BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

October 27, 2025

CALL THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Orth called the meeting to order at **4:14 PM** at District 2, Station 210.

THOSE PRESENT:

Barry Orth, *Chairperson*
Larry Howell, *Commissioner*
Steve Rouse, *Commissioner*
Dennis Bates, *Fire Chief*
Todd Dormaier, *Assistant Chief*
Caren Wheeler, *District Secretary*

GUESTS:

Jeannie Howell
E. King
A. Fox

ABSENT: *None.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: *Add Ki-Be Athletic Boosters Sponsorship under new business.*

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

- Approval of the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting dated 10-27-2025.

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting dated October 27, 2025. Commissioner Rouse seconded, and the motion passed.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **11-06-2025, B2 Fire COMM Meeting to replace 11-10-25**
- *11-10-2025, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210 (moved to 11/06)*
- 11-11-2025, Holiday: Veteran's Day, Office Closed
- **11-17-2025, Public Hearing, 3:30 PM, STA 210**
- **11-17-2025, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Monday**
- 11-27-2025, Holiday: Thanksgiving, Office Closed
- 11-28-2025, Holiday: Thanksgiving Friday, Office Closed

VOUCHERS:
The following Vouchers are approved for payment from Fund 6821-101:

Payroll Direct Deposit, in the amount of $ 60,618.04,
Payroll Voucher, in the amount of $ 61,240.52,
Bill Vouchers, in the amount of $ 0.00

Grand Total of $ 121,858.56

Commissioner Rouse moved to approve and pay Payroll Direct Deposit, in the amount of $60,618.04, Payroll Vouchers in the amount of $61,240.52, and Bill Vouchers in the amount of $ 0.00; for a Grand Total of $ 121,858.56. Commissioner Howell seconded, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY: *None.*

CORRESPONDENCE: *None.*

FINANCIALS: **Financials up through September 2025.**

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

- Drug Takeback was this last Saturday. We partnered with BCSO & the Coalition for a healthy Benton City for the event. All went well. Captain Reed Hosted / cooked lunch.
- We are participating this Friday in the Downtown trick or treat event from 1600 till 1900.
- The failed / failing Door openers in the bays have been replaced as part of the ongoing station upgrades. Soon all the apparatus in their assigned bays will have working remotes for the new openers as well. The brackets on the doors were also replaced, weather seals that have failed are being warrantied. Our bays should be much better sealed. This has been an issue since we replaced the doors several years ago. Also, the windows on the doors were covered with a mild tint material that blocks UV and reflects heat. There was a noticeable difference from the end of the summer. This should better protect our apparatus and gear.
- Boat B1241: Deposit was made to get us on the building schedule. I met with Captain Reed and AC Dormaier, and I made the decision to go with the custom boat that was spec'd. The wait or build time will be 20ish months per estimation of the builder. I reached this decision as the "in production boat" that was available was 15k more to have the manufacture retro fit it wo get close to what we spec'd, the insurance preferred we not modify it in house if the option was available to have it done at the manufacture and at lower cost, we currently do not have the capacity in our shop for another project and I conferred with Chair Orth who was of the same thought. We are wrapping up the final details of the boat with the builder; we are again already on the building schedule. Once the final sheet is done, that will be presented to the insurance, and we will negotiate the $$. Then we will take the remainder to BCSO as they are half owner and then we will advise the board of the remaining cost. The $$ received thus far from insurance has been earmarked in the budget. We are also working with the salvage company to sell the trailer with the boat, that is why it is on the excess sheet today, this will also go towards the purchase of the new boat. Also, we are looking for a boat to rent / use as I got Enduris to ok and pay for a rental.
- Staffing: The FF/EMT day position is posted (40 applicants as of Thursday last week), FF/Medic is reposted (2 applicants as of Thursday last week). FF Bahr's last tour as FT ends tomorrow am and she will be staying with us as a Volunteer. EM Hires were selected and are in place, N. Strasser on B-shift started the 22nd and J. Hamilton starts on 11/1. M. Mason is on the list if needed as well. We will have the testing set up shortly for the FF/EMT on Nov. 9th & 10th. TCRA & Internal Academy are underway. We have 9 recruits in TCRA. We lost one that was slated for the resident program due to an unfortunate family situation. We are setting up now for the next round of Volunteer and Volunteer resident hiring. Hope to bring on more to have a list of candidates for the residency program and start more Volunteers. Captain Reed submitted a letter (and ccd the board) to move to EMS only as of 12/1. I am meeting with him on 10/28.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO – *None.*
- Training (Cpt. Kale Guerin) – *None.*
- Safety (Cpt. Mike Meyer) – *None.*
- BCFPD#2 Association – *None.*
- Conferences:
    - Leadership Conference, March 4-6, 2026, (Portland, OR)
        - *Attending: Dormaier, Orth, Rouse*

NEW BUSINESS:

- Kiona Benton Bears Athletic Booster 2025-2026 Sponsorship Form – Last year we chose the Blue Package at $250.

Commissioner Howell motioned to support Kiona Benton Bears Athletic Booster 2025-2026 year at the Blue level of $250. Commissioner Rouse seconded, and the motion passed.

- Adopt Resolution 2025-07, Declaring Miscellaneous Personal Property Surplus to the Needs of the District for Disposal

Commissioner Howell motioned to adopt Resolution 2025-07 Declaring Miscellaneous Personal Property Surplus to the Needs of the District for Disposal. Commissioner Rouse seconded, and the motion passed.

2026 BUDGET:

- Public Hearing Date: **November 17, 2025, 3:45 PM**

BVFF: *None.*

PERSONNEL: *None.*

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING: *None.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- **Executive Session for Personnel Qualifications and/or Performance Review per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)** (*Evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or review the performance of a public employee.)*

An Executive Session was called for 25 minutes to do performance review. The session opened at 4:45 PM in the Chief Office. At 5:10 PM, the session was extended fifteen (15) more minutes. The executive session closed at 5:25 PM, and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

- ACTION: *No Action.*

BUDGET 2026 Salaries:

- 2026 Administrative Salary Increases will be 5% salary increase for all Administrative Exempt Career Personnel.

Commissioner Howell moved to approve a 5% salary increase for all Administrative Exempt Career Personnel, for 2026. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Rouse seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 5:29 PM.

Attested on: _____

_____
CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

_____
BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

_____
LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

_____
LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER