

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
July 14, 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 July 14, 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) June 16, 2024 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenue – June \$29,358.62
 - b) Total Expenditures – July \$854,625.60
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$644.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$853,981.60

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation / City of Bellingham Meeting / 1997

Agreement: Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the proposed annexation.

The Northern Heights Annexation is slated for a Public Hearing on July 21. During the public hearing, Planning will provide the Council with an overview of the proposed annexation area, a synopsis of the Boundary Review Board's report, and its financial impact assessment. The

public will also have the opportunity to share their thoughts with the Council. Chair Cooley and Chief Van der Veen plan to attend. One or both may speak during the public comment portion, not to oppose or support the annexation, but rather to ensure District 4's constituents are considered.

The Council could then choose to do one of the following:

- Move to approve the annexation with an effective date in the future.
- Move to deny the annexation.
- Request additional information or more time to review information that was brought forward during the public hearing.

City staff recalculated the assessed value (AV) impact of all annexations since 1994, including the proposed new annexation. The total AV of annexed areas is \$406,431,636, while the combined 2025 base area AV (including District 4 and previously annexed areas) is \$4,508,153,199. This results in a 9% ratio of annexations to base area AV, which falls below the threshold for functional consolidation but exceeds the 5% trigger requiring an impact review.

Following Council direction on July 21, staff will schedule a meeting to discuss the impacts and mitigation measures per the existing agreement, as well as craft an update to the 1997 Agreement. Additional discussion will also center around how the city calculated the av.

Tender and Fire Engine Purchase: Chief Van der Veen stated that there are no updates at this time. Since the window for a reduced tender cost has passed, it will be removed from the agenda until another opportunity presents itself.

Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project: Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the project. The permits have been approved, and the project is scheduled to begin on July 16. The anticipated completion date is late September or early October. Chief Van der Veen met with Bob Lupul to review benchmarks and plan to meet onsite next week to review the workflow plan.

Chief Van der Veen plans to alert the community via social media announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

- None

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **August Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the August 18 meeting via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation / 1997 Agreement
- 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