BENTON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 8, 2026

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Commissioner Howell 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

Commissioner Howell, Commissioner Rouse, Chief Bates, Asst Chief Dormaier, District Admin Wheeler.
Staff Members' Present: Captain Meyer, Captain Hawley, New Volunteer Residents
Guests: Jeannie Howell, City of Benton City Representative Jerrod Miller

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA – *excuse Chairperson Orth under personnel.*

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 September 8, 2026.**
- Minutes: **Approve minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated August 18, 2026.**
- Claim Vouchers *(Fund 6821)*
  - **Approve Bill vouchers in the amount of $ 42,910.92**

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

IMPORTANT DATES

- **09-15-2026, B2 Fire COMM Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210,Tuesday**
- **10-06-2026, 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	$245,222.37
EMS Fund 6828	$2,168,098.50
Reserve Fund 6826	$75,334.61
Total General Funds	**$2,488,655.48**
Bond Fund 6822	$99,866.28
Total ALL Funds	**$2,588,521.76**

District Financial Report as of 07/31/26

BUDGET POSTION *as of 09/08/2026*

RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS – *None.*

REPORTS

- Fire Chief Bates
  - All District personnel and apparatus assigned to State Mobilization incidents have returned home. Significant fires remain active throughout Washington, and fire danger continues to be very high. The statewide burn ban remains in effect through September 30. The District continues to coordinate with regional partners to provide consistent public messaging regarding wildfire conditions and prevention.
  - The School Slow Down event was completed successfully with strong participation from District personnel. The event was well received by the community, generating positive interaction with students, parents, and residents. A community member also made a donation during the event, which was directed to Firefighter Rehab at the donor's request.
  - Ten recruits have begun Structure Recruit School, and three members have started EMT training. The District's internal academy is also underway, and onboarding efforts continue for several additional recruits.
  - Upcoming community events include Benton City Daze on September 12 and the Angie Memorial from 1400 to 1600 hours. The day will also coincide with the first hot day for TCRA activities and the wedding of District members Garrett and Annie.
  - Football season has begun, and District personnel will continue providing standby coverage at games and related events. Home varsity game schedules have been shared with personnel.
  - The Pasco Fire Department ladder truck was sold at auction below the reserve price. As a result, the District will not be acquiring the apparatus
- Asst Chief Dormaier/PIO
  - The District sold surplus and excess equipment, generating approximately $31,000 in revenue.
  - Two conditional offer letters have been issued for Firefighter/Paramedic positions.
  - Both seasonal firefighter positions have been extended for an additional month to assist with operational needs.
  - Onboarding of new volunteers and volunteer residents is underway.
  - Due to the number of new personnel entering the program and limited enrollment slots available in Structure Academy, training is being conducted in staggered groups to accommodate onboarding and training requirement.
- Training Cpt. Kale Guerin – *None.*
- Safety Cpt. Mike Meyer, HSO
  - One near miss was reported. During in house training.
- 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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – *None.*

BVFF

Temporary Convene for BVFF Pension Meeting (Agenda Closed to Public)

- Approval of New Incident Report Claims and BVFF Invoice Vouchers list dated 09/08/26. *(separate sheet)*

Commissioner Howell motion to approve BVFF Invoice Vouchers for payments. Commissioner Rouse seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Resume Regular Public Meeting

PERSONNEL

- Excuse Commissioner Orth from Commissioners' Meeting dated 09-08-26.

Commissioner Rouse moved to excuse Commissioner Orth from Meeting dated September 8, 2026. Commissioner Howell seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- Introduced new Volunteer Residents.

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

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 30 minutes to review qualifications for public employment position. The session opened at 4:30 PM in the Chief's Office. At 5:00 PM, the session was extended ten (10) minutes The executive session closed at 5:10 PM, and the Regular Meeting reconvened.

- ACTION: No Action

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Rouse seconded. There being no further business, Commissioner Howell adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

Attested on September 15, 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