

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
August 21, 2025

Call to Order: This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0930 hours by Chairman John France at Tonto Basin Fire Station #1, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chief Stoltenberg.

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. Firefighter Trenton Cline. Firefighter Tristan McBlane.

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

Junior Morris.

New Tonto Basin Firefighter Brenden Lerch, his mother Kim, and his father Tony.

New Tonto Basin Fire District Administrative Assistant Lore Lee Taylor

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg recognized Firefighter Tristan McBlane, Firefighter Brandi Morris and two individuals who assisted a lady who had broken her leg by the lake. The Chief gave the two individuals, Sean and Theresa Kingston, challenge coin #95 for their assistance.

At this time Agenda Item 8, Tonto Basin Fire District new employee “swearing in” was moved to this point in the meeting.

Discussion/Information: Chairman John France held the “swearing in” ceremony for the newly hired Firefighter/EMT Brenden Lerch. Congratulations Brenden and we welcome you to the District.

The Chief also introduced the newly hired Fire District Administrative Assistant, Lore Lee Taylor. Congratulations Lore Lee and we also welcome you to the District.

Following Awards & Recognition Firefighter Brenden Lerch, his mother Kim and father Tony left the meeting.

Reading and Approval of the July 18, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Regular Session Board Meeting on July 18, 2025 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on July 18, 2025, a motion to approve the minutes was duly made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Deb Morris. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

Chief’s Report: The Chief’s Report was presented by Chief Stoltenberg. Discussions ensued on the items as presented.

During the Chief’s report Marilyn Hall and Haley Spodin both from Pulsepoint Billing entered the meeting.

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Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 7/31/2025:

National Bank:	\$ 74,932.92
Warrant Account:	\$ 723,595.91
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 352,080.81

Following discussions on the Chief's Report and the Financial Reports a motion was made to accept both reports as presented by Board Member Deb Morris and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to accept both reports was unanimous.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None

Discussion/Information and Action: Chief Stoltenberg presented the minutes from the August 20, 2025 Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) Pension Board Meeting. Highlights included the fact that all full-time employees have been moved to 457 plans and that \$195,801.78 had been withdrawn from Charles Schwaab for the roll overs and pay outs. In addition, the Pension Board approved the payout to one individual for \$10,446.42 and the return of pension funds from one individual for \$2,133.13. These disbursements do require Tonto Basin Fire District Governing Board approval. Following discussion on the Pension Board meeting minutes a motion was made to approve the disbursements highlighted in the Pension Board minutes by Board Member John France and seconded by Board Member Deb Morris. The vote to approve the disbursements was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Marylin Hall from Pulsepoint Billing presented a potential change from the Tonto Basin Fire Districts (TBFD) existing ambulance billing to Pulsepoint Billing. Pulsepoint Billing is a new company who is looking to expand with smaller Fire Districts. They would handle ambulance billing and for the first year would only charge a 3.5% billing service. Following the first year the contract would be negotiated in terms of the charge for the billing service with a maximum service charge of 6-7%. At present the TBFD pays a 7% service charge with Action Ambulance. Board Member John France asked if the Board could be provided a draft contract for future consideration that could also be reviewed by JVG and TBFD's attorney. Following the presentation and questions/discussions a motion was made to table the potential change of ambulance billing companies to a future meeting by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to table the potential change of ambulance billing companies was unanimous.

Following this agenda item Marylin Hall and Haley Spodin both from Pulsepoint Billing left the meeting.

Discussion/Information and Action: Chief Stoltenberg presented a request from the Winkelman Fire Department requesting the donation of any surplus vehicles. Chief Stoltenberg did highlight that the Expedition was surplus and available. The Expedition is not being used by the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) and has been written off the books. Winkelman would take the vehicle as is and all that would be required by TBFD is to remove the radio. Following discussion on the donation request a motion was made to donate the Expedition to the Winkelman Fire Department by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to donate the Expedition was unanimous.

At this time Agenda item 13, Approval/Acceptance of Tonto Basin Fire District Board Member Debra Morris resignation, was moved to this point in the meeting.

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Discussion and Action: Chairman John France presented the Board a resignation letter from Board Member Deb Morris due to her health concerns. Chairman France also thanked Deb for all of her years of service and assistance on helping the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD). Chairman France also presented a letter from the TBFD attorney whereby Deb could remain a “Member at Large” for TBFD with the stipulations that she would not have voting rights or other Board Member rights per Arizona Open Meeting Law. The potential “Member at Large” would allow Deb to assist TBFD if or when necessary. This item will be reviewed at a future Board Meeting. The Board and Chief Stoltenberg all thanked Deb for her years of service and assistance to TBFD. She will be very hard to replace. Following discussion, a motion to accept Board Member Deb Morris’s resignation was made by Board Member John France and seconded by Board Member Robert Cooper. The vote to accept the resignation was unanimous. Deb you will be missed but not forgotten.

Chairman France also reminded the Board that the District has 90 days to fill the open Board position and it was up to each Board Member to try to find potential candidates.

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Firefighter Trenton Cline reminded everyone of the upcoming Fishing Tournament and the request that Board Members assist with cooking. Board Member Cliff Metz also highlighted the potential need of a designated battery discard location in Tonto Basin. Board Member Metz will investigate potential options.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member John France and seconded by Board Member Deb Morris. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1116 hours.