

Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
June 16, 2025
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 16, 2025, 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 12, 2024 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenue – May \$274,406.17
 - b) Total Expenditures – June \$538.00
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$483.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$55.00

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

Chairman Cooley
Vice-Chairman Johnson

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation / City of Bellingham Meeting: Chief Van der Veen stated that there is still no update on the proposed annexation.

A meeting was held on June 5 with the Bellingham Deputy City Administrator, City Attorney, Bellingham Fire Chief, Commissioner Cooley, Fire Chief Mitch Nolze of SWFA, and Chief Van der Veen to discuss the 1997 Agreement. While the Growth Management Act has cities focusing more on urban infill than on expanding boundaries, it is evident that annexations have had a significant impact on fire districts' ability to maintain a stable funding model, which has a direct effect on service levels.

It was agreed that further discussion is needed to determine how to mitigate the past annexation strategy of the city, as well as focus on the potential annexation of areas in the current UGA.

The city recognizes that the level of service it can provide is directly tied to the health of the fire districts surrounding it, and that the fire districts' ability to provide a similar level of service is crucial to its own well-being. The city attorney and fire chief will conduct additional background research before scheduling the next meeting.

Tender and Fire Engine Purchase: Chief Van der Veen stated that there are no updates at this time.

Chief Van der Veen noted that with the recent hiring of a Deputy Fire Chief, it is expected that, once acclimated, he will assist with these types of projects moving forward.

Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project: Chief Van der Veen reiterated that the district continues to wait on permit approval from the Whatcom County Planning Commission before the project can proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **July Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the July 14 meeting via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation
- Tender and Engine Purchase
- Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Steve Cooley, Chairman

Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Mark Lann, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief