Minutes
BRADD Executive Council
Wednesday, May 27, 2026
BRADD Office Center

Regular Members in Attendance: Judge/Executive Joe Choate, Judge/Executive Dennis Harper, Mayor Dwayne Hatcher, Mayor Michael Hughes, Mr. Michael Stoyonovich, and Mr. Steve Thurmond.
Virtual attendees: Mrs. Dawn Devore (See attached sign-in sheet).

Staff in Attendance: Mr. Eric Sexton, Mrs. Amy Carroll, Mrs. Hong Nguyen, and Mr. Caleb Speck.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Choate called the Executive Council meeting to order. It was determined a quorum was present.

2. Approve Minutes

Chairman Choate reported the minutes from the April 22, 2026 Executive Council meeting were previously emailed to the members for prior review.

Motion: Mayor Michael Hughes made a motion to approve the April 22, 2026 Executive Council minutes. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dwayne Hatcher. Motion carried.

3. Review and Approval of Clearinghouse Projects

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton who reported the members packet contains a summary of four regional clearinghouse projects. Projects include, fence construction at the Tompkinsville-Monroe County Airport. Water tank construction for the City of Adairville. The City of Morgantown's project at Riverside Park for improvements. KY Department of Fish and Wildlife project for boating and fishing access and maintenance. Mr. Sexton reported that the projects were reviewed by BRADD staff for conflicts or duplications.

Motion: Judge/Executive Dennis Harper made a motion to approve the four regional clearinghouse projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Stoyonovich. Motion carried. (See attached)

4. Agreements and Contracts

- **Aging (SHIP)**

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Sexton who reported for informational purposes BRADD is in receipt of the FY 27 & 28 State Health Insurance Improvement Program (SHIP) grant. A statewide allocation of $1.3 million has been designated. BRADDs specific allocation from that amount has not yet been specified. Last year BRADD was awarded approximately $150,000 and would expect a similar allocation.

5. **Personnel**

- **CED**

Mr. Sexton reported a new Director for Community and Economic Development has been hired effective May 1, 2026, Mr. Russ Hurd.

- **Aging**

Mr. Sexton informed Ms. Tiana Gonzalez has been hired as a part-time, seasonal, Social Services Assistant effective April 30, 2026. This position will provide assistance and coverage across the Senior Centers. Mrs. Jennifer Wade has transitioned her role to Case Manager effective May 1, 2026. The Simpson County Senior Center Manager, Ms. Kitty Thomas, has retired. Ms. Abigail Hutcheson has been hired as her replacement.

6. **Financials**

- **Review of Executive Director's Timesheets and Travel for March.**

Chairman Choate informed the Council the April timesheets and travel forms for Executive Director, Mr. Eric Sexton, had been previously emailed for prior review. Chairman Choate asked for any questions concerning the documents.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Steve Thurmond to approve the Executive Director April 2026 timesheets and travel forms as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Michael Hughes. Motion carried.

- **FY 27 Salary Schedule**

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton who reported taking the Executive Council feedback into consideration to provide a one-time, all-inclusive salary adjustment review and consideration for the fiscal year, rather than assessing a mid-year review. Mr. Sexton reported having surveyed other Area Development Districts across the state, as well as City and County Governments, to determine a fixed cost of living base of three percent. From that, a range was included based on each employee's performance evaluation to determine the total percent increase. The performance evaluation range included 0.25 to 2 percent. The average increase is approximately 4.28 percent. Mr. Sexton informed this would result in a budget increase of $135 thousand for FY 27, which is found to be supported. Mr. Sexton noted certain staff whose increases differed, Mrs. Kim Morrow previously received an increase for being interim CED Director and that amount was factored into her increase. Mr. Hurd was a new hire so he did not receive the increase but could be evaluated after six months. The proposal also included an increase for the hourly rate Senior Center staff. The transition has gone well with one year completed in July. The FY 27 salary schedule includes more part time employees due to the addition of Senior Centers. Members voiced agreement with the proposal and commended the BRADD staff for their hard work. Members remarked this was another good step to get the staff salaries closer to where they needed to be to remain competitive with the market.

Motion: Mayor Mike Hughes made a motion to approve the FY 27 salary schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mayor Dwayne Hatcher. Motion carried. (See attached)

- **Executive Director Evaluation**

In addition to the staff salary schedule, Executive Director, Mr. Eric Sexton is considered separately due to being evaluated and appointed by the BRADD Executive Council. Mr. Sexton left the meeting. All members were asked to submit an evaluation of Mr. Sexton prior to the meeting. Mr. Speck provided the members with a summary of all the members' review. Mr. Speck reported the review was very good and shared some of the positive comments. Members remarked, Mr. Sexton can be sent anytime, anywhere, and he is always going to represent BRADD well. Members agreed that Mr. Sexton should be awarded the same cost of living adjustment that all staff received. Based on the good standing performance evaluation, a five percent increase was decided upon. Members voiced agreement.

Motion: Mayor Mike Hughes made a motion to approve a five percent cost of living and performance review adjustment to Executive Director for FY 27. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Thurmond. Motion carried. (See attached)

- **FY 27 Budget**

Chairman Choate called on Mrs. Hong Nguyen who informed the members the FY 27 budget summary was provided in the members packet. Mrs. Nguyen reported in total revenue, BRADD expects to receive approximately $51 million. Mrs. Nguyen provided a break down of the various revenue sources. The largest includes the Anchor Project, one-time funding, which results in the overall increased revenue amount. The Anchor Project funds will close out in FY 27. Aging fund sources includes a 2% to 4% expected reduction. In Economic Development, the JFA fund is being reduced by 2.5% due to some multi-year projects ending in FY 27. The Waiver program continues to grow with an expected 2% to 3% growth for FY 27. This is dependent upon the number of clients served, which is subject to change. The Veterans program continues to grow as the program can now receive referrals from other VA Hospitals including Louisville and Nashville. In expenditures, Mrs. Nguyen reported BRADD expects to spend $49.8 million for the year. The difference in revenue and expenditures is $1.5 million which is down from the previous year. Any contingencies will be applied to programs with expected shortfalls. Additionally, Mrs. Nguyen provided a detailed report on revenues and expenditures by source for the various grant/programs operated. Overall, BRADD will have the same number of programs/grants for FY 27. Mrs. Nguyen noted a balance of $300,000 in the general fund which would be used for building maintenance and improvements, such as sprinkler system updates, parking lot maintenance and office updates. Mrs. Nguyen reported the budget always has the possibility to change, but any updates are presented quarterly.

Motion: Mr. Steve Thurmond made a motion to approve the FY 2027 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Stoyonovich. Motion carried. (See attached)

7. Other

- **Conflict of Interest**

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Speck who reported the most recent new hires completed their conflict-of-interest statements. Those included: Tiana Gonzales, Abigail Hutcheson, Russ Hurd, Jackie Watson, Chad Settle. Mr. Speck noted, additional outside employment was reported, which does not appear to create a conflict of interest.

Motion: Mayor Mike Hughes made a motion to approve the five staff conflict of interest statements as presented. The motion was seconded by Judge/Executive Dennis Harper. Motion carried.

- **Other**

Chairman Choate called on Mr. Eric Sexton who reported, the BRADD FY 27 Annual Dues and Aging Donations invoices have been sent. A new project opportunity is on the horizon with the University of Louisville's, Trager Institute. A five-year statewide partnership for a Rural KY Health Transformation Program. The project requires 12 key performance areas to develop connection and health workers for the older adult population. Mr. Sexton explained, BRADD would designate certain senior centers as anchor sites to service the most rural areas of the region. The contract proposal is $526 thousand, with no match requirements. Ms. Sexton informed a letter of commitment would be needed, which further outlines the scope of work. Ms. Sexton informed the members he would follow up with an emailed summary.

8. Adjourn

Motion: With no further business to consider, Mayor Dwayne Hatcher made a motion to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Steve Thurmond. Motion carried.

Signed, BRADD Chair