

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Session
October 16, 2025

Call to Order: This regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 0932 hours by Chairman John France at Tonto Basin Fire Station #1, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Brian Nail.

Roll Call of Board Members: The following Board Members were present: Chairman John France, Secretary/Treasurer Robert Cooper, Board Member Clifford “Cliff” Metz (arrived at 9:38 a.m.), and Board Member Brian Nail.

Also Present: Chief James Stoltenberg.

Board Member at Large Debra “Deb” Morris.

Tonto Basin Fire District Administrative Assistant Lore Lee Taylor.

Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben” with James Vincent Group (JVG).

Junior Morris.

Ilene Hailey.

New Tonto Basin Firefighter/Paramedic James J. Degnan and his guest Amber Lynn.

Dustin Richards from BDR Richards CPA’s, PLC via Teams.

Awards & Recognition: Deb Morris read a recognition post off of Facebook by the daughter of a community member who was treated and transported due to health concerns. The community member is still in the hospital but the Facebook post was very complimentary of the Fire Department employees. Chief Stoltenberg is trying to determine who was on shift such that the employees can be properly recognized.

At this time Agenda Item 9, Tonto Basin Fire District new employee “swearing in” was moved to this point in the meeting.

Discussion/Information: Chairman John France held the “swearing in” ceremony for the newly hired Firefighter/Paramedic James J. Degnan. Congratulations James and we welcome you to the District.

Following the swearing in ceremony Junior Morris, Firefighter/Paramedic James Degnan and his guest Amber Lynn left the meeting.

Reading and Approval of the September 18, 2025 Regular Session Meeting Minutes: The draft minutes from the prior Regular Session Board Meeting on September 18, 2025 were reviewed. Following the review of the prior meeting minutes on September 18, 2025, a motion to approve and adopt the minutes was duly made by Board Member Brian Nail and seconded by Board Member Cliff Metz. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved and adopted.

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At this time Agenda Item 10, Review and Approval of the 2024/2025 Financial Audit as prepared and presented by Dustin Richards of BDR Richards CPA's, PLC was moved to this point in the meeting.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding review and approval of the 2024/2025 Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) Financial Audit as prepared and presented by Dustin Richards of BDR Richards CPA's, PLC. The audit report states: "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Tonto Basin Fire District, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America." Following discussion on the 2024/2025 TBFD Financial Audit a motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to accept the 2024/2025 TBFD Financial Audit as presented. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to accept the 2024/2025 TBFD Financial Audit was unanimous.

Following review of the 2024/2025 Financial Audit Dustin Richards left the meeting.

Chief's Report: The Chief's Report was presented by Chief Stoltenberg. Discussions ensued on the items as presented.

Financial Report: Ben presented the monthly financial reports with the following ending balances as of 9/30/2025:

National Bank:	\$ 108,489.49
Warrant Account:	\$ 709,636.26
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 354,610.48

Following discussions on the Chief's Report and the Financial Reports 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 Updates: Chief Stoltenberg highlighted that the Fishing Tournament would be rescheduled to March 15, 2026 due to inclement weather.

Call to the Public – Agenda Items: Ben highlighted that he enjoyed working with the Board. Deb Morris discussed the audit and thanked Chief Stoltenberg, Ben and JVG, and the Board for ensuring that the financials were being properly managed.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding review and approval of an ambulance write-off for hardship as presented by Chief Stoltenberg. The write-off in question was for a community member in the amount of \$139.85. The Chief did state that the amount of \$139.85 is the co-pay amount and that the community member has been transported before and has always paid their co-pay amount. The community member finds themselves in a difficult financial situation and as such does not have the money to pay this co-pay. Following discussion and questions on the write-off a motion was duly made to approve the ambulance write-off for hardship in the amount of \$139.85 by Board Member John France. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to approve the ambulance write-off for hardship was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: Proceeded regarding discussion on the application(s) to fill the open unexpired term of office position on the Tonto Basin Fire District (TBFD) Board of

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Directors which expires on December 31st, 2026. There was only one application turned in to the Fire District, Ilene Hailey. The Board was presented with a copy of Ilene's application and then held a discussion on the application.

The Board then interviewed Ilene. The Board and Ilene went through a question-and-answer session. Following the application review and the question-and-answer session a motion was made by Board Member Cliff Metz to appoint Ilene Hailey to fill the open unexpired term of office Board position that will expire on December 31st, 2026. The motion was seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to appoint Ilene Hailey to the Tbfd Board in the unexpired term of office position was unanimous.

John France then performed the "Oath of Office" such that Ilene Hailey is now appointed to the Board. Ilene had reviewed and signed off on the mandatory Open Meeting Law documents prior to this meeting. The notary was present only for this portion of the meeting.

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 Cliff Metz and seconded by Board Member Brian Nail. The vote to adjourn was unanimously adopted and the meeting adjourned at 1103 hours.