

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
January 22, 2026

Call to Order: This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0928 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.
Board Member at Large Debra “Deb” Morris.
Firefighter Tristan McBlane.
Firefighter Brandi Morris.
Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).
Pine/Strawberry Firefighter Paul Voakes.
Pine/Strawberry Fire District Board Member Bob Papke.

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg recognized Firefighters Tristan McBlane, Brandi Morris, Todd Spitzer, and Jarrett Cline for responding to a call where they thought it was for a fall but in fact was for a person who was not responding and had no pulse. They got the patient’s pulse back and they are alive in the hospital at this point. Job well done.

Reading and Approval of the December 18, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Regular Session Board Meeting on December 18, 2025 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on December 18, 2025, a motion to approve and adopt the minutes was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. 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. Of particular note is legislation being put forward by Representative Julie Willoughby which would require all Fire Districts to put GPS units on their vehicles in order to be able to track incident response times. In terms of costs for Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) this would result in an up-front cost of ~\$14,500 with an annual cost going forward of ~\$1,126/year. TBFD could also enter into a 5-year contract for ~\$19,000. This item will be put as a future TBFD agenda item. Another item of note is that Firefighter Tristan McBlane attended a course to become the TBFD Health and Safety Officer and Firefighter Trenton Cline attended a course to become the TBFD Incident Safety Officer. The Chief also shared information on the TBFD Certificate of Necessity (CON) whereby TBFD did meet the majority of the CON targets. TBFD did miss the 25-minute response times with 95.7% success due to the time it takes to respond to Roosevelt. The Chief will be applying for a CON modification in the future.

Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 12/31/2025:

National Bank:	\$ 77,838.83
Warrant Account:	\$ 1,018,896.05
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 357,415.89

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Regular Session

January 22, 2026

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

Tonto Basin Firefighter Association Updates: Firefighter Tristan McBlane presented ongoing activities for the Tonto Basin Firefighter Association (TBFFA). Tristan informed the Board that there would be a meeting on Saturday to elect officers and follow up on other items of interest for TBFFA. Tristan also stated that the TBFFA would become a new Chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) for full time employees. The Chapter would be 1989 to coincide when the District was established. Tristan also reminded the Board of the upcoming Fishing Tournament in March.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the election of Board Officers. A motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to maintain the existing Board Officers that were elected in November 2025. This includes John France as Chairman, Brian Nail as Clerk and Robert Cooper as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to maintain the existing Board Officers of John France as Chairman, Brian Nail as Clerk and Robert Cooper as Secretary/Treasurer was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the appointment of a Records Officer for the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD). There were some questions regarding the role of a Records Office given that an e-mail was only sent to Brian Nail. The Chief will look into the matter. A motion was made by Board Member John France to table this action to a future TBFD agenda item. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to table this action was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding a discussion on the potential to change the ambulance billing for the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The change would be to go from Action Ambulance to Pulsepoint Billing. Year 1 of the contract would be 3% for billing services, with year 2 at 5% and year 3 at 7% as compared to Action Ambulance at 7% now. The Chief also voiced some concerns with the way in which Action Ambulance bills as well as their reporting practices. The contract for this change is currently with the TBFD attorney for review. A motion was made by Board Member John France to table this action to a future TBFD agenda item following review by the TBFD attorney. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to table this action was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding a discussion on the potential of a 6 Month Interim Shared Services Agreement for the Fire Chief's Services between Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) and the Pine/Strawberry Fire District as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The agreement would mean that TBFD contracted with Pine/Strawberry to share the Chief's services for an interim period of 6 months. Basically, the Chief would oversee both TBFD and Pine/Strawberry Fire Districts. There was much discussion on the item including concerns by both the TBFD Board and the Pine/Strawberry Board. At present the Pine/Strawberry Board has not approved the potential for a Shared Services Agreement and wanted to listen to the TBFD Board concerns prior to them making a decision. If the agreement were to proceed then there would need to be some organizational changes made to TBFD. There was no action or decisions on this item. Chairman John France requested that the Pine/Strawberry Board let the TBFD Board know if they would like to proceed with an interim agreement following their Board Meeting. If Pine/Strawberry would like to proceed then both Boards would need to meet in a public meeting to discuss concerns and details of a potential agreement.

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
January 22, 2026

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Firefighter Tristan McBlane did state that the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) employees were in support of a Shared Services Agreement with Pine/Strawberry if we can ensure that the TBFD organization is supported.

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 Ilene Hailey. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1212 hours.