



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

June 16, 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 4:02 PM at 1304 Dale Avenue, Benton City, Washington.

THOSE PRESENT

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

Staff Members' Present: Captain Meyer, Captain Hawley, EMT Reed.

Guests: Jeannie Howell, City of Benton City Representative Jerod 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 June 16, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated June 2, 2026.**
- Payroll Vouchers (Fund 6821)
 - Approve **Direct Deposit in the amount of \$ 87,183.00**
 - Approve **Payroll Vouchers in the amount of \$ 56,636.80**
- Claim Vouchers (Fund 6821)
 - Approve **2026 Bill vouchers in the amount of \$ 23,866.40**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **06-19-2026, HOLIDAY: Juneteenth, Office Open, CBA Personnel Holiday**
- **07-03-2026, HOLIDAY Observed: Fourth of July, Office Closed**
- **07-07-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday - No admin**
- **07-21-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Tuesday**

CONFERENCES

- October 4-8, 2026, **Fire Admin Conference** (Suquamish, WA)
 - Attending: Wheeler, Canada (?)
- October 21-24, 2026, **WFCA State Conference** (Spokane, WA)
 - Attending: Orth, Howell, Rouse, Bates

CORRESPONDENCE – None.

FINANCIALS (Financial Officer)

- Budget Position Report: as of 06/30/2026.

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – None.



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

June 16, 2026

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
 - **First Due Implementation:** First Due is now operational and the District has entered the active trial phase. Personnel throughout the department are utilizing the system and providing feedback as implementation continues.
 - **Volunteer Recruitment:** The District has received approximately 18 applications for volunteer positions. The next phase of the hiring process will include scheduling applicant testing and evaluations.
 - **Mobe Fire (OIE Highway Fire):** The fire was reported to be approximately 45% contained. It was designated a mobilization incident at approximately 4:00 p.m. on June 14, 2026. District personnel, along with state mobilization resources, continue to support suppression efforts. Multiple resources have been assigned to the incident, including rotary-wing and fixed-wing aircraft, as well as drone operations. While containment efforts have progressed, flare-ups continue to occur in some areas. State resources are anticipated to be reassigned to higher-priority fires in the Spokane area, with the State providing funding for several District engines to continue local coverage and support.
 - **Mobe Fire Community Impact and Support:** Five homes and multiple outbuildings were lost during the incident. Emergency shelters were established in Prosser for displaced residents. Station 210 served as a staging location for state mobilization resources. The Chamber of Commerce has been coordinating donation collection and support efforts for affected residents. Additional challenges during the incident included downed power lines resulting in power shutoffs, road closure and access issues, hazardous trees requiring removal, and coordination with irrigation companies. State resources covered the cost of hazardous tree removal where necessary.
 - **District Response Efforts:** Chief Bates commended District personnel for their response to the incident. Staff from across the organization assisted with suppression efforts, station coverage, dozer operations, transportation support, and logistical needs throughout the event.
 - **Regional Fire Support:** Benton 2 continues to provide resources in support of other mobilization incidents. Strike teams have been deployed or are preparing to deploy to additional fires throughout the region as needed.
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None*.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None*.
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO – One injury was reported during the mobilization incident. The member was transported by District 4 for evaluation and is expected to return on their next scheduled shift.
- B2 Association – *None*.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- State Annual Report for 2025: *Final report will be completed once Chief completes his section.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF – *None.*

PERSONNEL

- *District Admin out of country 07-03-26 through 07-17-26.*



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

June 16, 2026

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *None.*

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Orth moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Rouse seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM.

Attested on July 7, 2026.

/s/ Shellie Canada

SHELLIE A. CANADA, FINANCIAL OFFICER

/s/ Barry Orth

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

/s/ Larry Howell

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

/s/ Steve Rouse

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER