



Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2

Commissioner Marcia Kelbon

Board Chair

P.O. Box 433, Quilcene, WA 98376 ■ 360-765-3333

Commissioner Melody Bacchus

Commissioner Art Frank

**MINUTES of the SPECIAL MEETING of the BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
called to consider REGIONAL ALS PROGRAM, DISTRICT FUNDING, and DIVISION CHIEF
held at BOB WILSON STATION 21 in QUILCENE, WA on APRIL 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioner/Chair Kelbon
Commissioner Bacchus
Commissioner Frank
District Secretary Rewitzer
Chief McKern

Administrative Assistant Brush
Chief Black, District 1 (via Zoom)
District Secretary Cray, District 1
Elijah Sussman (via Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Kelbon called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments received.

BUSINESS:

- 1. Regional ALS Program** – Commissioners received financial data pertaining to District 2 for review prior to the meeting. Commissioner Frank led a discussion regarding the economic viability of a Regional ALS Program with District 4 and District 5. With District 2 currently operating at a deficit, Commissioners agreed that a levy lift will likely be required to balance the budget. It was also noted that District 4 and District 5 will need to conduct their own financial assessments before District 2 can enter into a Regional ALS agreement.

Commissioner Kelbon asked about a District 2-only ALS program. Chief McKern explained it would operate akin to EJFR's ALS program where District 2's services would be contracted to District 4 and District 5.

Commissioner Kelbon led a discussion to review the meeting with Legal Counsel Snure. All agreed that financing is the biggest hurdle while operational details can be solved during planning.

Commissioner Frank led a discussion regarding a District 2-only scenario in which the District's EMTs receive paramedic training. Chief McKern noted this process would take a few years to complete.

Commissioner Frank asked Sec'y Rewitzer to share the provided financial data with District 4 and District 5 prior to the next Joint Board meeting on April 13, 2026.

- 2. District Funding** – Chief McKern led a discussion regarding a Fire levy lift for the District and suggested running the levy on the August and November ballots for 2026. The levy will be removed from the November ballot if it passes in August. A discussion ensued regarding the duration of the levy and whether it would include an annual CPI increase. It was determined that the District will further consider moving forward with a one-year Fire levy lift to \$1.25 without a CPI increase. Legal Counsel Snure will write the resolution.

Commissioner Frank asked for input from Chief Black and District Secretary Cray regarding the levy lift. Both Black and Cray supported the Fire levy life for District 2 and offered help with campaign strategies based on their experience with District 1.

3. **Division Chief** – Chief McKern plans to retire on March 31, 2027, and will make a public announcement in the near term. McKern led a discussion regarding a succession plan which includes hiring a Division Chief (DC) who will ^{potentially} transition to Chief upon McKern's retirement. Commissioner Kelbon asked about the interim between hiring a DC and the transition to Chief. McKern noted an ideal start date of October 1, 2026, for the DC. MSK

Commissioner Bacchus led a discussion regarding whether the position would be open to the public or internal candidates only. While a preference for internal candidates was noted, the benefits of opening the position to the public were also discussed. Commissioner Frank suggested posting the position in several publications in lieu of hiring a recruiter, noting the desirability of candidates who live within or near the District.

Commissioners agreed that Chief McKern can continue moving forward with the succession plan.

Sec'y Cray asked about the possibility of an internal candidate reverting to their original position. Commissioner Frank led a discussion on the matter, and it was determined that there must be an understanding of whether a rollback is possible should an internal candidate fill the position of DC.

ADJOURNMENT:

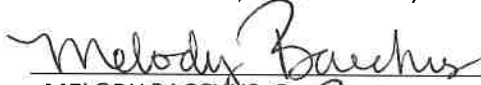
The meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

APPROVED this 20th day of APRIL, 2025 by the Board of Fire Commissioners of Jefferson County Fire Protection District No. 2, then signed by those members present at the meeting:

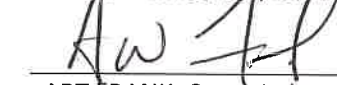
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
JEFFERSON CO. FIRE PROTECTION DIST. #2



MARCIA KELBON, Commissioner/Chair



MELODY BACCHUS, Commissioner



ART FRANK, Commissioner

ATTEST:



ROBERT REWITZER, District Secretary