

MINUTES OF TONTO BASIN FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Work & Regular Session
March 16, 2023

Call to Order: This work and regular session Board Meeting was called to order at 1306 hours by Chairman John France at Tonto Basin Fire Station #1, 46189 N AZ Highway 188, Tonto Basin, AZ.

Pledge of Allegiance: Lead by John France.

Roll Call of Board Members: The following Board Members were present: Chairman John France, Clerk Debra “Deb” Morris, and Board Member Robert Cooper. Secretary/Treasurer Troy Hvidsten and Board Member Keli Smith were absent.

Also Present: Chief John Wisner and Ben Archer-Clowes “Ben”. Administrative Assistant Stormi Ewing at 1345.

Work Session

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding start of draft of budget for FY 2023-2024. Ben presented the Board with a handout and power point presentation for the budget. After much discussion on changes on: line items, pay increases, grants and/or lease purchases, schedules and/or personnel changes for this next years budget. There was enough information given for Ben and Chief Wisner to be able to have a draft of the budget ready to present to the Board at the next regular meeting. No action taken. Work session ended at 1442 and break was taken before starting the regular session.

Regular Session started at 1504 hours.

Reading and Approval of the February 16 and March 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Following the review of the prior meeting minutes, upon motion to approve as amended, the minutes was duly made by Board Member John France and 2nd by Board Member Deb Morris. Meeting Minutes were adopted and unanimously approved. Corrections of the minutes were names.

Reports and Correspondence: The Chief’s Report, as distributed at this meeting, were presented by Chief Wisner. Discussions ensued on the items as presented. Ben presented the financial reports, as follows are 2/28/2023 ending balances:

National Bank:	\$ 64,036.41
Warrant Account:	\$ 488,619.79
Capital Reserve Account:	\$ 431,278.10

Chief’s Report and Financial Reports were presented to the Board. The Board decided they wanted the “normal” packet in a separate folder for the Board to sign (financial bank statement from the county) and Ben’s financial documents emailed to the Board prior to the meeting for future. A motion was made to accept the Chief’s Report and Financial Reports as presented and with the changes for future meetings, by Board Member Robert Cooper and 2nd by Board Member Deb Morris. Vote was unanimous.

Call to the Public None

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding approval of a possible lease-purchase agreement for a new ambulance to secure better interest rates. Chief Wisner stated that our new ambulance was due to be completed approximately 6 weeks from now and suggested the Board secure financing for this purchase prior to the completion. Chief Wisner presented the Board with multiple service schedules amounts from Zion Bank. One was for the total price of the ambulance with 5- and 7-year loans at a certain interest rate, and again for \$50k down payment and then \$100k down payment. He also stated we can lock in these interest rates for 30 days. Admin.

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Stormi Ewing stated that after whichever schedule was chosen it would take about a month for Zion Bank to draw up the agreement and get it to us, and then for our attorney to look it over and have it ready for Board approval, which would be close to the time it was completed if we started now. After much discussion a motion was made to approve the Fire Chief to obtain the best financing for District and bring an Agreement for Board approval by Board Member John France and 2nd by Board Member Robert Cooper, vote was unanimous.

Discussion/Information and Action: proceeded regarding hiring process for new Fire Chief-update and next stages. Chairman France stated he changed the employment contract back to a full-time position and adding a discretionary authority of spending amount of \$5,000.00. The contract will still have the 6-month probationary period and the current salary amount of \$80,573.00. The contract is written for a start date of May 1, 2023 for the person that passes all interviews, tests, and background checks. The board stated no need to have the attorney approve since it is still same contract as previous years. No action taken.

Call to the Public: Schedule next meeting for a work session for budget at 1 p.m. and regular session to follow on April 20th.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the board meeting, upon a motion made by Board Member John France and 2nd by Board Member Deb Morris and was unanimously adopted, the meeting adjourned at 1622 hours.