



All Boards Special Meeting Final Minutes:5/19/2026: 9:00 a.m.

Others in attendance: Chief Thompson, Finance Director Thompson, Deputy Chief Cornelius, HR Director Thomas, Secretary Diamond, Division Chief of Training Taylor, Fire Marshal Stott, Facilities Director Klein, IT Director Johnson, BC Waltenburg, FF Paramedic Yoder, FF EMT Printy, FF EMT Vasten, FF EMT Moodie.

Basalt Meeting Call to Order: 9:00 President Van Walraven, Vice President Duroux, Treasurer Young, Board Member Foster.

Approval of the Basalt Board Minutes from 2/17/2026: Treasurer Young motioned to accept the Basalt Board Minutes from 2/17/2026. Vice President Duroux seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all were in favor of accepting these board minutes.

Basalt Board Tax Rate Motion: Treasurer Young Motioned to approve a tax rate parity of 1.5 % to be on the November 2026 ballot. Vice President Duroux seconded the motion; all Board Members favored passing this motion; none opposed.

Adjournment from the Basalt Board Meeting: Board Member Foster motioned to end the Basalt Board Meeting. Vice President Duroux seconded the motion; all Board Members favored ending the meeting, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 10:33.

Authority Board Meeting Call to Order: 9:00 President Van Walraven, Vice President Arthur, Treasurer Striegler, Board Member Duroux, Board Member Heivly (Lifesize), Board Member Young.

Approval of Authority Board Minutes from 4/21/2026: Treasurer Striegler motioned to accept the Authority Board Meeting Minutes from 4/21/2026. Vice President Duroux seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all were in favor of accepting these board minutes.

Fire Aside Master SaaS Agreement: Treasurer Striegler motioned to sign the Fire Aside Master SaaS Agreement. Vice President Arthur seconded the motion. All Board Members favored signing this agreement; none opposed.

Approval to have/sell alcohol at a benefit in September for the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative that will occur in the bays at Station 45; the date is to be determined: Vice President Arthur motioned to allow the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative permission to have alcohol on premises in September at Station 45 for a Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative benefit. Treasurer Striegler seconded the motion. There was some discussion about the event process; all Board Members favored passing this motion, none opposed.

Adjournment from the Authority Board Meeting: Board Member Duroux motioned to end the Authority Board Meeting. Vice President Arthur seconded the motion; all Board Members favored ending the meeting, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 10:33.

Snowmass Board Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 President Striegler, Vice President Heivly (Lifesize), Board Member Arthur, Treasurer Boineau (Lifesize), Board Member Spitz.

Snowmass Board Sales Tax Rate Motion: Board Member Arthur motioned to approve a tax rate parity of 1.5 % to be on the November ballot in 2026. Treasurer Boineau seconded the motion; all Board Members favored passing this motion; none opposed.

Adjournment from the Snowmass Board Meeting: Board Member Spitz motioned to end the Snowmass Board Meeting. Treasurer Boineau seconded the motion; all Board Members favored ending the meeting, none opposed, and the meeting ended at 10:33.

The Snowmass Board advised they are comfortable sunsetting the .75 mills. Chief Thompson says we will not need the mills if we get the 1.50% sales tax. Chief Thompson said this will decrease Snowmass Village's residential tax assessment by .75. Chief Thompson said, on the flip side, if we do not get the 1.5 tax increase and if the Snowmass Board sunsets the .75 mills, we can go back to the voters in May for an additional mill rate. TischlerBise will provide more detailed information in June for both Boards, including a 5-year projection based on Tax Rate Parity of 1.50%, with low-, medium-, and high-growth scenarios. Finance Director Thompson recapped that we will be on the

November ballot, and that Pitkin and Eagle will both receive notification.

Attorney Report: (Attorney Cole was not present; report given by Chief Thompson): Chief Thompson advised that the attorney is working through an agreement to share a geospatial document for the Town of Snowmass Village's wildfire mitigation report, taking due process with delicate information.

Chief Thompson said there are some issues with liability and the WE-cycle contract. The WE-cycle attorneys and our Attorneys will meet to work through the details. Chief Thompson explained that if it doesn't work out, we will move the bikes off our property because we don't want to assume additional liability for their bikes while they're on our property.

Chief Thompson said the Attorneys completed the Fire Aside application on Friday. Chief Thompson explained to the Board that Fire Aside is the system our prevention team uses to conduct wildfire assessments. Chief Thompson said we have completed 40 assessments this year and have 45 more in backlog. Chief Thompson said the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative will hire inspectors to do assessments when we get busy. Chief Thompson said the cost of this program is \$10,000 a year and will need to be signed by the Authority Board.

Chief Thompson told the Board that the Roaring Fork Valley Wildfire Collaborative (RFVWC) would like to host a benefit at Station 45 in the truck bays in September. Chief Thompson reminded the Board that the RFVWC received \$7 million in grants, of which \$1 million went to the Sopris Mountain Ranch project. Chief Thompson asked the Board for permission to sell beer and wine at the benefit, as it is a money-maker. Discussion: Chief Thompson will work with Angie from the RFVWC to obtain a liquor license and confirm that we have adequate insurance coverage for this type of event. Snowmass Board Member Heivly will also work with Angie and Chief Thompson regarding the event process.

Tax Presentation: Deputy Chief Cornelius reviewed the sales tax analysis information that was sent to the Boards prior to the meeting. Deputy Chief Cornelius reviewed the current tax rate percentages that other fire districts are collecting. Deputy Chief Cornelius reminded the 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: This tax rate parity means the tax rate parity is the same, and benefits Snowmass Village by generating more revenue. Deputy

Chief Cornelius showed slides of the tax rate parity revenue split by shares from residents and visitors. He added 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% from residents, \$275,000, and 73% from visitors, \$759,000).

Scenario 2: tax rate parity, 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% from residents, \$473,000, and 73% from visitors, \$1,303,000).

Scenario 3: tax rate parity, 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 for visitors; \$144,000 for residents; total revenue is \$2,443,000 (27% from residents, \$650,000, and 73% from visitors, \$1,793,000).

Option 2: TAX REVENUE PARITY: Deputy Chief Cornelius 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:

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.

Deputy Chief Cornelius 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. Deputy Chief Cornelius also reminds the Board of the sunseting mills in Snowmass

Village, which will expire soon (dedicated property tax: \$651,000).

Deputy Chief Cornelius informs the Board that they will need to decide between three proposed cost scenarios, all of which account for step and COLA increases.

*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 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

Deputy Chief Cornelius reminded the Boards that the tax money collected in 2027 will go towards 2028's budget; it is not reflected right away; it's a tiered approach.

Chief Thompson reminded the Boards that the ballot language will be written by our Attorney and will inform the public of the taxable items: luxury items, rental skis, restaurants, ski tickets, alcohol, and lodging, to name a few. Chief Thompson reminded the Boards that 92 percent of the tax will be paid by visitors. Chief Thompson wants to create a tri-fold brochure of information for the Boards and citizens. Chief Thompson said this will help educate our citizens that visitors are not currently paying taxes. Chief Thompson said the Board Members need to be able to discuss what they can, and a brochure will help them do so. Board Members cannot ask people to vote on it, but they can discuss it if they are approached. Chief Thompson reiterates that we need to properly educate the public with real data on our goals and what will be accomplished. Chief Thompson will hire an agency to create the tri-fold with the information. Chief Thompson will reach out to Tracy Truelove, Eagle River PIO, to request direction on the brochure. Discussion.

Division Chief of Training: Chief Thompson officially introduced Division Chief of Training Jennifer Taylor to the Boards. All other crew members present at the meeting also re-introduced themselves to the Board Members.

Wember Project Update: Chief Thompson said the training facility building is mostly complete, awaiting underground utilities, a builder's risk assessment, and a CO to occupy. Chief Thompson told the Boards that we are in budget, with contingencies, for the re-grand opening in November. Board Member Young expressed pride in the project, and the new remodeled station's details look like a work of art. Chief Thompson said the focus was on reducing response time. Board Member Young requested that the grand re-opening include a celebration. Chief Thompson confirmed that we will have one. The Boards are excited about

Pitkin Dispatch being a part of the station. Chief Thompson informed the Boards that Dispatch is scheduled to move in during the first quarter of next year. Chief Thompson said we are still working on the subdivision exclusions.

Finance Report: Finance Director Thompson said the **2025 RFFRA Audit** went well. Finance Director Thompson said the general fund is on budget and that tax revenue is coming in regularly. Finance Director Thompson added that we did not have a big year for ambulance revenue. Finance Director Thompson said the audit highlighted the need for a way to track all inventory items. Finance and Facilities are working together to inventory all items in one location.

Questions for Finance Director Thompson: none.

Basalt Board Audit: Finance Director Thompson said the Basalt Audit went well, with no budget violations. Finance Director Thompson informed the Basalt Board that their bond refinance is a different situation; a smaller bond, \$70,000 over ten years, is what we would save. Finance Director Thompson explained that a bond reissuance is a big deal for a small amount. Finance Director Thompson explained that no decisions need to be made today, and she will let the board know if anything changes. Finance Director Thompson said she will review this again in September; it is informational at this time, and she will come back with the refinancing cost.

Questions for Finance Director Thompson: none.

HR Report: HR Director Thomas said Hilary Fletcher's presentation on the employee survey will be postponed until next month. Board Members asked that her information be released prior to the meeting so they have time to review it. Some Board Members also requested that they receive the raw data to be reviewed in the free-form text before it is touched up.

Fire Marshal Report: Fire Marshal Stott informed the Boards that public outreach is underway. Fire Marshal Stott said Fire Prevention continues to be busy on weekends and evenings with public outreach.

Fire Marshal Stott said the new Fire Inspector's bio went out yesterday for the newest Fire Inspector in training, Douglas Trauger. Fire Marshal Stott said he will be out of town some in June for pre-scheduled PTO.

Fire Marshal Stott told the Boards that there are many requests for wildfire mitigation assessments, and the severity crew will begin on Tuesday to help.

Deputy Chief Cornelius Report: No report. Deputy Chief Cornelius will work with Tischler Bise on the tax numbers and circle back with the Boards in June. Deputy Chief Cornelius said there was a decrease in ambulance calls, down 20 percent year to date.

Chief Thompson added that we have had two CPR saves this year.

Facilities Report: Facilities Director Klein told the Boards that Chief Mele moved out of his residence in Snowmass Village and the unit will be touched up.

Master Plan Discussion: None

Public Comments: None

Board Member Comments: Snowmass Board President Striegler said, " Thanks to the response from everyone for your hard work".

Staff Comments: Chief Thompson thanks the Boards for going for the 1.5 tax rate.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

To watch this video in its entirety, use this link: <https://youtu.be/ABth6Fwc7Rc>