

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
February 19, 2026

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 Cliff Metz.

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 Tristan McBlane joined the meeting during the Chief’s Report.
Firefighter Thomas Young joined the meeting during the Employee Pay Review discussion.
Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg recognized the crews including the entire Cline family, James Degnan, and Jim Lavery for fighting and extinguishing a house fire that occurred on February 6, 2026. Good job everyone.

Chairman John France recognized Board Members Brian Nail and Robert Cooper for helping to educate the Pine-Strawberry Fire District on the financial portion of the Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement during the joint meeting held on February 11, 2026. Chairman France also recognized and thanked the entire Board for assisting in the contract discussions with Pine-Strawberry. Chief Stoltenberg echoed Chairman France’s thank you to the Board for the positive contract discussions.

Board Member Brian Nail recognized and thanked Chief Stoltenberg for “stepping up” in terms of the agreement with Pine-Strawberry and continuing the great support to the Tonto Basin Fire District (Tbfd).

Reading and Approval of the January 22, 2026 Regular Session, February 4, 2026 Special Session, February 6, 2026 Special Session, and February 11, 2026 Special Session Meeting minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Board Meetings including the Regular Session on January 22, 2026, Special Session on February 4, 2026, Special Session on February 6, 2026, and Special Session on February 11, 2026 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on January 22, 2026, February 4, 2026, February 6, 2026, and February 11, 2026, a motion to approve and adopt all four meeting minutes was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. All four 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 and highlighted by the Chief.

Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 01/31/2026:

National Bank:	\$ 163,050.06
Warrant Account:	\$ 970,818.64
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 359,826.84

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Ben also highlighted that the TBFD assessed value for 2026/2027 is ~3% which equates to ~\$26,300 in additional tax money for the next budget year.

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 reminded the Board of the upcoming Fishing Tournament on March 15, 2026.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

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 and contract with Pulsepoint Billing. The contract would be for 5 years and would have a start date of April 1, 2026. Year 1 of the contract would be 3% for billing services, with year 2 at 4% and year 3, year 4, and year 5 at 5% as compared to Action Ambulance at 7% now. The contract was reviewed, edited and approved by the TBFD Attorney. A motion was made by Board Member Ilene Hailey to approve the contract with Pulsepoint Billing and allow Chief Stoltenberg to sign the contract on behalf of the TBFD. The motion was seconded by Board Member John France. The vote to approve the contract with Pulsepoint Billing and allow the Chief to sign the contract was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the approval of an interim 6-month Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement with the Pine-Strawberry Fire District as presented by Chairman John France and Chief Stoltenberg. The contract was the same as voted on and approved during the February 11, 2026 Special Meeting held between TBFD and Pine-Strawberry Fire District (PSFD). Chairman France did update the Board on the final compensation numbers in "Exhibit "A"" between TBFD and PSFD that were agreed and voted on during the February 11, 2026 Special Meeting. These numbers include PSFD paying TBFD monthly expenses for Fuel (\$400), Cell phone/iPad (\$30) and wages (\$8,978.67) for total monthly expenses paid by PSFD of \$9,408.67. "Exhibit "A"" also includes a one-time uniform expense of \$200 and a 50/50 split of conference fees. Following discussions Chairman John France asked all Board Members if they were still in favor of the interim 6-month Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement with PSFD that was voted on and approved during the February 11, 2026 Special Meeting. All Board Members stated they were still in agreement with the interim 6-month agreement approved on February 11, 2026. The Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement with PSFD was signed by Chairman John France.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the approval to purchase GPS unit software for the Fire District as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The GPS software would pair with existing GPS systems the Fire District currently has, would track incident response times, would pair with the Gila County Sheriff's Office equipment increasing Fire District employee safety and would ensure the Fire District is compliant with Arizona House Bill 2402 currently being pursued at the State level. The cost for the software for TBFD for a 5-year contract term is ~\$19,400 with an annual maintenance fee of ~\$1,125/year. Following discussion, a motion was made by Board Member John France to approve the GPS software for TBFD and allow Chief Stoltenberg to sign the contract and purchase the software. The motion was seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to approve the GPS software for TBFD was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding potential increases to the existing employee pay scale as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The Chief presented the existing TBFD employee pay scale including benefits as well as other Fire District pay scales and benefits

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around the State for comparison. TBFD pay scales and benefits are on average lower than the other Fire Districts in the State. Following discussion, it was decided to hold a Work Session on employee pay scales on March 18, 2026 at 1300 hours. This action was tabled for a future agenda.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the potential adoption of a policy on how TBFD will dispose of excess and out of service equipment. Options include donating the equipment, sending the equipment to an auction house, and/or holding internal auctions. The Chief will bring a potential policy to the next Board Meeting. This action was tabled for a future agenda.

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Chairman John France highlighted that he would like to see the money received from PSFD for the Intergovernmental Shared Services Agreement be put in reserves and not budgeted as this is only an interim 6-month agreement and TBFD cannot rely on longer term revenues at this time. It was agreed that TBFD would treat this money as reserves for the budget draft that will begin in the next few months. No decisions or actions were taken on this item as it will be part of future budget discussions.

Chief Stoltenberg did ask Ben what the expectations for reserves were for Fire Districts. Ben said the minimum is 2 months of unrestricted reserves but that JVG recommends 4-5 months of unrestricted reserves to ensure Fire Districts can cover their bills.

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 1054 hours.