

YARNELL FIRE DISTRICT
FIRE BOARD REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

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

Date: Monday, September 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 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 10:00 AM.

2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Board Members present: Arlon Rice, Board Chair; Nina Bour-Beau, Secretary; John Sutherland, Member-at-Large, Kim Kelso, Member at large.

Excused absent: Celeste Cook

Others present: Deputy Chief Anthony Tunis, Fire Chief, Chief Bryan Smith

9 guests per the sign in sheets, 4 participants on zoom.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Board Member, John Sutherland motioned to approve the Regular Board Minutes August 17 2026. Seconded by Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau. The motion was approved unanimously.
- B. Board secretary, Nina Bour-Beau motioned to approve the Special Minutes of August 24, 2026. Seconded by Board Chair, Arlon Rice. 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 Secretary Nina Bour-Beau for Board Treasurer: Celeste Cook who is absent.

General Fund	\$ 24,521.65
Capital:	\$ 111,533.55
Donations & Grants	\$ 7,019.71
Pension:	\$ 16,176.96
Shuttle:	\$ 5,109.74
Training:	\$ 7,410.03
Wildland Fire	\$ 126,616.29

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.

Discussion/possible approval of transfer log: no transfer log, not doing anymore. Per Board Member, Kim Kelso, treasurer report, needs to include Income & Expense called P&L in Quickbooks (Profit and Loss) which needs the budget included in this report. Per Chief Smith: Lisa-Marie Campbell should do in Quickbooks P&L after putting budget in for 2026-2027. Board member, John Sutherland motioned to have the P&L included in the treasurer's report. Seconded by Board Chair, Arlon Rice. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Chief's Report:

- a. Administration; All personnel are back from Wildland
- b. Equipment N/A
- c. Training:
 - Fire Academy will go until Christmas – 19 people attending this class.
 - Paramedic Class goes until April 2027, 24 people attending from Bagdad, Mayor & Congress. None from Yarnell as we have trained paramedics here.
 - AZ State Fire School, 53rd year, is annual, hosted in Mesa and 14 employees from Consortium are signed up and 2 from Yarnell.
- d. Miscellaneous N/A
- e. Call Volume
 - 19 service calls in August, most were EMT calls. One assist for fire in Wilhoit.
 - Response time in Yarnell: 7 minutes, Glen Ilah: 9 minutes
- f. Grants Report
 - Haven't heard anything on Grants, one exception is the 100 Club award for turnouts. We have 3 new turnouts so far.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Resolution and update of 2026-04 Annexation of Prescott Creek East Subdivision Parcels 205-17-311 through 205-17-357 at the request of Western Land and Ranches.

Celeste & Kim researched, Celeste email was forwarded to board members. They determined that the Ranch did not provide all the information per the statute ARS48-262. The reason to annex is with multiple property owners- only one signature needed per Chief Smith.

When we have more homes built, the fire trucks can move closer. Currently Yarnell Fire response time would be 12 minutes to subdivision parcels.

Lisa Fahey, Wilhoit resident, stated there is a major water issue in Wilhoit, her property abuts the new properties going in. She has no trust in Southern Yavapai Fire (Wilhoit Fire).

Per Chief Smith, if Yarnell Fire did not annex, then we would not get paid for out of taxes. We would have to bill the Insurance Company, and then the property owner.

Peoples Valley Fire not on developer list per Chief Bomar several managerial and administrative issues per the developer and Peoples Valley wanted too many conditions. Chief Bomar pointed out that water supply was one of the conditions.

Wilhoit residents are against Wilhoit fire department becoming a district. They have no confidence in Southern Yavapai (Wilhoit).

Chief Smith stated that Williamson Valley provides training, and mechanics. Southern Yavapai is in the Consortium.

Mutual aid: Fire Department calls other Fire Department to ensure that mutual aid agreement is in force, and if the other Fire Department is available, then they can assist.

Automatic call: Consortium has automatic calls where all trucks for fires automatically go assist.

Chief Bomar: Peoples Valley not asked for fires last Christmas, they asked the consortium for help at their Fire Department.

Board Member, Kim Kelso, and Lisa Fahey, Wilhoit resident speak about water and access, we have water in our tenders but when we run out in Wilhoit, we would have to come back to Yarnell to fill

the tenders. Kim spoke to Chairman of County board of supervisors there is not enough water in Wilhoit, Board Chair, Arlon Rice: we provide care for our neighbors, we have the best staff we have ever had. There is a well on Ranch property per the original agreement with County AZ Dept of Environmental quality (ADEQ). We make recommendations – egress.

Lisa Fahey, Wilhoit resident, water restriction in Wilhoit from April to October, 935 feet well doesn't hit water. Have several dry wells in Wilhoit. Lisa encouraged all to go online and look up wells in Wilhoit.

Board of supervisors: dense property under State Law. No benefits right now, very limited tax assessment for Yarnell Fire.

John Sutherland, board member, annexation good for the district, not today but in 5 years or more, we need to look in the future. Phoenix Fire annexed Sun Lakes who wasn't going to grow, joined Consortium and now has additional income. Future income-Yarnell not going to grow, desert is going to grow, trying to get ahead of the curve. Good for the district, benefit in investing in future. Wildland fire, per Arlon Rice, board chair, we can get grants in clearing brush, build a barrier for Wilhoit.

Lisa Fahey, Wilhoit resident Grants in Wilhoit have no funds.

John Sutherland made the motion to vote on the Annexation of Prescott Creek East Subdivision Parcels 205-17-311 through 205-17-357 at the request of Western Land and Ranches. Seconded by Nina Bour-Beau. There were 3 yes, and 1 Nay.

B. Update on Consortium website yavcofire.org: Yarnell Fire has current Agendas from July 2026 to Aug 2026. Any updates on current meetings? Chief Smith called Kaitlyn. Per Chief Smith, Kaitlyn didn't receive the 2025 minutes, Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau forwarded again after verifying her email address. No vote needed. Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau will also provide the newest board member names for the yavco/yarnellfire website.

C. Multi-directional microphones for board meetings. Kim Kelso has one of these microphones and was going to donate to the fire department. It will be tested to see if it works with our speaker. No vote needed.

5. Discussion and possible action re: rough draft of Office Manager with suggested additions in email. Re-done by Kim Kelso, sent to Chief Smith to format job description to the Consortium job descriptions. No vote needed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action re: putting Richard Mayer's name on Memorial Quilt at YRCC with \$40.00 donation Board member John Sutherland motioned to put Richard Mayer's name on the Memorial Quilt at Yarnell Regional Community Center and to include \$40.00 donation. Board Member Kim Kelso seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. New lawyer: conflict of interest with Bagdad? County Attorney would represent Yarnell Fire in any lawsuits per Chief Smith. Doug V. Fant, Mayer lawyer for Mayer and Crown King does pro bono work and will also do for Yarnell. We can amend to add new lawyer if we wish. Arlon motioned to contact the lawyer and to have Board Member, Kim Kelso do research of credentials, history. Seconded by John Sutherland, board Member. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Early board access to agendas, minutes of meetings and handouts. Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau stated that she can send the minutes right after the 3 days of getting minutes ready to all board members. Board member, Kim Kelso suggested we do the Agenda the Monday before the meeting with any additions to would be an emergency. This may or may not work with Nina's crazy schedule but willing to try. The cut-off would be Thursday so Board Secretary, Nina Bour-Beau would still be in compliance with statutes/laws of posting before 24 hours of next

meeting. Nina also emphasized that the Agenda MUST REMAIN on 2 pages. Any more than 2 pages the agenda could not be posted on bulletin boards in town due to little room.

7. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None
8. **RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION** None
9. **CALL TO PUBLIC**

Chief Bomar apologized for his outburst.

Rose Davis, Peeples Valley resident, stated that we need income and expense sheet. Board Secretary Nina Bour-Beau repeated that we can get the P&L only after the budget goes in QuickBooks.

Board Member, Kim Kelso asked Chief Smith about our contract. Per Chief Smith it is with Congress Fire.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 11:34 am by Board Chair, Arlon Rice.

Next board meeting is Oct 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M Bour-Beau