



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

May 22, 2025

CALL THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Orth called the meeting to order at **4:02 PM** at District 2, Station 210.

THOSE PRESENT:

Larry Howell, *Commissioner*
Steve Rouse, *Commissioner*
Dennis Bates, *Fire Chief*
Todd Dormaier, *Assistant Chief*
Caren Wheeler, *District Secretary*

GUESTS:

Bill Reed Rebecca Pettis
Cpt. Pettis Steve Harpel
Cpt. Hawley J. Albarran
Cpt. Meyers
Cpt. Guerin

ABSENT: Barry Orth, *Chairperson*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: *None.*

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

- Approval of the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting dated 05-22-2025.
- Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 05-05-2025.

Commissioner Rouse moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting dated May 22, 2025, and moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated May 5, 2025. Commissioner Howell seconded, and the motion passed.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 05-26-2025, HOLIDAY: Memorial Day, Office Closed
- 05-31-2025, Graduation: Kiona-Benton High School
- 06-07-2025, Chelan Conference 2025
- **06-09-2025, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Monday**
- **06-19-2025, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Thursday**

VOUCHERS:

The following Vouchers are approved for payment from Fund 6821-101:

Payroll Direct Deposit, in the amount of \$ 65,353.03,
Payroll Voucher, in the amount of \$ 51,049.92,
Bill Vouchers, in the amount of \$ 39,648.66,

Grand Total of \$ 156,051.61

Commissioner Rouse moved to approve and pay Payroll Direct Deposit, in the amount of \$65,353.03, Payroll Vouchers in the amount of \$51,049.92, and Bill Vouchers in the amount of \$39,648.66; for a Grand Total of \$156,051.61. Commissioner Howell seconded, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY: *Bill Reed*

- We are still working with FEMA and Flood Map.



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- WA DNR Consolidating verbiage about red critical areas in urban areas.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Behind Closed Doors: *Recent Cases Address Requirements for Executive Sessions During Special Meetings*

FINANCIALS: ***Financials up through April 2025.***

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

- It is EMS Week so Hug your EMS Providers! I am supplying Ice cream treats to all of the shifts and will catch next drill as well! Thank you to ALL our EMS providers here at BCFPD2!!!!
- The Loftens have made it to a very well-deserved retirement!!!! We attended the sendoff, and a good time was had by all. We posted a nice writeup for them on the page their daughter had set up. Again, a huge thank you to Mark and Lori for all of their support over the years!!! They will be missed up at the store but will be around enjoying life! (Ki-Be Market has sold. It was acquired by the Harvest foods / leprechaun group from up the valley.)
- On 5/5/25 we lost our rescue boat during rescue actions at the Wanawish dam. All members involved are doing well. AARs and debriefs have taken place. We are working with our regional safety group on a safety investigation to compile, learn from and make positive changes where needed from lessons learned. We are working with BCSO as well as they have the jurisdictional authority / responsibility on the water and for S&R. We are also working with our insurance to replace the boat, equipment, recovery of the boat and the damage to BCSO's other jet boat. We will keep the board posted on progress.
- The BCES Independence task force is moving forward. They are staying in the status quo for the next budget (approx. 6 million) but will be looking into a 1 or 2 tenth sales tax to fund the new standalone agency. They are modeling out staffing requirements and estimating the required budgets. The current best "swag" is approx. 8 million. This will operate an independent agency and begin a capital reserve. They are attempting to bridge the 2 million nexus, reduce the per agency cost and fund the radio project and continued operation. More as it is available.
- We will be adding a new staff truck to our fleet soon as planned for in the budget and cycling out an old one (Ol white lightning). Its exact delivery is TBD as the dealer had an unforeseen equipment failure. We will be ordering the upfit parts soon.
- We are digging out of the staffing "HOLE" We are very close to filling the Volunteer roster to capacity, the resident program is full, and they are all on shift, we have our 2 new FF/EMTPs going to shift shortly with 1 temporary hire staying till we can fill the 3rd position, 2 seasonals coming on shortly. We still have a lot of training to do to get everyone up to 100% But our Staff is Kicking Ash and Taking Names!!!!
- Annual Dozer Training is coming up June 2 at Shooting range and 13 & 14 on the McWhorter Ranch. We will hopefully have all our regional partners participate and we will have a federal partner attending as well. It should go well!!!



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- I will be out of town from June 10 to the 16th. And later in the year September 11th through 21st. Both times Chief Dormaier will have the Delegation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO –
 - *Transport out of service.*
 - *Boat - feasible study.*
 - *Surplus supply auction underway.*
 - *Grants applied for \$25,000 and \$100,00.*
- Training (Cpt. Kale Guerin) – *CRT Team Training, 7-week academy, 4 FF to wildland fire training, 3 newly trained SRT personnel.*
- Safety (Cpt. Mike Meyer) – *None.*
- BCFPD#2 Association – *None.*
- STA 210 Upgrades/Equipment – *None.*
- Conferences: Chelan Conference, June 7, 2025
 - *Attendees: Rouse, Howell, Bates, Canada, Wheeler*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Benton County Treasurer:
 - Authorization to Wave 24-hour Deposit Approval. [RCW 43.09.240](#)
 - Deposit Maximum Hold: \$1,000
 - Frequency: One Week

ANNUAL REPORT: State Annual Report 2024: Due May 31, 2025.

BVFF: *None.*

FRAUD: Revolving Account: Will start the process of opening a new account this month.

- Transactions:
 - **ACH charge \$9,600, 3/24/25 – has been refunded back to District.**
 - *Check 5377 \$4,050, 3/24/25*
 - *Check 5301 \$3,500, 3/28/25 – has been refunded back to District.*
- **BSCO Case No: [BCSO25008435](#) – Detective Rodrick**
- **WA State Auditor: [Fraud Case No: F-25-153](#).**

PERSONNEL:

- INTRODUCTION: Steven Harpel, *new Firefighter Paramedic.*
- Excuse Chairperson Orth from the Commissioners' Meeting dated 05-22-2025.

Commissioner Howell moved to excuse Chairperson Orth from the Commissioners' Meeting dated May 22, 2025. Commissioner Rouse seconded, and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: *None.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: *None.*



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ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Rouse moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Howell seconded. There being no further business, Commissioner Howell adjourned the meeting at 5:03 PM.

Attested on: _____

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER