

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
August 20, 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 Chief James Stoltenberg.

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.
Board Member at Large Debra "Deb" Morris.
Firefighters Trystan McBlane, and Stephen Toscano.
Junior Morris.

Awards & Recognition: The Chief wanted to recognize Brenden and Thomas for a call in which they encountered a combative patient. The patient had suffered a stroke and was combative but Brenden and Thomas remained calm, cool and collective and ultimately had to fly the patient out. The patient later came in to apologize for his behavior and thank the crew for taking care of him. Great job gentlemen.

The Board recognized the Chief's birthday with cake and ice cream. Happy Birthday Chief.

Reading and Approval of the July 22, 2026 Regular Session Meeting minutes: The draft minutes from the July 22, 2026 Regular Session Board Meeting was reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on July 22, 2026 a motion to approve and adopt the July 22, 2026 meeting minutes was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The July 22, 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.

Financial Report: The Chief also presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 07/31/2026:

National Bank:	\$ 190,828.16
Warrant Account:	\$ 816,145.03
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 368,361.05

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

Tonto Basin Firefighter Association (TBFFA) Updates: Trystan McBlane updated the Board on the Back to School BBQ that was held on August 19, 2026. He stated that the BBQ was a success and that the TBFFA had agreed with the new principle to have additional interaction opportunities in the future.

Tristan also stated that the TBFFA had applied to become a new Chapter of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) for full time employees and is awaiting approval from IAFF.

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Call to the Public – Agenda Items: None.

Discussion/Information and Action: the Chief proceeded regarding presenting the variance letter for Station 92 from Gila County. The letter was dated August 12, 2026 and signed by Gila County Community Development Director Randy Pluimer. The letter stated that “At this time, based on the current use and existing site conditions, a variance is not required.” It also stated “If the use of the fire station changes in the future to a manned station with sleeping quarters, the applicable rear setback would be 20 feet.” The letter is a positive step for the Fire District and ensures that Station 92 is properly permitted. No action was taken on this item.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding presenting the Chief’s Annual Performance Review to Chief Stoltenberg by John France. All five Board Members and Member at Large Deb Morris provided their feedback on the Chief’s performance. Overall, the Chief did a very good job and as such he was given an Exceeds Standards by the Board. He received 214 points out of a possible 216 points which averaged to 35.7 points out of a possible 36 points. No action was taken on this item.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding review and discussion of the Chief’s contract. At present the Chief has completed 3 years of the 5-year contract and based on contract language years 4 and 5 must be renewed with Board approval. Discussion ensued on the contract and a motion to approve and renew year 4 of the Chief’s 5-year contract was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The motion to approve and renew year 4 of the Chief’s 5-year contract was unanimously approved.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding a potential modification/revision to the Chief’s work schedule. The Chief recommended a four day 10-hour work week which is consistent with other Fire Chief’s in Gila County. Following review and discussion of the Chief’s work schedule a motion to revise and approve a four day 10-hour work week for the Chief was duly made by Board Member Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The motion to revise and approve a four day 10-hour work week for the Chief was unanimously approved.

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 1048 hours.