BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 19, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Orth called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District #2 meeting to order at 4:02 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

Chairperson Orth, Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Rouse, Asst Fire Chief Dormaier, District Admin Wheeler.

Staff Members' Present: None.

Guests: Jeannie Howell, City of Benton City Representative Jerod Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – *None*

PUBLIC COMMENT – *None.*

Financial Review – *Review of revenue and expenditures reports/vouchers presented for approval.*

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed within the Consent Agenda have been distributed to each member of the Board for reading and study. These matters are considered to be routine and will be considered or enacted by one motion of the Board with no separate discussion. However, if any member of the Board desires separate discussion on a specific item, that item may be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.

- Agenda: **Approve agenda dated May 19, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated May 5, 2026.**
- Payroll Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **Direct Deposit in the amount of $ 75,594.54**
  - Approve **Payroll Vouchers in the amount of $ 52,789.00**
- Claim Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **2026 Bill vouchers in the amount of $ 33,617.01**

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Chairperson Orth seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 05-25-2026, HOLIDAY: Memorial Day, Office Closed
- 05-30-2026, Ki-Be HS Graduation
- **06-02-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**
- **06-16-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- October 4-8, 2026, **Fire Admin Conference** (Suquamish, WA)
  - *Attending: Wheeler, Canada (?)*
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
  - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*

CORRESPONDENCE – *None.*

FINANCIALS *(Financial Officer)* – *None.*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates – *None.*
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO
  - District operations: Operations and activities within the District are proceeding as expected with no significant issues to report.
  - Heavy equipment project: A heavy equipment initiative is upcoming, including scheduled dozer training and related preparations to ensure personnel and equipment readiness.
  - Demoss Road Fire: Approximately 3,000 gallons of water were utilized during the incident. The fire experienced a restart but was ultimately contained with no structure loss. The incident occurred within a wildland-urban interface area, and air support was requested and utilized during suppression efforts.
  - Radio communications issues: Challenges were identified during the Demoss Road Fire, including issues with DNR radio channels, which are currently being addressed. Additional concerns were noted with the SECOMM system, specifically related to a transponder recovery issue. These events highlighted areas for improvement in communication systems.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *None.*
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY – *Jerod Miller provided an update on current City business and ongoing activities.*

NEW BUSINESS

- State Annual Report for 2025: **In Progress.** *Due May 30, 2026.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL – *None.*

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – *There were no agenda items to add to the next meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *None.*

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Rouse seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 4:13 PM.

Attested on June 2, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler
CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT ADMIN

/s/ Barry Orth
BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell
LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse
LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER