



## Basalt and Rural Fire Protection District

Basalt Meeting Regular: 9/16/2025

Roll Call: President Van Walraven, Captain Sardinsky, Board Member Williams, Board Member Foster, Chief Thompson, Deputy Chief Cornelius, Secretary Diamond, Finance Director Thompson, HR Director Thomas, Vice President Duroux (via Lifesize) were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Board Member Foster moved to approve the minutes from August 19, 2025. Board Member Williams seconded the motion, and there was no discussion; all were in favor of accepting the August 19, 2025, board minutes.

Attorney Cole was not present.

Chief's Report: Chief Thompson distributed to the Board Joe Farstad's report from the construction update at Station 42. Chief Thompson said contingent funds total \$900,000, with no remaining unforeseen risks. Chief Thompson said the station move-in is on track for next fall, and the bond goal will be achieved. Chief Thompson said the Firefighters are in temporary housing at Station 42 to ensure continued operations. Chief Thompson advised that the fleet will relocate in November. Chief Thompson stated that the 12,000-amp panel has been shipped and that garage doors are scheduled to be installed at Station 42 soon.

- Chief Thompson announced that the staff will now cover high school football games, which were previously managed by volunteers.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson reported that Basalt achieved strong performance, with a 10% increase in Eagle County and a 3% increase in Basalt, resulting in approximately \$470,000 in additional property tax revenue this year. Finance Director Thompson discussed the Gallaher adjustment from four years ago, which set the RAR at 0.72, resulting in \$616,000 recouped with Basalt. Finance Director Thompson said Snowmass was able to recoup \$700,000. Finance Director Thompson added that we're looking at an additional \$1.3 million this year. Finance Director Thompson reminded the Board that this is a one-time arrangement, and the RAR will revert to 6.8 in 2026, reducing the number back to approximately 300,000. Finance Director Thompson stated that our current mill rate is 11.869, and it will increase to 12.268 next year. Finance Director Thompson reminds the Board that .8 of that is from the Gallagher adjustment. Finance Director Thompson informed the Basalt Board that Basalt is generating approximately \$6.4 million, with \$6.35 million being returned to the Authority fund.



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-Finance Director Thompson said she increased the administration fee since we are considering going to an election in May. Finance Director Thompson said If the measure fails in May, we will be on the ballot in November. Finance Director Thompson reminded the Board that each district is responsible for its own election fees.

-Finance Director Thompson explained to the Board that Basalt is allowed to collect 8 mills, and you will see 7.9707.

-Finance Director Thompson said the Pension fund collected .093 mills. Finance Director Thompson stated that property taxes were generating \$68,000, and S.O. taxes were around \$3,000. Finance Director Thompson said the intergovernmental transfer we received from the state is \$10,222. Finance Director Thompson informed the Board that the pension payments for the year total \$222,000.

-Finance Director Thompson said the capital projects fund is a work in progress as she is waiting on the amended construction budget from Joe.

-Finance Director Thompson said impact fees from Basalt and Eagle have slowed, with no major projects expected, except for the Tree Farm and Willits' apartments.

-Sales Tax Discussion: In an effort to find a revenue source, Chief Thompson told the Board that Aspen does not charge a fire tax for groceries, but if you rent a hotel or buy ski equipment, you are charged a fire tax. Chief Thompson says this would be a new revenue stream for us; we plan to propose a sales tax in May. Chief Thompson states that if this approach is unsuccessful, we may consider increasing the mill rate, although this is not our preferred option. Chief Thompson says Snowmass currently contributes 0.75 mills to the capital fund, totaling \$670,000, which is set to sunset. Chief Thompson explains that if the sales tax is approved, we won't need the capital fund, and we will fund it with the sales tax. Chief Thompson goes on to say that if the sales tax doesn't pass, we will ask the voters in Snowmass to continue contributing to our capital fund. Chief Thompson suggests we could also ask Basalt voters to fund our capital. Chief Thompson says if we start putting money in our capital fund, our master plan goal is to have 15 firefighters per shift. Chief Thompson says we're receiving credit for the volunteers at 14.6, but if we have 15 firefighters per shift and volunteers, we will improve our ISO rating, which will help with insurance. Chief Thompson said each district will place its own ballot question for the election. Chief Thompson stated that we plan to hire two consultants to conduct a voter survey.



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Chief Thompson added that Snowmass Village is concerned about exceeding a 10% sales tax rate. Discussion

HR Report: Chief Thompson told the Board that they will hire one full-time and five part-time staff and develop an eligibility list. Chief Thompson said the Division Chief Training Officer position is currently vacant, and a comprehensive search for a qualified replacement will be conducted.

Cornelius Report: Deputy Chief Cornelius said that with the addition of new part-time and full-time positions, the number of volunteers is expected to decline. Deputy Chief Cornelius told the Board that recruitment efforts are planned for 2026. Deputy Chief Cornelius added that a Carbondale Fire Academy event is scheduled for both the spring and fall. Deputy Chief Cornelius stated that he would like to collaborate with Colorado Mountain College to potentially host a fire academy in January 2027. Deputy Chief Cornelius added that hosting the academy would eliminate tuition and fees, thereby saving costs. Equipment costs were also discussed.

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments: None

Staff Comments: Secretary Diamond informed the Board that a staff bowling event is scheduled for September 27; all are welcome to attend.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Board Member Williams moved to adjourn, and Board Member Foster seconded the motion. All were in favor of ending the meeting, and none objected. The meeting ended at 5:51 p.m.

B&RFPD - <https://youtu.be/XgOdw47F9Lg>