

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Work and Regular Session
April 16, 2026

Call to Order: This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0929 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.
Board Member at Large Debra “Deb” Morris.
Junior Morris.
Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).
Dominic Filosa with James Vincent Group (JVG) via Teams.

Numerous firefighters attended for Brandi Morris’s retirement including Firefighter Tristan McBlane, Firefighter Thomas Young, and others via Teams.

Agenda Item 5, Awards and Recognition were moved forward to this portion of the meeting.

Awards & Recognition: Chief Stoltenberg recognized the Retirement of Firefighter Brandi Morris who began her career at the Tonto Basin Fire District in 2003. The Chief recognized and thanked Brandi for her years of service and her dedication to the District. The Chief also presented Brandi with a certificate of retirement and a flag that had flown over the Tonto Basin Fire Department. Others in the meeting including John France, Tristan McBlane, Jim Lavery, Thomas Young, and Deb Morris also spoke about past experiences with Brandi and thanked her for her service. Good luck Brandi and family in your future endeavors. You will be sorely missed.

Following the Awards and Recognition Deb Morris, Junior Morris and the group of firefighters left the meeting.

Work Session

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding 1st draft of the budget for FY 2026/2027. Ben, Dominic & Chief Stoltenberg presented the Board with the proposed budget. There were discussions on revenues whereby the property taxes will increase by ~\$26,296 based on assessed home values per Gila County. There were also discussions on the cost side including employee compensation which would include a \$1/hour raise for all employees and an 11.6% wage increase for the Fire Chief to bring this position into alignment with similar positions within Gila County. At present the tax levy (net assessed value) 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 1048 hours and the regular session was started.

At this time Dominic Filosa with JVG left the meeting.

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Work and Regular Session
April 16, 2026

Reading and Approval of the March 19, 2026 Regular Session Meeting minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Regular Session Board Meeting on March 19, 2026 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on March 19, 2026 a motion to approve and adopt the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes was duly made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The March 19, 2026 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. The variance meeting with the County is scheduled on June 18, 2026 at 0900 hours. This is also the same day of the June Tonto Basin Fire District Board meeting. Based on this the June Tonto Basin Fire District Board Meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 0930 hours.

Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 03/31/2026:

National Bank:	\$ 108,038.64
Warrant Account:	\$ 932,921.11
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 362,669.43

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

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

Discussion/Information: Firefighter Tristan McBlane updated the Board that the Firefighters Association would be holding the Butch Kelly scholarship challenge at the Tonto Basin School on May 6, 2026 at 0830 a.m. and stated that the Board Members were welcome to attend. Tristan also informed the Board that the movie night held at the Fire Station on Friday, April 10, 2026 was a success.

Discussion/Information and Action: Chief Stoltenberg presented the renewal letter for fire services to "The Ranch at Salt River" which is supposed to be evaluated and renewed each year if the Board elects to do so. Following review of the letter a motion to approve the renewal letter for fire services to "The Ranch at Salt River" was duly made by Board Member John France and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The vote to approve the renewal letter for fire services to "The Ranch at Salt River" was unanimous.

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: None.

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 Cliff Metz. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1120 hours.