

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Work and Regular Session
April 17, 2025

Call to Order: This work and regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0934 hours by Chairman John France at Tonto Basin Fire Station #1, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Cliff Metz.

Roll Call of Board Members: The following Board Members were present: Chairman John France, Clerk Debra “Deb” Morris, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Cooper, Board Member Clifford “Cliff” Metz, and Board Member Brian Nail.

Also Present: Chief James Stoltenberg.

Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).
Dominic Filosa with James Vincent Group (JVG) via Teams.

Work Session

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding 1st draft of the budget for FY 2025/2026. Ben, Dominic & Chief Stoltenberg presented the Board with the proposed budget. There were discussions on revenues whereby the property taxes will increase by ~\$25,494 (3.03%) based on assessed home values per Gila County. There were also discussions on the cost side including employee compensation (5% COLA increase for full time employees and the increase of minimum wage to \$15/hour in January 2026 for temporary employees), adding a part time position to assist the Chief on administrative duties a couple days a week, and clarification and potential revisions on the Accounting/Audit/Finance line item. At present the tax levy is at the maximum level of \$3.75 and cannot be adjusted upwards. No action was taken at this time. The work session ended at 1057 hours and a break was taken prior to starting the regular session.

During the break Dominic Filosa with JVG left the meeting.

Regular Session started at 1108 hours

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg informed the Board that he had given out an additional 6 challenge coins to community members: 2 to the Pharmacist (Kelly) and Pharmacy Technician that assists the Fire District, 1 to Andy at the District’s bank, and 3 to crew members of the helicopter Native 7 who assist the District including the pilot and 2 crew members. The Chief also read 3 thank you notes to employees: the 1st to Thomas and Jarret for their assistance from community member Gayle Cunningham, the 2nd to Thomas, Todd and the Chief from the Garbage Truck Driver who was injured, and the 3rd to the Chief from Payson High School for his participation in their career day.

At this point in the meeting Mei Mei and Maverick Veitch joined the meeting to discuss “The Ranch at Salt River” and Chairman John France brought this agenda item 10 forward.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding review and approval on providing fire service to “The Ranch at Salt River” located just past Apache Lake as presented by Chief Stoltenberg and Ranch Owners Mei Mei and Maverick Veitch. At present the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFDD) has a “Will Serve” agreement with the Ranch for medical and fire services based on Highway 188 having been closed until recently. With the reopening of the southern portion of Highway 188 the Ranch can now get medical services from Maricopa County but cannot be provided fire services from Maricopa County due to the road conditions between the Ranch and

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Work and Regular Session
April 17, 2025

Maricopa County. The ranch is in unincorporated Maricopa County and is requesting a Special Use Permit from the County. In order to obtain this permit, they are in need of a “Will Serve” agreement with TBFD for fire services. There was much discussion on ensuring that TBFD is legally covered in terms of any agreements given the Ranch is outside of our normal district and the fact that we would need to ensure we have backfill fire assistance from other fire districts if we are dispatched to the Ranch. Following discussion on providing fire service to “The Ranch at Salt River” a motion was made Board Member John France for Chief Stoltenberg to pursue a “Will Serve” fire response services agreement with the district’s legal counsel to be presented at the next TBFD Board Meeting. The Chief will also prepare a document for the ranch to use with Maricopa County expressing the Board’s intent to continue to provide Fire Services in the interim period. The motion was seconded by Board Member Deb Morris. The vote to approve the development of the “Will Serve” agreement and the interim period document was unanimous.

Reading and Approval of the March 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Following the review of the prior regular meeting minutes on March 20, 2025, a motion to approve the minutes was duly made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

Financial Report: Ben presented the financial report with the following ending balances as of 3/31/2025:

National Bank:	\$ 83,511.96
Warrant Account:	\$ 826,944.82
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 348,442.04

Ben with JVG left the meeting at this time at 1220.

Chief’s Report: The Chief’s Report was presented by Chief Stoltenberg. Discussions ensued on the items as presented. Following discussions on the Chief’s Report and prior discussions on the Financial Reports a motion was made to accept both reports as presented by Board Member John France and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to accept both reports was unanimous.

At this point in the meeting, item 9 of the agenda, the Brush Truck Chassis replacement was moved forward.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding review and approval of the Brush Truck Chassis replacement as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The chassis is inoperable and in need of replacement. The bed and other components are still in good enough shape to continue to use. The cost to replace the chassis is estimated between \$60,000 and \$70,000. Following discussion on the chassis replacement a motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to approve the replacement of the Brush Truck Chassis between the \$60,000 to \$70,000 range. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to approve the replacement of the Brush Truck Chassis between the \$60,000 to \$70,000 range was unanimous.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Deb Morris brought up the fact that on Sunday, May 4, 2025 the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held. Chairman France brought up the fact that he will be unable to attend the June 19, 2025 Board Meeting and as such everyone agreed to reschedule the June Board Meeting to Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Work and Regular Session

April 17, 2025

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Deb Morris and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1309 hours.