

**Whatcom County Fire District #4  
via Zoom Meeting  
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226  
12:00 p.m.  
January 16, 2024  
Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Cooley called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for January 16, 2024, to order at 12:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Attendees: Chairman Steve Cooley; Fire Commissioner Mark Lann; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen.

Vice-Chairman Tim Johnson was excused from this meeting.

With the rescission of Proclamation 20-28, the district continues to do its best to provide accommodations to the public. A direct link allowing the public to participate in the meeting during the public comment section was included on the meeting agenda and posted on the District's website.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Meeting Minutes
  - a) December 11, 2023 – public hearing
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
  - a) Total Expenditures – January \$13,428.77
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
  - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$1,127.00
  - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$12,301.77

The district has not yet received the Whatcom County Treasurer's report for December; therefore, the reconciled information was not included in the January Board packet.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Cooley and approved 2-0.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Resolution 2024-01 Establishing 2024 Meeting Dates and Times:** Chairman Cooley reviewed a portion of the resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the regular scheduled meetings be held virtually or at Station 12 located at 4142 Britton Loop Rd. Bellingham, WA 98226 as follows as it pertains to the Open Public Meetings Act. Any budget study session(s), regarding dates, times and locations have yet to be determined.

January 16, 2024	February 12, 2024
March 18, 2024	April 15, 2024
May 13, 2024	June 17, 2024
July 15, 2024	August 12, 2024
September 16, 2024	October 15, 2024
November 12, 2024	December 16, 2024

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lann moved to approve Resolution 2024-01 Establishing 2024 Meeting Dates and Times. The motion was seconded by Chairman Cooley and approved 2-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Board Officer Elections:** The Board completed yearly officer elections per the Fire Commissioner Guidelines.

It was noted that during the December meeting, Commissioner Lann proposed keeping the board officers' status quo, which had been tentatively agreed.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Lann moved to re-elect Chairman Cooley as Board Chair and Vice-Chair Johnson as Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Chairman Cooley and approved 2-0.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Washington State Fire Commissioners re: Fire Commissioner Compensation Increase

**OTHER**

The Board discussed a recent draft resolution proposed originally driven by Fire Districts 1 and 14 protesting Whatcom County Resolution 2023-054. It stated that area fire agencies should have been included or directly notified by the Whatcom County Council regarding the resolution. In addition, it states that there were many factual errors across all organizations in the supporting documentation.

The resolution protesting the original County resolution has been reviewed and vetted by a local attorney, Richard Davis, who has worked with many fire districts in the area. The resolution will be added to the February Board packet for discussion and possible action.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **February Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the February 12 meeting via Zoom.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Levy Lid Lift Additional Funding Update
- Fire Engine Purchase Update
- Whatcom County Council Resolution 2023-054 Protest

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** There being no further business, Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lann and approved 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

**ATTEST:**

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Steve Cooley, Chairman

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Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman

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Mark Lann, Commissioner

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Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief