

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
June 12, 2023
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 June 12, 2023, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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) May 15, 2023 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – May \$164,315.78
 - b) Total Expenditures – June \$633,421.94
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$1,024.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$632,397.94

MOTION: Commissioner Lann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Johnson and approved 3-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Liz Loomis Communications Meeting: Chief Van der Veen provided information regarding the May meeting.

A second letter was sent to the residents regarding the levy lid lift. Several taxpayers have either provided feedback or asked questions, as was intended.

Additional social media posts were published.

Other topics included the upcoming pancake breakfast (July 15) and a bike safety fair (June or July) hosted by the union.

The firefighters have been instructed to direct community inquiries to the website or the fire chief.

WCFD 4 Plan B Timeline: Chief Van der Veen and Chairman Cooley will meet after the upcoming labor/management meeting scheduled for Wednesday, June 14, to discuss a Plan B timeline if the levy lid lift is not approved. Chief Van der Veen noted that the potential Plan B proposal regarding a reduction in staff is a mandatory bargaining topic that needs to be addressed with the union before moving forward.

Cascade Ambulance Email Response

Chairman Cooley reviewed the correspondence received from Cascade Ambulance regarding future ambulance service options.

After a discussion during the last meeting and a meeting with the union, Chairman Cooley send a response letter to Cascade Ambulance thanking them for their interest and declining their offer. The Board agreed that their main focus was on the levy lid lift.

Chief van der Veen further noted that the Whatcom County EMS contract, signed by all fire agencies, stipulates that fire agencies will provide emergency medical services (EMS) and does not allow for the outsourcing of EMS.

The August Board packet will include a copy of Chairman Cooley's response email.

City of Bellingham Interlocal Agreement Addendum: Chief Van der Veen does not expect to receive the signed addendum until the August District 4 Board meeting.

Commissioner-Indebted Bonds: Chief Van der Veen noted that Bond Financial Consultant Jim Nelson is expected to provide a presentation on commissioner-indebted bonds during the August Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mt. Baker Highway Closure: Chief Van der Veen provided information regarding the potential impact on the Britton Loop Station 12 response times and alternative routes during the closure. Chief Van der Veen noted that he had discussed those potential implications with the east side fire chiefs concerning the potential for increased mutual and auto aid during the length of the project.

The district will continue to monitor the situation.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **July Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the July 17 meeting via Zoom.

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AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

- Commissioner Indebted Bond Presentation (Aug)
- Liz Loomis Public Affairs Communications Meeting Update
- City of Bellingham Interlocal Agreement Addendum
- Cascade Ambulance Response Email

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Johnson and approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Steve Cooley, Chairman

Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Mark Lann, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief