ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE

ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

Authority Board Meeting Minutes 7/21/2026

9:00 a.m. – Swearing In

The following individuals participated in the swearing-in ceremony: Brooke Stott, Fire Marshal; Ryan Lee, Firefighter/Paramedic, FTO; Rachel Thomas, Firefighter/Paramedic, FTO; Lance Ammerman, Firefighter/EMT; Kevin Dunn, Firefighter/Paramedic; Joshua Snyder, Firefighter/EMT; Jennifer Taylor, Division Chief of Training; and Terrence Leitch, Firefighter/Paramedic.
The Board expressed appreciation to all participants in the swearing-in ceremony.

9:35 a.m. – Call to Order

Roll Call: Board Member Duroux, Board Member Young, Vice President Arthur, Treasurer Striegler, Board Member Heivly, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Fire Marshal Stott, Fleet Director Espinoza (Lifesize), Deputy Chief Cornelius, Facilities Director Klein, Snowmass Village Town Manager Clint Kenny, HR Director Thomas, Secretary Diamond, IT Director Johnson, Attorney Cole (Lifesize).

Attendees: Klebes (LS resident), Gregor, Chance, Tanner, William Boineau, Vonda Williams, Hutter.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Young moved to approve the Authority Board Minutes from June 16, 2026. Board Member Duroux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole reported ongoing work on the HR Personnel manual.

-Attorney Cole confirmed completion of the WE Cycle lease for Station 41.

-Attorney Cole is drafting ballot language for the upcoming tax question. State requirements limit flexibility at the beginning and end, while the middle section will specify the use of tax revenue. A draft will be available by early September.

Chief's Report: Chief Thompson reported that Station 42 remains on schedule for completion by mid-October, with a grand opening and move-in planned for November.

-Chief Thompson reported that bond funding and project costs for Station 42 are under review to ensure adequate resources for completion. The owner's representative remains confident in the project's progress.

-Chief Thompson emphasized that wildfire mitigation is a priority. Current projects include the Sopris Mountain Ranch fuel break and Basalt fuels work, with about $1 million allocated for pile burning.

-Chief Thompson noted that additional tax funding would support hiring a wildland team and about 15 positions, while maintaining flexibility for future expenditures.

-Chief Thompson requested that the Attorney prepare a fact card for Board members to address community questions.

-Consultant Update: Chief Thompson informed the Board that the previous consultant is no longer available. Fletcher, the Woolpert consultant, recommended a former Idaho manager who may assist with consultant selection and facilitation. Chief Thompson asked Board Members to suggest additional consultant candidates so he can collect resumes' and identify a suitable consultant.

-Chief Thompson recommended postponing focus groups until a consultant is selected.

-Secretary Diamond will distribute Fletcher's survey results to all users.

-Chief Thompson stated that, due to drought conditions, crews will remain local.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson informed the Board that the initial ballot question will be presented for adoption in August.

-Finance Director Thompson stated that a special meeting is required to approve the SWFPD IGA and sales tax ballot question. Legal review and coordination are needed due to the compressed timeline.

-Discussion focused on ballot language that highlights wildfire mitigation and community projects without limiting future use. Attorney Cole advised that funds may be restricted through ballot language if desired. Board Member Heivly emphasized the importance of community support. Chief Thompson noted a great example of the Sopris Mountain Fire Break, which will benefit Snowmass Village.

-Attorney Cole reminded the Board that public education funding ends after ballot approval, but board members may continue to answer questions or participate in issue committees outside of paid activities. Finance Director Thompson reminded the Board that if the measure does not pass, another election may be scheduled for May.

-Finance Director Thompson reported that the budget remains on track. However, ambulance revenue is below expectations, and wildfire deployment revenue is limited due to our crew remaining local because of draught conditions.

-Finance Director Thompson stated that a preliminary 2027 budget will be presented in September.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas reported that recruits were hired on July 6 and have begun orientation and onboarding.

-HR Director Thomas is working on the personnel manual, which remains under legal review.

-HR Director Thomas informed the Board that she is collecting data to support staffing and future positions.

Fire Marshal Report: Fire Marshal Stott informed the Board that National Night Out will be held on August 4 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Triangle Park in Willits. Secretary Diamond will distribute event information to Board Members.

Deputy Chief Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius reported that retention and cost-of-living remain top priorities, along with maintaining benefits and improving wildland readiness.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that call volume through June is approximately 15% below projections; about 100 calls involved transports.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius reported that three staff members returned from CMC training, and three more will begin on August 10.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that the Iturri Wildland 3 has arrived and will soon be placed into service; it is a top priority. Deputy Chief Cornelius said once the Iturri Wildland 3 is in service, we will start working on placing the Iturri Mini Pumper, which will live at Station 46 on Sopris Creek; it is the last of the Wildland 3s. Deputy Chief Cornelius said he is planning to complete a final inspection on the second Iturri Mini Pumper scheduled for August 18. Deputy Chief Cornelius reminded the Board that once we take delivery of that mini pumper, that will close out the Iturri project. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the last mini pumper will be placed in service in Thomasville at Station 43.

-Deputy Chief Cornelius reported that he is working to finalize change orders on the Pierce Type 1 engine. Deputy Chief Cornelius reiterated that Pierce will honor the contract pricing absent any change orders. The Pricing Committee met with Pierce, and the anticipated apparatus cost increase is $5,000 to $7,000.

Deputy Chief Cornelius reminded the Board that new employees are completing a four-week orientation and onboarding program. He also informed the Board that recruit graduation will be held July 30 at Station 41. Secretary Diamond will send invitations.

Facilities Report: Facilities Director Klein reported that landscaping at Station 45 will be improved in phases to better align with Fire Marshal recommendations. Initial landscaping work will begin this fall, with additional phases next year. Facilities Director Klein will confirm cost-sharing with Snowmass Chapel. Before-and-after photos will be shared with the community to demonstrate best practices in wildfire mitigation.

IT Report: IT Director Johnson thanked staff for their vigilance regarding phishing emails.

Master Plan: Chief Thompson said the progress on Station 42 continues to advance multiple Master Plan goals.

Public Comments: None.

Board Member Comments: Board Member Heivly thanked those involved for their efforts to identify a consultant. Board Member Heivly will reach out to a group that he did leadership training with to see if they have any consultant recommendations.

-Board Member Heivly expressed disappointment in comments made from a previous meeting by another Board Member. Board Member Heivly feels the Board voted against transparency.

Staff Comments: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Adjournment: Board Member Young motioned to end the meeting. Board Member Heivly seconded the motion. All Board Members favored ending the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

To watch this meeting in its entirety, click this link:
https://youtu.be/tLB4W6XfmME