



BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 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 4:04 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

Chairperson Orth, Commissioner Howell, Fire Chief Bates, District Admin Wheeler.

Staff Members Present: Captain Hawley, Captain Meyer, Firefighter Auld, Firefighter/EMT Strasser.

Guests: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – *New resident introduction and Excuse Commissioner Rouse from April 7, 2026, meeting under Personnel.*

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 March 17, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated March 3, 2026.**
- Claim Vouchers (*Fund 6821*)
 - **Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$46,026.18**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **04-14-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**
- **05-05-2026, 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*)

- Budget Position Report as of 03/31/2026.



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- District Financial Report: as of 02/28/26

General Fund 6821	\$69,079.13
EMS Fund 6828	\$1,899,399.57
Reserve Fund 6826	\$74,067.66
Total General Fund	\$2,042,546.36
Bond Fund 6822	\$36,286.58
Total ALL Funds 02/28/26	\$2,078,832.94

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
 - The annual Appreciation Dinner was a success and was well attended. The Chief thanked all who participated and assisted with the event. Appreciation was extended to the Rehab team for their outstanding support, to Captain Guerin for creating the slideshow presentation, and to Captain Pettis for organizing and presenting the Klutz Awards. Planning with Rehab has already begun for next year's event.
 - The 800MHz radio project continues to progress. Equipment installations are currently underway and are anticipated to be completed by the front end of next week. Crews remain engaged in training on the new radio system.
 - A letter of support for the City of Benton City was sent, and the Mayor expressed appreciation for the district's support.
 - Assistant Chief Dormaier remains out until further notice. His daughter is doing well, though recovery is expected to be a lengthy process.
 - Four members are attending Swift Water Rescue training this week. They departed this evening and are scheduled to return on Saturday.
 - The Chief will attend Tri-Tech on the 17th to participate in mock interviews. This outreach supports students by providing insight into real-world interviewing expectations and preparation. Participation has positively impacted student motivation, communication skills, and confidence, and has resulted in several graduates from the Fire Program entering local volunteer and residency programs, including the district's program.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – Nothing to Report.
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY – *None.*

NEW BUSINESS

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



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL

- Introduction: New Resident Firefighter – Conner Auld.
- Excuse Commissioner Rouse from Commissioners' Meeting dated 04-07-26.

Commissioner Howell moved to excuse Commissioner Rouse from Meeting dated April 7, 2026. Chairperson Orth 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

- **Executive Session for Personnel Qualifications and/or Performance Review per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)** (*Evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or review the performance of a public employee.*)

An Executive Session was called for 30 minutes to do performance review. The session opened at 4:24 PM in the Chief's Office. At 4:54 PM, the session was extended eleven (11) minutes. At 5:05 PM, the session was extended ten (10) minutes. The executive session closed at 5:15 PM, and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

- ACTION: *No Action.*

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chairperson Orth seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 5:16 PM.

Attested on April 14, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT ADMIN

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER