

**MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Regular Session  
November 15, 2023

**Call to Order:** This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 1500 hours by Chairman John France at Tonto Basin Fire Station #1, 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 Debra “Deb” Morris, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Cooper, Board Member Keli Smith, and Board Member Clifford “Cliff” Metz.

Clerk Deb Morris did have to step out of the meeting at 1550 hours and returned at 1604 hours.

**Also Present:** Chief James Stoltenberg via Teams, Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing, and Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).

**Awards & Recognition:** There were no awards or recognition for this meeting.

**Reading and Approval of the October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Following the review of the prior regular meeting minutes on October 19, a motion to approve the minutes was duly made by Board Member Deb Morris and seconded by Board Member Robert Cooper. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

**Reports and Correspondence:** The Chief’s Report, as distributed at this meeting, was presented by Chief Stoltenberg. Discussions ensued on the items as presented. Ben presented the financial reports with the following ending balances as of 10/31/2023:

National Bank:	\$ 49,595.54
Warrant Account:	\$ 439,578.88
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 335,164.90

Following discussions on the Chief’s and Financial Reports a motion was made to accept as presented by Board Member Robert Cooper and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Board Member Keli Smith. The vote was unanimous.

**Call to the Public** None

**Discussion/Information and Action:** proceeded regarding the approval of the Fire District Governing Board By-Laws as presented by Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing. The document was approved by District’s attorney. Following discussion on the Board By-Laws a motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to approve the revised By-Laws and was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Board Member John France. The vote was unanimous. All Board Members and attorney signed said document.

Chief Stoltenberg stated there was no action needed on the District’s Mission, Vision, and Values Statement at this time. They were still under revision. This item will be tabled until the December Board meeting.

**Discussion/Information and Action:** proceeded regarding approval of the Health Insurance and Vision Insurance for Full-time employees as presented by Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing. The existing health insurance provider, EMI Health, is raising their rates by 19.8% for 2024. Employees were asked to fill out health questionnaires and based on these there were an additional eight (8) quotes for health insurance obtained. Including decreases rates from EMI Health. Based on these quotes. Chief Stoltenberg also stated he asked all employees affected by

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the change in insurance if any issues would arise with changing carriers and he was told there was none. Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing and Chief Stoltenberg recommended that the District go with Trustmark's Health Edge CDHP health insurance for 2024 which will result in a decrease of 16% (~\$5,000/year) as compared to the existing health insurance. Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing recommended that the District maintain the existing vision insurance with Avesis given that there is no increase in the rates and there were no competitive bids. Following discussion on the Health and Vision Insurance a motion was made by Board Member John Franc to approve Trustmark Health Edge CDHP as the 2024 Health Insurance provider and Avesis as the 2024 Vision Insurance provider. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Board Member Keli Smith. The vote was unanimous.

**Discussion/Information and Action:** proceeded regarding Approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Tonto Basin Fire District and Gila County for the purchase of Fuel as presented by Chief James Stoltenberg. Chief Stoltenberg presented the Board with the reasons for this agreement and stated it would not replace our current fuel cards. This would be established as a contingency if fuel was not available in the District or if prices increased so much that it created a financial burden on the District. Following discussion on the Intergovernmental Agreement a motion was made by Board Member Robert Cooper to approve the IGA #100823. It was seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz, the vote was unanimous.

**Discussion/Information and Action:** proceeded with scheduling of the District's Annual Christmas Party. The party will be held at Station 91 on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 1400 hours. No action taken.

**Call to the Public:** None

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the board meeting, upon a motion made by Board Member Deb Morris and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz and was unanimously adopted, the meeting adjourned at 1619 hours.