BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 6, 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, Financial Officer Canada.
Staff Members' Present: Captain Guerin, New Volunteer Firefighters
Guests: Jeannie Howell, City of Benton City Representative Jerrod 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 October 6, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated September 15, 2026.**
- Claim Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - Approve **2026 Bill vouchers in the amount of $ 41,952.87**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **10-20-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**
- **10-21-2026, WFCA State Conference, Spokane, WA, Wednesday**
- **11-03-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- October 4-8, 2026, **Fire Admin Conference** (Suquamish, WA)
  - *Attending: Wheeler*
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
  - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*
- March 3-5, 2027, **PNW Leadership Conference** (Portland, OR)
  - *Attending: Orth, Rouse*

CORRESPONDENCE – *None.*

FINANCIALS *(Financial Officer)*

General Fund 6821	$274,525.54
EMS Fund 6828	$1,878,878.70
Reserve Fund 6826	$75,554.79
Total General Funds	**$2,228,959.03**
Bond Fund 6822	$101,447.10
Total ALL Funds	**$2,330,406.13**

District Financial Report as of 08/31/26

BUDGET POSTION *as of 10/06/2026*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- **Fire Chief Bates**
  - The 800MHz Radio Project continues to progress. Regional training was delivered to Training Officers, and regional training for field personnel began October 1. Testing of the new fleet map was completed, with one issue identified and currently being corrected through reprogramming. Once complete, the fleet map will be retested. Plans remain on schedule to reprogram all radios at the end of October, with system cutover anticipated during the first week of November.
  - Chief Bates provided an update on the SECOMM/BCES billing proposal. Under the current billing model, the District's costs would increase by approximately $34,681. Under the proposed 80/20 cost-sharing model, which is pending BCES Board approval, the increase would be approximately $12,271. District Chiefs continue to work with Director Atwood and regional partners to support the proposed 80/20 model and seek clarification regarding future costs, billing formulas, contracts, and long-term funding for the regional radio system. Additional information will be provided to the Board as it becomes available.
  - Assistant Chief Dormaier and Captain Meyer are currently assigned to State Mobilization incidents.
  - Fire Prevention Week activities are underway. District personnel have been conducting outreach and education at local schools utilizing the EDITH House.
  - Chief Bates provided a recap of the recent fire incident. Four primary structures were lost within Fire District 2 and three primary structures were lost within Fire District 4. Appreciation was extended to District personnel and all responding agencies for their efforts and assistance during the incident.
  - The District is working with Emergency Management to strengthen communications infrastructure and improve resilience during emergencies. Efforts are focused on reducing the potential loss of cellular and internet communications during future incidents and identifying additional resources that can be made available to support the community.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- **Training Cpt. Kale Guerin**
  - Ten members are currently attending Fire Academy and are progressing well through the program. Current training includes nozzle operations, nozzle control, and door control techniques.
  - The District continues to support regional training efforts by hosting and assisting academy recruits from neighboring agencies. District personnel provided additional instruction and support during recent hands-on training events.
  - Three members are currently enrolled in EMT training and have progressed into the more intensive portion of the course.
  - Day-shift residents have completed general EMS training and are nearing completion of the structure firefighting portion of the internal academy. Wildland training is next.

- Shift residents continue to make good progress, with several completing medic task books and advancing to grass truck training.
- Pump operations training has been conducted over the past several weeks, with additional Type 1 operators and tender operators expected to be qualified soon.
- Work is underway to re-establish SRT training and develop a training plan for 2027.
- Dylan Blair has joined the District as a paramedic and is progressing through the remaining requirements for full-duty status

- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *None*
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY – *Jerrod Miller provided an update on current city business and ongoing activities.*

NEW BUSINESS

- 2027 Budget Workshop Date: TBD
- Union Negotiation: Tuesday, October 20th at 9:00 AM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL – *None.*

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, Commissioner Howell adjourned the meeting at 4:58 PM.

Attested on October 20, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler
CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

/s/ Barry Orth
BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell
LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse
LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER