BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Howell called the regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners of Benton County Fire District #2 meeting to order at 4:01 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Rouse, Fire Chief Bates, District Admin Wheeler.

Staff Members Present: Captain Gierin, Firefighter/EMT Strasser.

Guests: Jeannie Howell.

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 April 14, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated April 7, 2026.**
- Payroll Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **Direct Deposit in the amount of $ 70,717.13**
  - Approve **Payroll Vouchers in the amount of $ 68,811.03**
- Claim Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **2026 Bill vouchers in the amount of $ 39,332.84**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **05-05-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**
- **05-19-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- 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
  - The District will host a Drug Take-Back event on April 25 at the station in partnership with the Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and the Coalition for a Healthy Benton City.
  - The 800MHz radio project is progressing well. Installations have been completed, with two remaining vehicles to be finished in-house. A programming kiosk has been set up, and the first update has been completed. Crews are adapting well to the new radios. Additional adjustments to the fleet map will be made prior to the official transition to 800MHz. New tower site installations are underway, and the system is expected to provide strong, redundant coverage across the area.
  - Assistant Chief Dormaier is expected to return Thursday, with a meeting scheduled no later than 1300 hours that day. His daughter continues to do well and has an appointment this week; however, recovery will be a long process. The family appreciates the continued support.
  - Personnel who attended Swift Water Rescue training have returned. Efforts are underway to equip them for assignment to the Swiftwater Rescue Team (SRT). The additional staffing is expected to be beneficial for upcoming summer operations.
  - The Chief will attend Tri-Tech on the 17th to participate in mock interviews. He will then be on leave, returning to work on the 28th. A delegation of authority will be established during this period, and the Board will be notified of the assigned chain of command.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin
  - Updated commissioners on all training and staffing certifications currently in process.
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *None.*
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY – *None.*

NEW BUSINESS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL

- Excuse Commissioner Orth from Commissioners' Meeting dated 04-14-26.

Commissioner Howell moved to excuse Commissioner Orth from Meeting dated April 14, 2026. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

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. Chairperson Orth seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 4:33 PM.

Attested on May 5, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler
CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT ADMIN

/s/ Barry Orth
BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse
LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER