

YARNELL FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE BOARD REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

The Yanell Fire District Board of Directors held a Board meeting as follows:

Date: Monday, July 20, 2026

Time: 10:05 a.m.

Location: In-person and via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Board Chair Arlon Rice called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Members present: Arlon Rice, Board Chair; Celeste Cook, Treasurer; Nina Bour-Beau, Secretary; John Sutherland, Member-at-Large.

Others present: Deputy Chief Anthony Tunis, Fire Chief, Chief Bryan Smith
14 guests per the sign in sheets, two on zoom.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Review and possible approval of Minutes of Regular Session of June 15, 2026.

Board Treasurer, Celeste Cook, second by Board Member, John Sutherland. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

A. Chairman's Report. There was no report from the Chairman.

B. Secretary's Report – There was no report from the Secretary.

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Discussion/possible approval of treasurer's report presented by Board Treasurer, Celeste Cook.

General Fund	\$ 7,102.56
Capital:	\$ 106,385.71
Donations & Grants	\$ 4,472.96
Pension:	\$ 16,159.22
Shuttle:	\$ 5,096.04
Training:	\$ 7,376.88
Wildland Fire	\$ 126,432.33

Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau motioned to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Board Member, John Sutherland. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Discussion/possible approval of transfer log:

DATE	AMOUNT		REASON
6/17/2026	\$168.46	CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUNDS	MIKAELA PALM REIMBURSEMENT-WILDLAND
6/24/2026	\$11,707.73	CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUNDS	PAYROLL/BILLS
7/2/2026	\$5,754.52	CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUNDS	BILLS
7/8/2026	\$49,012.90	CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUNDS	PAYROLL/BILLS
7/8/2026	\$11,000.00	WILDLAND FIRE TO GENERAL FUND	PAYROLL/BILLS
7/15/2026	\$6,213.95	WILDLAND FIRE TO GENERAL FUND	BILLS
7/17/2026	\$6,902.56	GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL RESERVE	TAXES

Board Secretary, Nina M. Bour-Beau motioned to approve the transfer log. Second by Board Chair, Arlon Rice. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Chief's Report: The Chief's report was given by Chief Bryan Smith.

- a. Finished interviews for new hires and they finished orientation a few days ago.
- c. Fire Academy, which is part time, will start in September, testing will be done before Christmas. It will be a hybrid academy with online access and hands on training in Bagdad on Saturdays.
New paramedic class starts in September and will be done in April.
- d. Dept of Forestry, & Management, Skull Valley, Wickenburg, Congress, Peeples Valley, State task force were all on the Mina Fire. No homes or businesses were lost, just out buidings/sheds.
YFD painting the fire hydrants which received okay from the water dept.
Congrats to Peeples Valley 7 minutes per the Mina Fire call log and they have received several significant Grants. Yarnell has received the 100 Club Grant for turn out gear in Yarnell.
Vickie Velasquez, a Yarnell resident, asking about the red lines on street by curbs, per Chief Smith, ADOT does these on highway.
County and National Forest going off of Stage 1 fire restrictions since the rains have started to happen. Meeting at the County Emergency Management office tomorrow and they will let us know what they intend to do.
Chief Smith: amendment: quote to re-seal parking lot (\$60,000 cost for new paving,) \$10,000. quote for sealing both parking lot at Fire Station and admin building and re-striping (stripes)
Crew quarters: John Sutherland had the person come who was interested in crew quarters, looked at it and decided not to. Per Chief Smith, removal of crew quarters and will have insurance company come out to look at.
- e. Chief Smith: 14 calls in June for service. Four of these calls were all on Yarnell Hill.
Response time 4 minutes in Yarnell proper
f minutes in Glen Ilah, one below the National Standard.
- e. Grants: several federal grants, turn outs have grant for these.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau has gone through prior minutes for Former Chief's Turned in Gear. We have no idea how many uniforms former chief had, or equipment as there was no sign in sheet. Per Chief Smith, a new sign-in sheet for uniforms & equipment has been done and is being currently utilized.

Rose Davis, a Peeples Valley resident, asked when the new sign-in sheet for gear was done. Per Chief Smith this was done and being utilized since May 2026.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board Member, John Sutherland made a motion that we adopt the 2024 Fire Code with additional amendments. Second by Board Treasurer, Celeste Cook. Motion approved unanimously.

B. ANNEXATION: of the Prescott Creek West subdivision 89 Kirkland Junction extension of prior annexation. They are 36-acre parcels across from the Rancho 36 acre lots on Highway 89.

Per Vickie Velasquez, a resident, APS isn't going to supply power and no water access yet. Per Chief Smith, there is no road access, it's up to ADOT to approve road access. Prior was Rancho also 36 acre lots, Kim Kelso, a resident asked about fire financial obligations, which are none per Chief Smith. We are not providing resources yet, not a huge change, now.

Board Treasurer, Celeste Cook made a motion that we annex the Western Land. Second by Board Member, John Sutherland. Motion approved unanimously.

C. Trish Edwards, a resident, stated that the Yarnell Fire Auxiliary fed the RAZ guys at the church who provided the Firewise sign up for the property owners who signed up in April/May. Per Kim Kelso, another resident, they missed her property and 3 other properties – the group will be back on the 30th of July to finish.

First sign-up sheet for Firewise was in April and there was not enough people to do the work. This group (RAZ) Stayed at the YCPC church and operated out of Admin building. Per Arlon, board chair, very little communication on this, need more communication and co-ordination on Future. July Columbus, a resident, didn't get link to local and didn't know about this. Board Chair, Arlon Rice also voiced concern that he didn't know about this. Per Trish Edwards, a resident, the info was not forthcoming, only when it was happening. Firewise will try and do better on communication. The RAZ group cleaned up brush and small trees.

Chief Smith thanked the Yarnell Fire Auxiliary for all that they did.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss new board member who will finish out Richard Mayer's term. Second by Board member, John Sutherland. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:53 am to go into executive session.

7. RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION:

Public Session was reconvened at 10:57 am. Board Chair, Arlon Rice motioned that Kim Kelso was unanimously chosen by the board to temporary replace Richard Mayer. The public applauded. Seconded by Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau. The motion was approved unanimously.

Arlon apologized for the shortage of space outside the board room. Meetings will be held at Admin building since station has been extremely busy. Per Amy Harmon Carter, a resident, The Wheelhouse could be used at Community Center for board meetings.

8. CALL TO PUBLIC:

No comments in Call to public.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Next board meeting is Aug 17, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am by Board Chair, Arlon Rice.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M Bour-Beau