



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

February 17, 2026

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**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 (arrived 4:15PM), Assistant Chief Dormaier, District Administrator Wheeler.*

*Staff Members Present: Captain Meyer, Captain Hawley, Firefighter Strasser, Firefighter Hamilton, Firefighter King, Firefighter Tupper, New Recruit Paulakis, New Recruit White, New Recruit Mendez, New Recruit Flores*

*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 February 17, 2026.
- **Minutes:** Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated February 3, 2026.
- **Payroll Vouchers (Fund 6821)**
  - Approve Direct Deposit in the amount of \$69,501.10.
  - Approve Payroll Vouchers in the amount of \$51,586.19.
- **Claim Vouchers (Fund 6821)**
  - Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$27,667.29.

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

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- **03-03-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**
- 03-04-2026, Leadership Conference, Portland, OR
- **03-17-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**
- **03-28-2026, B2 Firefighter Appreciation Diner, 5:00 PM, Catholic Hall, Benton City**

**CONFERENCES**

- March 4-6, 2026, **Leadership Conference** (Portland, OR)



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- *Attending: Dormaier, Orth, Rouse, Hawley.*
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCB 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
  - Current membership stands at **63 members.**
  - **New Recruits – Effective February 17, 2026:**
    - **Residents (2):** Adam Paulakis, Cody White
    - **Volunteers (3):** Edward Slupachik, Jayda-Maria Mendez, Santiago Flores
    - Nine (9) additional invited candidates (mix of residents and volunteers) will be testing tonight.
    - Two (2) Resident positions remain open.
    - Twenty-two (22) members are currently on probation; the Training Division remains fully engaged with onboarding and development activities.
  - **Emergency Hire Position:**
    - Announcement released February 11, 2026.
    - Applications will be reviewed this week with the intent to fill the position immediately.
  - **Firefighter/Paramedic Recruitment:** Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
  - **Seasonal Staffing:** Intent to hire two (2) seasonal personnel again this season.
  - **Communications:** New radios have been received. Training on the new equipment is forthcoming.
  - **Grants:**
    - Two (2) grants have been approved: \$5,000 and \$6,000
    - One Phase 1 grant application (approximately \$3,300) is being submitted today and is anticipated to be accepted.
  - **Surplus Property:** Plan to aggressively address surplus items over the next two months.
  - **Remodel Projects (Ongoing):** Assistant Chief's Office, Kitchen/Day Room, and various smaller facility improvement projects
  - **Station 210:**
    - Seal coat and restriping planned for next year.
    - Speaker issue in the Dayroom and Maintenance Bay has been resolved.
  - **Email Security Incident:**
    - Issue has been resolved in coordination with the cybersecurity team.
    - Email accounts have been restored and approved for use.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – Nothing new to report.
- B2 Association – *None.*



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**CITY OF BENTON CITY:** *None.*

**NEW BUSINESS:** *None.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** *None.*

**PERSONNEL:** Introduction of new recruits.

**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 4:26 PM.*

**Attested on: March 3, 2026**

*/s/ Caren Wheeler*

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CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT ADMIN

*/s/ Barry Orth*

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BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

*/s/ Larry Howell*

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LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

*/s/ Steve Rouse*

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LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER