



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

March 17, 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, Fire Chief Bates, District Admin Wheeler.

Staff Members Present: Captain Hawley, Firefighter Poulakis, Firefighter White, Paramedic Harpel, Firefighter/EMT Strasser

Guests: Benton City Mayor Len Burton, Jeannie Howell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – *First Due Invoice to be added to the Bill Vouchers. Invoice #8307 in the amount of \$11,739.60.*

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 17, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated March 3, 2026.**
- Payroll Vouchers (*Fund 6821*)
 - **Approve Direct Deposit in the amount of \$66,626.26**
 - **Approve Payroll Vouchers in the amount of \$50,083.89**
- Claim Vouchers (*Fund 6821*)
 - **Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of \$37,500.69**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **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**
- **04-14-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- October 21-24, 2026, **WFOA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
 - *Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates*



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CORRESPONDENCE – *None.*

FINANCIALS (*Financial Officer*) — *None.*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
 - The Chief reported being out sick during the previous week.
 - Activity at the maintenance shop remains ongoing. Ladder APP 41 is currently out of service for repairs and is anticipated to be back in service next week.
 - Dozer APP 44 was also down for repairs.
 - New extraction tools will be installed on the engines in the near future. The elevator shop has been assisting by fabricating brackets to support the installation of the tools.
 - The windshield on the duty truck has been replaced.
 - The Chief met with West Benton Fire & Rescue regarding radio communication systems. Yakima Fire Department and Sunnyside Fire Department were also in attendance and are reviewing whether they will participate in the system.
 - There is nothing new to report at this time regarding the boat build.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – *None.*
- B2 Association – *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY

- Mayor Len Burton
 - The Mayor provided an update on infrastructure and development projects, including work on Carol Avenue and the Chris Street/14th Street area.
 - The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has sold land within the area. Development plans estimate approximately 700–800 new homes.
 - A tiered grading schedule for the water code is currently under review.
 - Development activity continues in the Ki-Be School area.
 - An Urban Growth Area (UGA) expansion review is anticipated toward the end of the year for potential implementation in 2027.

NEW BUSINESS – *None.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL – *None.*

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING – *There were no agenda items to add to the next meeting.*



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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 April 7, 2026.

/s/ Caren Wheeler

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT ADMIN

/s/ Barry Orth

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER