



## ROARING FORK FIRE RESCUE AUTHORITY

### **Final MINUTES From 4 /21/2026 Authority Board Meeting**

Call to Order: Authority Board Meeting called to order at 9:03 am on April 21, 2026.

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Board Member Young, Chief Thompson, Secretary Diamond, IT Director Johnson, HR Director Thomas, Fire Marshal Stott, Finance Director Thompson, Board Member Duroux, Hilary Fletcher (Lifesize), Facilities Director Klein (Lifesize), Attorney Cole (Lifesize), public - Bill Boineau, Collin McAweeney, Treasurer Striegler, Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius (Lifesize), Gabriel Wiggins (Lifesize), Board Member Heivly (Lifesize).

Approval of Minutes from March 17, 2026: Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the board minutes from March 17, 2026. Board Member Young seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Report: Attorney Cole said he finalized a license agreement with We Cycle for bike sharing outside Station 41.

Attorney Cole told the Board he had terminated our elevator service agreement and replaced it with a new contract with TK Elevator.

Chief Report: Chief Thompson said the Wember construction project at Station 42 is 1.5 weeks behind the master schedule. Chief Thompson told the Board that we remain in budget and still have contingencies. Chief Thompson said Holy Cross will be powering down service at Station 42 for a day or so to transfer the service.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson said the audit is complete and will be sent to all the Boards after she reviews it. Finance Director Thompson said they will also review the audit at each board meeting.

Finance Director Thompson said that, regarding the LOSAP list, Craig Mackey qualified, and his deposit will be made into his Hero Plus account.



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-Board Member Young motioned to approve the LOSAP list. Treasure Striegler seconded the motion. All board members favored passing this motion; none opposed.

Captain Lutzeier attached a letter to the board requesting permission to consider granting him a pass on his MIGS credits for 2025, as he was 2.5 hours short. Captain Lutzeier needs the Board's approval to remain in his employee housing.

-Board Member Young motioned to approve the pass for Captain Lutzeier and allow him to remain in his housing and make up the hours in 2026. Treasure Striegler seconded the motion. All board members favored passing this motion; none opposed.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas told the Board that, following the last meeting, the Chief and HR contracted with Hilary Fletcher to develop a survey focused on compensation and workplace improvement for all staff, which requires Board approval before distribution to staff. HR Director Thomas said the results will be presented to the Board at the May meeting.

Hilary Fletcher Presentation: Hilary reviewed the draft staff survey with the Board to obtain Board approval to send it out to all staff. Hilary informed the Board that the draft survey builds on the survey conducted a couple of years ago to identify areas for improvement and added questions on satisfaction with compensation. Hilary said the survey will be administered through her company, not the district, to ensure confidentiality, consistency, and comparability. Hilary said the survey will be released tomorrow, with a 2.5-week response window ending May 8, and results will be presented at the May 19th Board Meeting. Hilary will review responses and determine if an extension is necessary. If needed, the window may be extended with a June presentation. Hilary is available to answer any questions. Hilary told the Board the target participation rate is 65-85%, similar to the previous survey. The Board supports conducting the survey and advised the Chief to send an email reminding the staff of the importance of their participation.



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Fire Marshal's Report: Fire Marshal Stott told the Board that the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code Resolution is ready for adoption. The full code information is included in the Board Packet for the Board's review. Fire Marshal Stott told the Board that Pitkin County and the Town of Basalt have adopted this

code, and the Town of Snowmass Village is in the process of adopting it, and Eagle County's version is nearing approval. Fire Marshal Stott said residents will submit permits through their county and follow the town's adopted wildfire resiliency code. Fire Marshal Stott said enforcement will be handled by the building official or by DFPC if there is no fire marshal. Fire Marshal Stott asks the Board to adopt the code, which will be submitted to the state.

Resolution 3-2026 - **Adoption of the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC)**. The Authority hereby adopts by reference the Colorado Wildfire Resiliency Code (CWRC), including applicable chapters, sections, appendices, and associated Fire Intensity Classification Map, or as amended by governing agencies and municipalities, including future AHJ-accepted ground-truthing validation, governing the wildland–urban interface (WUI), ignition-resistant construction, defensible space, vegetation management, access, fuels mitigation, and other wildfire risk-reduction measures, as amended by the respective permitting agency.

1. Appendix A: Permits – is adopted in its entirety.
2. Appendix B: Construction Documents – is adopted in its entirety.
3. Appendix C: Inspection and Enforcement – is adopted in its entirety.

—Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept Resolution 3-2026. Board Member Droux seconded the motion. All Board Members favored passing Resolution 3-2026, with none opposed.

Deputy Chief of Operations Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius introduced Colin McAweeney, with Tischler Bise, who will present the findings of the sales tax needs analysis. Colin provided the Board with background information on the current tax rates in some surrounding counties, which vary by location. Colin



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provided the Board with a list of sales tax-exempt items. Colin informed the Board of the current tax rate percentages that other fire districts are collecting.

Colin reminds the authority Board that the Snowmass Wildcat Fire District and the Basalt Fire District do not need to have the same rate, and there are two options they can choose from: Option 1 - Tax Rate Parity and Option 2 - Tax Revenue Parity.

**Option 1: TAX RATE PARITY:** Colin tells the Board that the tax rate parity means the tax rate parity is the same, and benefits Snowmass Village by generating more revenue. Colin showed slides of the tax rate parity revenue split by shares from residents and visitors. He adds that visitor shares are estimated based on the permanent population's onsite spending per capita.

Scenario 1, tax rate parity proposed rates of 0.47%; Basalt and Rural Fire District visitor share of 14%; \$35,000 and \$214,000 from residents. For the Snowmass Wildcat Fire District, the visitor share is 92%; \$724,000, \$61,000 for residents; total revenue is \$1,034,000 (27% total revenue from residents, \$275,000, and 73% total revenue from visitors, \$759,000).

Scenario 2, tax rate parity proposed rates of 0.80%; Basalt and Rural Fire District visitor share of 14%; \$60,000 and \$368,000 from residents. For the Snowmass Wildcat Fire District, the visitor share is 92%; \$1,243,000; \$105,000 for residents; total revenue is \$1,776,000 (27% total revenue from residents, \$473,000, and 73% total revenue from visitors, \$1,303,000).

Scenario 3, tax rate parity proposed rates of 1.10%; Basalt and Rural Fire District visitor share of 14%; \$83,000 and \$506,000 from residents. For the Snowmass Wildcat Fire District, the visitor share is 92%; \$1,710,000 and \$144,000 for residents; total revenue is \$2,443,000 (27% total revenue from residents, \$650,000, and 73% total revenue from visitors, \$1,793,000).

**Option 2: TAX REVENUE PARITY:** Colin explains this option to the Board, explaining that this revenue is approximately the same between the districts, resulting in a much higher tax rate in Basalt:



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Scenario 1, tax revenue parity rate .097%; Basalt and Rural Fire District revenue \$517,000. Snowmass Wildcat Fire District rate: 0.31%, with revenue of \$517,000 for total revenue of \$1,034,000.

Scenario 2, tax revenue parity rate 1.66%; Basalt and Rural Fire District revenue \$888,000. Snowmass Wildcat Fire District rate: 0.53%, with revenue of \$888,000 for total revenue of \$1,776,000.

Scenario 3, tax revenue parity rate 2.28%; Basalt and Rural Fire District revenue \$1,221,500. Snowmass Wildcat Fire District rate: 0.73%, with revenue of \$1,221,500 for total revenue of \$2,443,000.

Colin explains to the Board that, in addition to deciding between the tax rate parity and tax revenue parity, they must choose from three proposed scenarios to meet retention, readiness, and growth needs. Colin also reminds the Board of the sunseting mills in Snowmass Village, which will expire soon (dedicated property tax: \$651,000).

Colin informs the Board that they will need to decide between three proposed cost scenarios, all of which account for step and COLA increases. Colin explains that scenario 1 supports retention at a 0.47% tax rate: no new staff. The staffing cost is \$383,000, the sunseting mills are \$651,000, and the total cost is \$1,034,000.

Scenario 2 supports readiness at a 0.80% tax rate: adding 8 FTEs: 5 Wildland Fire Crew Members, 1 Mechanic, and 2 Firefighter/Paramedics. The staffing costs \$1,125,000, the sunseting mills are \$ 651,000, and the total cost is \$1,776,000.

Scenario 3 supports growth at a tax rate of 1.10%: adding an additional 14 FTEs: 5 Wildland Fire Crew Members, 1 Mechanic, 1 HR Generalist, 1 Community Risk Reduction Member, 1 Division Chief of Operations, and 5 Firefighter/Paramedics. The staffing cost \$1,792,000, sunseting mills \$651,000, total cost \$2,443,000.

\*Note: staffing cost increases do not account for benefits. Finance Director Thompson said we took a 23% hit on insurance this year; these numbers are not



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included in these scenarios. Deputy Chief Cornelius said they built a 10% benefits-cost ratio into the scenarios, but that does not cover everything. Discussion

Colin reminds the board and staff that the tax money collected in 2027 will go towards 2028s budget; it is not reflected right away. Finance Director Thompson is eager to see how the tax rate increase works out for our neighboring agencies.

Chief Thompson wants to emphasize that the tax increase should fall on tourists rather than residents. Chief Thompson suggests educating the public, tying it too the increase in the wildland program, to make it proactive. Chief Thompson would like to spell out to the community our intent, possibly hiring an ad agency, and producing a mailing flyer for our community members. There was also a discussion regarding a failure of the tax increase: if it fails in one district compared to the other. Finance Director Thompson said that if that occurs, we would need to consider keeping this on the ballot to seek citizen support. Board Member Duroux suggests getting support from the town council to help our endorsements get citizens on board with the tax increase. Attorney Cole and Chief Thompson discussed fair campaign practices. Attorney Cole advised that the ballot question be ready by September 9-13th.

The Authority Board Members would like to see a 5-year projection of Scenario 3 with more percentages broken out.

Treasurer Striegler requested that survey results and further discussion on tax rates be addressed in a single meeting to ensure all opinions are considered. Board Member Young suggested updating both Basalt and Snowmass Boards. Secretary Diamond will poll all Board Members to schedule a joint meeting for May 19th in Snowmass Village or via Lifesize. This meeting video will be shared with Board Members Spitz, Arthur, Foster, and Williams.



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Facilities Report: Facilities Director Klein told the Board that work is underway to replace the fire alarm panel at Station 44.

Facilities Director Klein said housing updates include a two-bedroom unit at Station 46 and a one-bedroom at Station 41. Facilities Director Klein said one occupant from Station 45 will transfer to Station 41, creating a vacancy at Station 45.

Master Plan Discussion: None

Public Comments: Bill Boineau asked about building skills and available human resources to foster trust. HR Director Thomas noted that many resources are available. HR Director Thamos goes on to say that the FDIC plays a key role in fire command. Scott discussed the officer development programs, which address human factors and support long-term leadership development.

Board Member Comments: None

Staff Comments: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Chief Thompson introduced Jessica Waltenburg as the new Battalion Chief.

Adjournment: Motion by Duroux, seconded by Elli. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 am.

To view the meeting in its entirety: <https://youtu.be/MvN0rgCXRv4>