



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

December 9, 2024

CALL REGULAR BOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Chairperson Orth called the meeting to order **4:05 PM** at District #2, Station 210.

THOSE PRESENT:

Barry Orth, *Chairperson*
Larry Howell, *Commissioner*
Dennis Bates, *Fire Chief*
Caren Wheeler, *District Secretary*

GUESTS:

Bill Reed, *City of BC*
Cpt. Mike Meyer
FF Zane Bracy

ABSENT: Todd Dormaier, *Assistant Chief*; Steve Rouse, *Commissioner*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: *Under new business, excuse Commissioner Rouse from the 12/9/24 commissioners meeting.*

AGENDA AND MINUTES:

- Approval of the Agenda for the Regular Board Meeting dated 12-09-2024.
- Approval of the Regular Board Meeting Minutes dated 11-21-2024.
- Approval of the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes dated 11-21-2024.

Commissioner Howell moved to approve the agenda for the Regular Meeting dated December 9, 2024; moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting dated November 21, 2024; and moved to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing Meeting dated November 21, 2024. Chairperson Orth seconded, and the motions passed.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **12-13-2024, Christmas Party, 6:00 PM, Friday**
- **12-19-2024, B2 Commissioners' Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Thursday**
- 12-24-2024, HOLIDAY: Christmas Eve, Office Closed
- 12-25-2024, HOLIDAY: Christmas Day, Office Closed
- 01-01-2025, HOLIDAY: New Years Day, Office Closed
- **01-06-2025, B2 Commissioners' Meeting, 4:00 PM, STA 210, Monday**

VOUCHERS:

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

Bill Vouchers, in the amount of \$43,329.17



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Commissioner Howell moved to approve and pay approve and pay Bill Vouchers in the amount of \$43,329.17. Chairperson Orth seconded, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None.*

CITY OF BENTON CITY: *Bill Reed – nothing new to report.*

CORRESPONDENCE: *None.*

FINANCIALS: *None.*

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

- All our recruits passed the IFSAC FFI Hands-on Practical last Saturday. A Big Congrats to them all for a job well done! TCRA continues this coming January/ February with Haz-Mat. At the conclusion of testing for Haz-Mat our current recruits will be fully qualified!
- Independence Task Force (SECOMM/BCES) is moving forward. It was agreed that the governing board will be comprised of the "Big 5" Richland, Pasco, Kennewick, Benton County & Franklin County. They are working on thru things like Fee structure fixing how calls are billed out, Funding through safety sales tax.
- Regional radio project continues to move forward. As stated in previous meetings we are still seeking funding as well as working on the logistics and operational plans. We have narrowed down a fleet map (channel program list) and have a solution for paging. It has a possible \$\$\$ impact for agencies needing paging that is outside the project funding through Motorola. We are seeking other sources to cover this and several other expenses in the project, one of them being the decommissioning of the old 150mhz system. One of the funding sources we are seeking, to decrease the number of subscriber units (radios), is a regional AFG Grant for possibly \$2 million. I submitted our information for AFG to the City of Richland last week ahead of the Dec. 6 deadline (we set regionally) for the regional Grant we are working on. The City of Richland will be the lead agency for the Benton County side and the City of Pasco will be the lead agency for the Franklin County side. This gives our region a combined possibility of \$4 million, should we meet the criteria and be successfully awarded. All the agencies that are dispatched thru SECOMM are participating.
- The ILA is opened currently for SECOMM/BCES board to get the finance agreement approved for the Radio project with Motorola. It is being presented



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to the individual boards / councils of the “Big 5” Richland, Pasco, Kennewick, Benton County & Franklin County. The project is \$32 million, financed over 10 years. This is a payment of \$4.2 million per agency of the Big 5. This agreement includes the following for the project: 1700 Subscriber units (radios), 11 tower sites, the installation of the infrastructure / equipment for the sites and hardware in dispatch.

- We are still down 3 FF/PM positions, 3 Resident positions and would like to gain at least 7-10 more volunteers. We continue to advertise and are actively recruiting. We do have 2 possible residents completing the hiring process and should start shortly. The 3 temporary hire FF/EMT positions have been posted internally. The deadline for letters will be this Friday, with interviews on the 17th, results to candidates by the 18th and start shifts by the 23rd or sooner if possible.
- We hope to see everyone at the Christmas Party this Friday at 6:00 PM. Pot-luck sign-up is on the board. This Saturday is also the Christmas lighted parade. Several of our Volunteers, headed up by Jim Hodgson, plan to light up the ladder truck and take it to the parade! A big thanks to Jim for heading that up! We also hope to see everyone at the tree lighting as well on Saturday!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- BCFPD#2 Association Update – *None*.
- Equipment – *None*.
- STA 210 Upgrades – *None*.
- PIO – *None*.
- Safety (Captain Mike Meyer) – *None*.
- Conferences: *Northwest Leadership Conference: March 5-7, 2025*
 - *Attendees: Orth, Rouse, Guerin, and Dormaier*

NEW BUSINESS:

- EMS Levy – Over-levy calculation adjustment.
- GADAC Review – Medicare/Medicare Ground Transport. Due 12/31/2024. We are using PCG support to complete the survey/data compilation.
- GEMT SY 2024 – Will be completed this week. Close out meeting scheduled for 12/11/2024.
- Adopt Resolution 2024-09, Set Dates for Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting of Benton County Fire Protection District No. 2.



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Commissioner Howell moved to adopt Resolution 2024-09 Set Dates for Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting of Benton County Fire Protection District No. 2. Chairperson Orth seconded, and the motion passed.

- Adopt Resolution 2024-10, Cancelled of Unclaimed Warrants.

Commissioner Howell moved to adopt Resolution 2024-10 Cancelled of Unclaimed Warrants. Chairperson Orth seconded, and the motion passed.

- Excuse Commissioner Rouse from Commissioners' Meeting dated 12-09-2024.

Commissioner Howell moved to excuse Commissioner Orth from Commissioners' Meeting dated December 9, 2024. Chairperson Orth seconded, and the motion passed.

PERSONNEL:

- Introduce: Zane Bracy, Volunteer Resident

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Howell moved that the meeting be adjourned. Chairperson Orth seconded. There being no further business, Chairperson Orth adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Attested on: _____

CAREN WHEELER, DISTRICT SECRETARY

BARRY G. ORTH, CHAIRPERSON

LARRY D. HOWELL, COMMISSIONER

LEWIS S. ROUSE, COMMISSIONER