

YARNELL FIRE DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

A.R.S. 38-431.1, A.R.S. 38-431.2

August 24, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair, Arlon Rice called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present were Chair Arlon Rice, Treasurer Celeste Cook, and Secretary Nina Bour-Beau.

Members at Large: John Sutherland, Kim Kelso

Others Present: Deputy Chief Anthony Tunis-zoom, 6 people signed in (sign in sheets attached) , 5 people on Zoom

A. Discussion and possible action re: Adopt Resolution 2026-04 Annexation of Prescott Creek East Subdivision Parcels 205-17-311 through 205-17-357 at the request of Western Land and Ranches.

Discussion:

Regarding the Resolution: Board Chair, Arlon Rice stated we serve Fire and Medical only. The following are the fire departments in the Consortium: Wilhoit Fire, Williamson Valley, Mayer, Crown King, Southern Yavapai, Congress and Yarnell Fire. Yarnell Fire has mutual aid with the Consortium and surrounding fire districts. This resolution is 46 or 47 parcels and is a new section of the prior annexation from March/April.

Kim Kelso, Board Member, motioned to table this resolution as one week is not enough time to look at the annexation. The motion died for lack of second.

Unknown: developer misrepresented, AZ Dept of Real Estate looking into this,
Unknown: County dictates that subdivision, Yarnell Fire provides fire protection. Williamson Valley listed as fire protection for the parcels meaning the consortium.

John Sutherland, board member, unhappiness with what the developer may be doing but all we are doing is fire and EMT calls and we may as well get paid for this when property/houses sell. This could be years down the road.

Board Secretary: Nina Bour-Beau stated that we are just providing fire protection/medical, what the county and developer do, is not on us.

Board member, Kim Kelso, stated that our constituents will see it as Yarnell Fire in cahoots with developer.

Staff in Wilhoit can be on call for the fires, EMT even though they are a volunteer fire department.

John Rice, Fire Captain, stated that it takes Yarnell Fire 12 minutes to get to this parcel which is faster than the other districts. We are going to respond no matter what.

Board Member, John Sutherland, commented that Wilhoit is not a district yet so they can't adopt annexations. When they become a district, then they can take the annexations. John also stated that he is all for growth.

We have responsibility, automatic aid, when Wilhoit Fire becomes a district they can adopt resolutions.

George Ostrem, a resident: has experience with selling on a business basis

Talked about mechanical & chemical engineering – talked about the water issue, cleaning out the arsenic in water, process turns into mercury bromide.

Unknown, Kim has motioned to hold, someone needs to second the motion or it dies.

Rose Davis, a Peeples Valley resident so we are going to provide help no matter what, why do we have to resort to a legal contract battling with other entities?

John Sutherland, Resolutions are ongoing the original annexation was done in March or April, the paperwork got written, we voted with original annexation of 19 parcels, our lawyer was happy with the paperwork so the original annexation is legal.

There are 46 more parcels now.

Board secretary, Nina Bour-Beau, we are just providing fire service and medical, what the developer does, what the county does is not our issue.

Vickie Velasquez, a resident, asked why are we so comfortable with liars' questions and concerns? Kim has to have some time for research, and we need to give her a chance.

Board Chair, Arlon Rice stated that annexation also improves the ISO rating which insurance deals with.

Unknown: There are questions that should be resolved before the board votes on it.

Board member, Celeste Cook, asked Kim Kelso who to contact in Peeples Valley fire? Public works & development?, Yavapai county?

Unknown: The citizens should outline questions.

Board Chair, Arlon Rice stated that if we are going to provide info on these decisions, these can't be done by rumors, must be facts.

A motion was made by Board Member, Kim Kelso, to table this vote until research is done. The motion died for lack of second.

Board member, John Sutherland stated if the citizens here in Yarnell are interviewed, they should be registered voters which shows they are invested in the community.

Board Member, Celeste Cook inquired on the research, what value that would bring such as facts to talk to people, other districts, county? Would this change anything? She offered to help with the research.

Board Member, Kim Kelso motioned to table this to allow more research for 2 months. The motion died for lack of second.

Deputy Chief, Anthony Tunis is available on Zoom today taking a break from firefighting for questions. There were none.

Trish Edwards, a resident is willing to help with research, and would report in Oct.

Board Member, John Sutherland pointed out that since March/April we have looked at resolutions and feels that we don't need a 2-month delay. Builder/Developer still has to meet the fire code; our agendas were posted in town regarding prior meetings. More research will be helpful, but we are just providing the fire protection and medical.

Board member, Kim Kelso motioned that board table Prescott Creek East subdivision, and will report research in Sept 21 regular meeting, with a maximum of two months' time for research. Board Member, Celeste Cook seconded. There were 3 ayes and 2 nays, the motion passed.

Vickie Velasques, a resident, asked why would we want to be associated with a liar?

3. ADJOURNMENT

The Board Chair, Arlon Rice adjourned the special meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M Bour-Beau, YFD Secretary