

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
May 21, 2026

Call to Order: This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0930 hours by Secretary/Treasurer Robert Cooper at Tonto Basin Fire Station #91, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Robert Cooper.

Roll Call of Board Members: The following Board Members were present: Chairman John France via Teams, 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.
Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG) via Teams.

Agenda item 6B. Financial Reports and agenda item 9. Review and tentative approval of the 2026/2027 fiscal year budget were moved to this portion of the agenda.

Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 04/30/2026:

National Bank:	\$ 117,872.99
Warrant Account:	\$ 938,220.71
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 363,148.24

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

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding review and tentative approval of the fiscal year 2026/2027 Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) budget as presented by Chief James Stoltenberg and Ben with JVG. The proposed budget is in the amount of \$2,122,431 at the tax levy limit of \$3.75. Following discussion on the proposed budget a motion was made by Board Member Brian Nail to tentatively approve the fiscal year 2026/2027 budget of \$2,122,431 at the tax levy limit of \$3.75. The motion was seconded by Board Member John France. The vote to tentatively approve the fiscal year 2026/2027 TBFD budget was unanimous.

At this time Ben with JVG and Board Member Cliff Metz left the meeting.

Awards & Recognition: The Chief reminded everyone that this is National EMS week so make sure you thank your first responders. The Chief also recognized Tristan, Trenton, Teresa, Thomas, and Carmen for presenting the Butch Kelly Scholarship Awards at the Tonto Basin School District 8th grade graduation on May 20, 2026. Tristan informed the Board that the scholarship includes an essay from each student as well as participation in the obstacle course. All of the 8th graders received a scholarship with 1st place getting \$300, 2nd place getting \$250, and 3rd through 7th getting \$200 each. They also gave a 7th grader who stepped up to help out a certificate for participating in the obstacle course. Great job to the Tonto Basin Firefighters Association. The Chief also recognized the Kiwanis for all of the help and their contribution to the graduation.

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Reading and Approval of the March 18, 2026 Work Session and April 16, 2026 Work and Regular Session Meeting minutes: The draft minutes from both the March 18, 2026 Work Session and the April 16, 2026 Work and Regular Session Board Meetings were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on March 18, 2026 and April 16, 2026 a motion to approve and adopt the March 18, 2026 and April 16, 2026 meeting minutes was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Ilene Hailey. The March 18, 2026 and April 16, 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.

Following discussions on the Chief's Report a motion was made to accept the Chief's Report as presented by Board Member Robert Cooper and seconded by Board Member John France. The vote to accept the Chief's Report was unanimous.

Tonto Basin Firefighter Association Updates: Tristan stated that Brenden Lerch would be taking over as the new secretary for the TBFFA following Brandi's retirement.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding the review and discussion on the Shared Services Agreement for Fire Chief Services with the Pine-Strawberry Fire District (PSFD) as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. Overall, the Chief feels that PSFD is happy with the agreement based on the cost savings they are experiencing. PSFD has posted to fill the Fire Chief position and are gathering applications. There was no action on this item.

Call to the Public – Non-Agenda Items: Board Member Robert Cooper reminded Board Members Brian Nail and Ilene Hailey that they needed to get their election information to Gila County between June 6th and July 6th 2026 since all three of these Board Members seats are up for election in November 2026.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Board a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Ilene Hailey. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1039 hours.