



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

March 3, 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 4:00 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.*

### THOSE PRESENT

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

*Staff Members Present: Captain Guerin, Captain Hawley*

*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 March 3, 2026.
- **Minutes:** Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated February 17, 2026.
- **Claim Vouchers (Fund 6821)**
  - Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$42,183.37.

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

### IMPORTANT DATES

- 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**
- **04-07-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**

### CONFERENCES

- March 4-6, 2026, **Leadership Conference** (Portland, OR)
  - *Attending: Dormaier, Orth, Rouse, Hawley.*
- June 6, 2026, **Chelan Conference** (Chelan, WA) – *cancel attendance.*
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
  - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*

**CORRESPONDENCE** – *None.*



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**FINANCIALS** (*Financial Officer*)

- Budget Position Report as of 02/28/2026.
- District Financial Report: as of 02/27/26

General Fund 6821	\$151,547.71
EMS Fund 6828	\$1,877,366.94
Reserve Fund 6826	\$74,000.86
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>\$2,102,915.51</b>
Bond Fund 6822	\$35,404.96
<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$2,138,320.47</b>

**RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS** – *None.*

**REPORTS**

- Fire Chief Bates
  - Chief Bates congratulated the recent recruits on their successful graduation from Structure Recruit School this past Saturday. He expressed pride in the recruits, as well as appreciation for the Training Officer and cadre for their work in making the program a success.
  - The 800MHz project is progressing. Installations are tentatively scheduled for April 14–20, with the possibility of an earlier start. The district will be ready by April 1 if the schedule changes. Training on the radios continues. Chief Bates will be meeting with partner agencies in Yakima County and with federal partners to coordinate interoperability, along with Director Attwood and regional chiefs.
  - The Mayor has requested a letter of support for a new City Hall to accompany a federal funding request to Senator Cantwell. Chief Bates stated he is prepared to provide a letter on behalf of the district, pending board direction. He noted his personal belief that the City would benefit from an improved City Hall.
  - Chief Bates and Caren are working with the district’s insurance provider to finalize the claim from the recent cyberattack. The assigned incident team confirmed that no information was lost and that no damage occurred beyond the inconvenience to district operations.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin
  - 2 FF/EMT on days, 2 Residence complete EMS this week, 7 FF graduate academy. 3 Volunteers started, 3 more coming on.
  - 3 going through EMT with Columbia Safety, 4 are taking their EMT through online classes.
  - New Prop coming.
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *None.*



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- B2 Association – *None.*

**CITY OF BENTON CITY** – *None.*

**NEW BUSINESS** – *Chief Bates discussed the letter Invitation to the USDA Rural Property Summit etc.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – *None.*

**BVFF**

*Temporarily convene for the BVFF Pension Meeting (agenda closed to public)*

- *BVFF Invoice Vouchers list dated 03-03-26 (separate sheet)*

**Commissioner Howell moved to approve all BVFF Invoice vouchers for payment. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.**

*Resume Regular Public Meeting*

**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, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 4:48 PM.*

**Attested on March 17, 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