



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

June 2, 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 4:00 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

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

Staff Members' Present: Captain Meyer, Firefighter Paulakis, Firefighter Strasser, EMT Reed, Firefighter Thomas, Firefighter Flagg, Firefighter Ogle, Firefighter Auld, and Firefighter King.

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 June 2, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated May 19, 2026.**
- Claim Vouchers (Fund 6821)
 - **Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$ 42,513.65**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **06-16-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**
- **06-19-2026, HOLIDAY: Juneteenth, Office Open, CBA Personnel Holiday**
- **07-03-2026, HOLIDAY Observed: Fourth of July, Office Closed**
- **07-07-2026, 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, **WFOA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
 - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

FINANCIALS (Financial Officer)

District Financial Report as of 04/30/2026.

General Fund 6821	\$618,274.85
EMS Fund 6828	\$2,108,522.80



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

June 2, 2026

Reserve Fund 6826	\$74,684.58
Total General Fund	\$2,801,482.23
Bond Fund 6822	\$96,193.86
Total ALL Funds	\$2,897,676.09

Budget Position Report: as of 05/30/2026.

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
 - Dozer Training: Dozer training was completed at the ranch and shooting range. Recognition was given to Captains Guerin, Pettis, and Day for leading and organizing the training. Appreciation was also extended to all personnel who participated and to those who staffed the station during the training.
 - 800MHz Radio Project: The project continues to progress; however, an issue was identified within the operational implementation plan. The concern was raised at CAG, and a radio work group has been established to address it. The goal is to resolve the issue promptly and ensure a safe and effective system for both personnel and the community.
 - Annual Report: The annual report has been completed and submitted. Appreciation was expressed to Caren for her extensive work compiling the report. Work is also underway on a simplified public version intended to improve transparency and provide a clearer understanding of District operations and services.
 - First Due Implementation: Progress continues on the implementation of First Due. Caren is leading efforts to compile and input required data, with additional support from Captain Guerin. Their efforts are helping advance both system implementation and training development.
 - Rescue Boat Update: An update was provided in response to an inquiry from Mr. Rouse. The rescue boat is currently in progress with the builder in Idaho. Assistant Chief Dormaier, Captain Day, and Captain Pettis will visit the facility this summer to deliver equipment, inspect the build process, and gain familiarity with the unit. They will also review operational capabilities and coordinate future training with the manufacturer. Service information and specifications will be obtained to support ongoing maintenance. Delivery is anticipated in early 2027. It was also noted that Captain Day has been assigned responsibility for Water Rescue in his role as Special Operations Captain.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO
 - Fire Boat Update: The fire boat remains in production. The Maintenance Team will conduct a review and walkthrough during the build process to ensure familiarity and quality oversight.
 - Watercraft Coordination (SRT): Benton 4 has purchased a Creative Craft raft. All agencies will coordinate under the Swiftwater Rescue Team (SRT) program to ensure certified personnel are trained and familiar with all vessels in the region.
 - Operations: Operational activities within the District are running smoothly with no significant issues to report.



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

June 2, 2026

-
- Incident Activity: There are currently no large incidents within the District. Crews have been providing mutual aid support, including air support, to other districts as needed.
 - Air Support Requests: There have been 10 requests for air support statewide, with 8 of those occurring in Benton County. Two air tankers are currently stationed in Moses Lake.
 - Personnel: On the personnel side, all resident firefighters have transitioned to shift assignments, with one remaining. Both seasonal positions have been filled, and two paramedic positions remain open.
 - Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None*.
 - Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *Only 1 injury reported. Minimal and no loss in staffing.*
 - 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: **Completed and Submitted.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL

- *District Admin out of country 07-03-26 through 07-17-26.*

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 4:37 PM.

Attested on June 16, 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