MEETING MINUTES

Northern Piatt Fire Protection District Board of Trustees

May 20, 2026

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 19:00 PM.

Roll Call

Roll call taken. Trustees present: Donald Deffenbaugh, John Hannah, Thad Gilman, and Rusty Woliung. Also present: Chief Jones, Joyce Dowell.

Routine Matters

Approval of April Minutes – Minutes of the April 2026 meeting were reviewed. John made a motion to approve the minutes. Thad seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Approval of Bills Payable and Treasurer’s Report for May 2026 – The bills payable and treasurer’s report for May reviewed. Duffy asked if we’ve received a bill from insurance for our new chasis. Chief stated he reached out to Insurance company to add the chasis to our insurance and is waiting to hear back. Rusty made a motion to approve the bills payable and treasurer’s reports, Thad seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the bills payable and treasurer’s reports was unanimous.

Public Comment

Zach Reynolds expressed his interest again in the open Trustee position. Jared Blacker asked about the status of Truck #8675. John stated the truck is not running, and needs extensive work. Jared then asked the status of the concrete driveway; Duffy stated we will need to start process from the beginning. Jared asked about the replacement of truck 8651; Trustees stated it is still a goal of the district, just not top priority at this time. Discussion of current volunteer FF personnel.

Old Business

1. Approval of Kirby Ambulance Agreement – haven’t heard back from Kirby’s EMS Director.
2. Trustee Vacancy – Duffy put forth Barry Viktora as an appointee to fill the Trustee Vacancy. John made a motion to appoint Barry Viktora to the vacant trustee position. Thad seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the motion was unanimous. Barry took the oath of office as a Trustee. Joyce will prepare and submit the appropriate paperwork in support of Barry’s appointment.

New Business

1. Review & Approval of FY25 AFR – Accountant Neil Kuester was present and reviewed the FY25 Annual Financial Report. Neil discussed because of the recent addition of wind turbines in the area, assessed valuations will increase significantly. Discussed tax rate history, 5 years ago was .29 and this year .27. Neal stated if we want to keep the tax rate around .3 or .27, we will need to have a Truth in Taxation hearing in October or November. Because of the wind turbines, our tax rate will go down significantly and there will be ‘no money from the windmills’. If we stay at .27, the district will see ~ $75,000 more for the year. To do so, will have to contact our attorney, have a special meeting, do a special publication, etc. We should be seeing new assessed values in October and Neal could provide approximate calculations. Rusty made a motion to approve the AFR. John seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the AFR was unanimous.

2. Review Budget for FY2027 – Discussed the proposed FY2027 budget, adjusted categories where needed. Secretary will send the budget information to the attorney for preparation of the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance.
3. Outside Landscaping – Zach stated the fire fighters had discussed different options at their last business meeting. He provided information from Atlantic Services, Greenview, and Ross Mansfield. Discussion held on different options, hiring a landscaper vs FF doing the work, timing of the project, maintenance & up-keep. Trustees agreed to contribute to the project.

Chief's Old Business

1. Replacement Foam – on backorder
2. Tarp Repair – no updates
3. Firefighter attendance policy – Chief will present at next Trustees meeting. Rusty asked if the district has thought about having just fire fighter only and EMS only instead of combination. It was stated that most are just FF only, most of the trainings are for FF and EMS training is done on the fire fighter's own time.

Chief's New Business

1. Chief brought up issue with coverage on the Champaign / Piatt county line. Duffy will contact the attorney to see how best to resolve the issue.
2. EMS & Fire Reporting – Chief is looking into changing vendors, the current plan expires August 8, 2026; but will need time for new software to be setup. He will have more information at next Trustee meeting.
3. As of today, we are14 calls ahead of last year, at a total of 99 calls now.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:30.

Next Meeting – June 17, 2026