

Aspen Fire Protection District



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Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes July 24th, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Aspen Fire Protection District met for a special meeting. The meeting was open to the public in person and virtually via Zoom.

Meeting called to order by John Ward at 12:05pm.

Roll Call:

- Board of Directors Present: John Ward, Parker Lathrop (arrived at 12:23pm), Emily Taylor, Charles Cunniffe
- Board of Directors Absent: Dave “Wabs” Walbert
- Staff/Volunteers Present: Rick Balentine, Jake Andersen, Nikki Lapin, Scott Arthur, Arnold Nimmo, Jan Schubert, Ali Hammond and Ryan Warren.
- Public/Others: Lawrence Bond (zoom), Paul Hanley, Skylar White and Tom Peltz

Rick asked the board to pull the Resolution to confer the honorary title of Fire Chief Emeritus at this time. He is honored that it was considered. John will amend agenda and remove Item C under Board Comments and Action Items.

Public Comment: None

Review of Public Opinion Survey Results with Paul Hanley and Skylar White.

Paul reviewed engagement process and reviewed the results of surveys through presentation format. Discussion on possible changing of some language to ensure it is broad enough.

I. Board Member Comments & Action Items

- a) Consideration and approval of the Aspen Fire Protection District’s Ballot Measure to submit to voters at the November 4, 2025 coordinated election a measure, without increasing the tax rate, to extend the District’s existing 0.24 mill property tax levy in order to maintain emergency response times, enhance responder safety, replace aging fire apparatus, and fund critical infrastructure and deferred maintenance projects.
- b) Consideration and approval of Ballot Measure to submit to voters at the November 4, 2025 coordinated election a measure to authorize a 0.5% sales tax—excluding essential items such as food for home consumption, school-related activities, diapers, and feminine hygiene products—to enhance emergency services and facilities and support first responders by (1) expanding wildfire mitigation and response capabilities, (2) implementing fire-related technology and early detection systems, (3) attracting, recruiting, and retaining personnel, and (4) strengthening responder health and wellness programs.

MOTION: MOTION MADE BY JOHN WARD TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-07-01: A RESOLUTION CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025 AND CERTIFYING A PROPERTY TAX EXTENSION BALLOT MEASURE FOR ELECTOR APPROVAL; SETTING THE BALLOT TITLE AND CONTENT FOR THE BALLOT MEASURE; AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ELECTION AS DISCUSSED TODAY AND AMENDED

AND

APPROVE RESOLUTION 2025-07-02: A RESOLUTION CALLING AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2025 AND CERTIFYING A 0.5% SALES TAX BALLOT MEASURE FOR ELECTOR APPROVAL; SETTING THE BALLOT TITLE AND CONTENT FOR THE BALLOT MEASURE; AND PROVIDING OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THE ELECTION.

DISCUSSION: LAWRENCE STATED THERE WILL NEED TO BE ANOTHER RESOLUTION IN AUGUST FOR THE SALES TAX MEASURE THAT WILL NEED TO BE PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, WHICH HE WILL WORK ON. THIS MOTION BEING MADE WOULD SET THE BALLOT QUESTION AND APPROVE DISTRICT'S AUTHORITY TO MOVE FORWARD AND DIRECT STAFF TO PRESENT EVERYTHING TO ELECTORATE. MOTION TO BE MADE BASED ON CHANGES DISCUSSED, WHICH WAS TO TAKE OUT WORD "EXISTING" FACILITES AND REPLACE WITH "DISTRICT" FACILITIES.

SECOND: Charles Cunniffe

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Resolution 2025-07-01 John Yes, Parker Yes, Emily Yes, Charles Yes.

Resolution 2025-07-02: John Yes, Parker Yes, Emily Yes Charles Yes.

Both resolutions pass.

The following item was removed from agenda per John in earlier conversation.

~~e) Consider Resolution to confer the honorary title of Fire Chief Emeritus upon Rick Balentine, retiring CEO/Fire Chief of the Aspen Fire Protection District.~~

MOTION: Motion made by Parker Lathrop to adjourn.

Second: John Ward

Discussion: Discussion by Paul in order of questions on ballot. Tom Peltz verified that sales tax question would come first as it is an increase and extension would come second. Thank you to Paul, Skylar White and Tom for all their work.

Vote: All approved

Adjourned at 12:53pm

***** A board packet of this meeting can be requested by contacting the Executive Administrative Assistant at amanda.perusse@aspenfire.com or by calling 970-925-5532.**