

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
December 18, 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 #91, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by John France.

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

Also Present: Chief James Stoltenberg.

Tonto Basin Fire District Administrative Assistant Lore Lee Taylor.

Firefighter Trenton Cline.

Firefighter Brenden Lerch.

Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG) joined the meeting at 0935 hours.

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg presented the Firefighter of the Year Award to Trenton Cline and the Community Service of the Year Award to Board Member Robert Cooper.

Reading and Approval of the November 20, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Regular Session Board Meeting on November 20, 2025 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on November 20, 2025, a motion to approve and adopt the minutes was duly made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. 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. One highlight was that the Tonto Basin Fire District has been awarded federal funding through the Fiscal Year 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, signed into law by President Trump on November 12, 2025. This funding, designated through Congressionally Directed Spending, will support the much-needed remodel of the Tonto Basin Fire Station 96.

Item 7, Tonto Basin Firefighter Association Update, was moved to this portion of the meeting.

Tonto Basin Firefighter Association Updates: Firefighter Trenton Cline presented ongoing activities for the Tonto Basin Firefighter (TBFF) Association. The biggest upcoming event is a Christmas event on December, 23, 2025 which will be held at Station 91 and will begin at 8 a.m. The event includes a pancake breakfast and drawings for \$650 in visa gift cards and 10 turkey dinners. Trenton also highlighted some 2026 TBFF Association activities including the Fishing Tournament which was postponed in 2025 and adopting 1 mile of Highway 188 for cleaning up.

Trenton Cline left following the TBFF Association Updates.

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Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 11/30/2025:

National Bank:	\$ 143,316.46
Warrant Account:	\$ 954,613.38
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 356,508.62

Following discussions on the Chief's Report and 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.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding a discussion led by Chief Stoltenberg on possible annexation areas within the Tonto Basin Fire District. Possible areas of annexation include the Bouquet Ranch area and the Deer Creek/Rye areas. Each area would be annexed on their own merit if the Fire District decided to proceed with the process. Pros and cons of the annexation were highlighted and discussion ensued on what it would take for annexation as well as potential positives and negatives. Following discussion, a motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to allow Chief Stoltenberg to continue to assess possible annexations and to bring his recommendations along with supporting information to a future Fire District Board Meeting for discussion and action. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to allow Chief Stoltenberg to continue to assess possible annexations was unanimous.

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Board Member Robert Cooper brought up the potential to modify the Chief's schedule to something that would allow him to spend more time with his family. One example was four (4) ten (10) hour shifts. This will be an agenda item on the January Fire District Board Meeting for discussion and action.

Board Member Brian Nail brought up concerns with accepting the potential gift of the boat from the Gila County Sheriff's Office and the costs and potential risks associated with this gift. This item will be an agenda item on the January Fire District Board Meeting for discussion and action.

Chief Stoltenberg asked that we add the Appointment of the Records Officer for the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) to the January TBFD Board Meeting for discussion and action.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1116 hours.