



Authority Meeting Final Board Minutes November 18, 2025:

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Board Member Young, Board Member Duroux, Treasurer Striegler, Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius, Fire Marshal Stott, Facilities Director Klein, Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Fire Marshal Mele (Lifesize), IT Director Johnson, Board Member Heivly (Lifesize), Deputy Chief of EMS Luttrell (Lifesize), and Secretary Diamond.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:58 a.m. President Van Walraven announced the resignation of HR Director Thomas.

Approval of Minutes: Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the meeting minutes from 10-21-2025. Board Member Duroux seconded the motion. All Board Members favored accepting the minutes from 10-21-2025 with no discussion or opposition.

Attorney Report - None

Chief Report - Chief Thompson reviewed a memo signed by local Fire Chiefs and the Wildfire Collaborative outlining concerns about proposed wilderness, SMA, and WCA designations in the Roaring Fork Watershed. Chief Thompson included the letter in the agenda packet for Board review. Chief Thompson emphasized the reasons for opposition and noted that this issue may receive media attention.

-Chief Thompson reported that we are waiting for Holy Cross to transfer power into the vehicle maintenance building, after which occupancy will be possible. Chief Thomson said the project is behind schedule due to framing errors and other issues, resulting in additional costs.

-Chief Thompson announced that Deputy Fire Marshal Stott is the new Fire Marshal, as Fire Marshal Mele will be retiring in 2026.

Finance Report- Finance Director Thompson said we are doing well at 79% of our budget through October. Finance Director Thompson prepared a revised 2025 budget, anticipating no issues. Finance Director Thompson informed the Board that all the fires are in process and just waiting for invoices. Finance Director Thompson said we had a big expenditure in October to pay for the ambulance and a down payment on the trucks. Finance Director Thompson said that for 2026, with Mele's retirement a small remodel to his unit will be added to the budget, a budget adjustment will be needed. Finance Director Thompson said the final budget reading for the Authority is at Station 45, scheduled for December 2nd.



HR Report – Finance Director Thompson reported that the Division Chief of Training position received nine applications so far, with interviews scheduled for January 5. Finance Director Thompson said a late February start date is expected. Chief Thompson noted there is one internal candidate and a two-bedroom unit is being held if needed.

- Finance Director Thompson told the Board we have received sixteen applications for the HR Director position; thirteen meet requirements; we will interview seven. Finance Director Thompson said interviews will be held on December 15, with a mid-January start date.

-Finance Director Thompson said we have a Lieutenant out with a workers' comp injury, and we will post a temp position to fill in his absence.

-Finance Director Thompson said there are two other people out for an extended period of time with non-work-related injuries, so we have filled two temporary full-time positions to be hired for six months; these positions came out of our part-time hiring list.

Fire Marshal Report: - Chief Stott said, Chief Mele and Treasurer Young will schedule the Gateway Subdivision special meeting sometime in January 2026.

-Chief Thompson said there was another fire in Old Snowmass, saying it was four acres and they suspect it was electrical in nature. Chief Thompson said it was stopped before air resources were needed. Chief Thompson added that this fire did not burn any homes, but did put critical infrastructures at risk.

-Chief Stott said the Wildfire Resilience Code is a work in progress.

-Chief Stott informed the Board that Fire Marshal Pidcock attended the NFPA committee on underground parking in November; he was one of two on this committee who are in the fire business.

Deputy Chief Cornelius Report- Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that on Saturday, we participated in the University of Mesa Career Fair.

-Volunteer Hours: Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that a total of 237.25 volunteer hours were recorded.

-Incidents: Deputy Chief Cornelius stated that August was a busy month, with a total of 184 incidents, 58 EMS-related calls, representing a 39 percent decrease in incidents or -17.5%. Deputy Chief Cornelius compares these numbers to last year in October 2024, where we had 223 total incidents, 88 EMS-related. Deputy Chief Cornelius stated that the year-to-date total is



2,432 incidents, of which 1,049 are EMS calls, an increase of 99 incidents or 4.2%. Deputy Chief Cornelius compares these numbers to last year-to-date in 2024 for 2,333 total Incidents, 1,084 EMS-related incidents.

-Paramedic Education: Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that Terrence Leitch began his field internship for the Denver Health Paramedic Education Program in November. Deputy Chief Cornelius said he will be in Denver over the next four months.

Deputy Chief Cornelius said Ryland Babcock, Zac Erickson, and Michael Jones are in the didactic portion of the Colorado Mountain College Education Program. Deputy Chief Cornelius said this is a year-long program that runs through August 2026, and they are also completing clinical rotations.

-RMS Selection Committee: Deputy Chief Cornelius reminded the Board that implementation of the new First Due platforms is ongoing, and training will take place in mid-December. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the go-live is January 1st!

-Apparatus update: Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that a Braun NW Type 1 ambulance was delivered on Friday, October 31st. Deputy Chief Cornelius said we are working to get it ready, but it will need to be inspected by the CDPHE in December before it can be placed into service.

Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that the mid-construction inspection on the ITURRI Mini Pumper will take place in Creswell, OR, on Monday, November 24th. Deputy Chief Cornelius added that the final inspection will take place on Wednesday, December 17th. Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that, assuming no issues are identified, delivery will follow shortly after.

-Training Division: Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that live-fire training took place with the Glenwood Springs Fire Department on October 26th, 28th, and 30th. Deputy Chief Cornelius said the focus was on multicompany operations and was a big success. Deputy Chief Cornelius informed the Board that crews are also conducting live-fire training this week at CRFPD. Deputy Chief Cornelius thanked DVC Luttrell for facilitating the training.

- Rental Rates: Deputy Chief Cornelius worked on a document that shows rental rates in our valley for deed-restricted housing. Deputy Chief Cornelius explained that our rental rates for 2027 will need to be adjusted, and the Board will need to decide the percentage of the increase. Deputy Chief Cornelius went on to say that the letter explaining the increase will be



included in a December email to tenants, as we are giving them a year's advance notice to set the rates for 2027. Discussion:

-Motion: Board Member Young motioned to raise the rental rates by 10% in 2027. Board Member Heivly seconded the motion. All Board Members favored passing the motion; none were opposed.

-Sales tax discussion: Tischler Bise is working on a survey for the ballot for our fire district to get sales tax on certain items from grocery stores as a source of income for our fire department. Deputy Chief Cornelius read the statute to the Board. Deputy Chief Cornelius said if the sales tax passes in November 2026, there is a three-month lag, and we would see money in March 2027. Discussion.

-Direction - President Van Walraven says to send it to the attorney for review, and in January, they can come and answer any questions the Board may have.

Facilities Report: Facilities Director Klein said for Station 44, all work is complete; stucco, painting, and leak addressed. Facilities Director Klein said some of the appliances were moved from Station 42 to Station 44 for updating.

Master Plan: Chief Thompson said we are working to get 15 people on shift, as it's in the master plan.

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments - Board Member Duroux told the Board that Volunteer Firefighter Williams survived a plane crash in his personal plane. Chief Thompson said he does not need anything at this time.

Treasure Young thanks Chief Mele for his years of service with RFFRA and adds that Chief Stott will be a good fit to take over. Discussion of a Celebration to give him an appropriate send-off. Chief Mele said he will be here in the first quarter of 2026, as code adoption is coming up, and he will also be introducing Chief Stott to the Snowmass Village Town Council.

Staff Comments: None

Old business: None

New Business: None



Adjournment: Vice President Arthur motioned to end the meeting. Board Member Duroux seconded the motion. All Board Members were in favor of ending the meeting at 10:29 a.m.

To view in entirety: <https://youtu.be/qYXhgZl6bog>.