (Ordinance #26-107) with the City of Braidwood and Ridgeway Petroleum, Inc., as presented. Trustee Ritze seconded the motion. The Chairman called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

The next regularly scheduled Fire District Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2026.