

**YARNELL FIRE DISTRICT**  
**FIRE BOARD PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**  
**January 26, 2026**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Board Chair Arlon Rice called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

Present were Chair Arlon Rice, Treasurer Richard Mayer, Secretary Nina Bour-Beau,  
Members at Large: John Sutherland

Absent: Denise Manone

Others present: Chief Shearer.

Call in: Bill Whittington, lawyer

30 Guests per the sign in sheets

**3. CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Board Member John Sutherland motioned to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of Dec 15, 2025, the, second by Denise Manone. The motion was carried by all.

**4. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

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

B. Secretary's Report – Letter of resignation from the board received which will be addressed later and on the agenda.

C. Treasurer's Report

a. Discussion/possible approval of treasurer's report.

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| General Fund       | \$ 49,419.47  |
| Capital:           | \$ 137,297.18 |
| Donations & Grants | \$ 3,494.51   |
| Pension:           | \$ 15,575.79  |
| Shuttle:           | \$ 5,032.69   |
| Training:          | \$ 5,256.24   |
| Wildland Fire      | \$ 113,219.18 |

Board member Nina Bour-Beau motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Second by Board member John Sutherland. The motion was carried by all.

b. Discussion/possible approval of transfer log:

| DATE       | AMOUNT      |                                      | REASON                 |
|------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| DATE       | AMOUNT      |                                      |                        |
| 11/26/2025 | \$9,452.49  | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | REGULAR PAYROLL/BILLS  |
| 12/3/2025  | \$13,574.19 | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | STIPENDS AND BILLS     |
| 12/10/2025 | \$7,965.09  | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | REGULAR PAYROLL/BILLS  |
| 12/16/2025 | \$35,282.60 | FROM GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL RESERVE | PROPERTY TAXES DEPOSIT |
| 12/17/2025 | \$3,370.30  | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | BILLS                  |
| 12/23/2025 | \$12,728.73 | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | REGULAR PAYROLL/BILLS  |
| 12/31/2025 | \$966.23    | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | BILLS                  |
| 1/7/2026   | \$12,004.15 | FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO GENERAL FUND | PAYROLL/STIPENDS/BILLS |

Board Chair Arlon Rice motioned to approve the transfer log. Second by Board Member John Sutherland. The motion was carried by all.

**D Chief's Report:** Not at this time.

**5. BUSINESS:**

**A. Possible joining of consortium of districts.**

Tully shared Congress Fire & Williamson Valley contracts.

Plain document for Congress Fire – example of what we will have as a document.

Consortium-mechanics and personnel

Williamson Valley Fire District

Get out whenever you want, all training provided in Wildland Fire, other training such as EMT, Paramedic classes will be other places paid for by Williamson Valley Consortium.

Elected Fire board members will stay, no replacing, keep own fire board. Help with budget set up proposal.

Volunteer to join provide training, 350 to 450 thousand depending on benefits

Consortium person, district responsible for insurance, possibility of raising property taxes but decrease homeowners insurance based on capacity to respond.

Cadet program – combined at Congress Station with their cadet program.

Trish Edwards asked about donations, where do they go?

Fund raiser – every money raised by district auxiliary stays in the area with the Auxiliary.

Umbrella name – each district keeps their money, the consortium itself has no money, every district gets audited.

Fire hydrants owned by local water company – consortium works with water company for hydrant testing, some water companies for small districts don't want the consortium to touch their hydrants – which is okay.

Arlon Rice – the fire district uses water – we pay for the water.

Board will start budget next month.

Majority of audience in favor of joining consortium,

Trish Edwards – water personnel need to be on site in order to turn on hydrant.

John Sutherland table voting on consortium to review Yarnell Fire contract with consortium.

Arlon also in favor of not voting.

Based on audience – Arlon motioned that Yarnell Fire join the consortium now, finalize the contract in the next meeting. John Sutherland seconded the motion. Motion carried by all.

B. Possible acceptance of resignation from the board of Denise Manone.

All board members received copy of Denise Manone resignation letter.

Richard Mayer motioned to accept Denise Manone resignation letter, second by John Sutherland. Motion carried by all.

C. Discussion regarding replacement of Board Member Manone, Process of selection of replacement.

Arlon stated that the board has 90 days to fill the board position. Credentials in a sealed envelope on what you bring to the board, at the administration office. Best skills, resident of the district for 1 year. Could be a background check, voted in, no background check with Yavapai County if running in election. On the ballot, appoint someone at this point, till 2028. Required AFDA 6 hours of training, 1 year to get training. Can do Laughlin or Phoenix, or on-line. 2 board positions open for 2028 – elections this year, get ballots in Yavapai County, needed 5 signatures or more. New board members start in December; board of supervisors appoint if no one runs—all ballots need to be turned in to Yavapai County by July 1<sup>st</sup> of election year 2026.

Joyce Ritner – asked what if no one runs, then the board of supervisors would step in to appoint someone to our board.

County recorder for election packet.

D. Discussion and possible action: Extending appt of Fire Chief John Rice beyond 1-26-26

John Sutherland motioned to extend Fire Chief John Rice until we need. Richard Mayer second. Motion carried by all.

E. Discussion and possible action: possible additional bids on crew quarters

Still waiting for additional bids for which damage is covered by insurance.

Rose Davis – since Nov meeting – why not take care of contract-builds houses here in Nov. no written estimate, supposed to get quote by 26<sup>th</sup> don't have quote on crew quarters. Still waiting for written estimates.

Chuck Overmeyer sent interested party to John Rice who talked with John about the crew quarters, we still need a bid. Per John Rice, any snow and the roof will come down at the crew quarters. Per Arlon Rice, the crew quarters might be condemned.

Rose Davis -why not get with Shearer?

Facilities Department Consortium– they can come out and look at, check the mold which is needed.

F. Discussion and possible action re: updating the SOG's and Policies and Procedures.

Per Board Chair Arlon Rice, we will move this to future meetings.

John Sutherland motioned that the board goes into executive session- 11:28 regarding 38-431.03(A)(1), Nina Bour-Beau second. Motion approved by all.

1:12 pm reconvene in Public Session -Arlon adjourned meeting because of Nina failure to call people in zoom to call back in.

RECONVENE IN PUBLIC SESSION

Problem with zoom, no one on zoom when I got back, didn't tell them to call back so therefore Arlon had to adjourn the meeting at 1:12 pm.

Next board meeting February 23, 2026 as third Monday is federal holiday.

Meeting adjourned 1:12 am by Board Chair Arlon Rice.

Respectfully submitted,

Nina M Bour-Beau