

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
July 17, 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 July 17, 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; Attorney Eric Quinn (*12:10 p.m.*).

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 12, 2023 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – June \$14,773.09
 - b) Total Expenditures – July \$6,411.50
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$384.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$6,027.50

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 July meeting.

Topics included the final community mailer and preparation for the upcoming forum meetings, which will be attended by Chief Van der Veen and Chairman Cooley. The other commissioners were also invited to attend.

Chief Van der Veen stated that he had received some informative public queries as a result of the mailer.

Chairman Cooley is pleased with the work of Liz Loomis and her associates.

The union hosted a community pancake breakfast on Saturday, July 15, 2023. The event was well attended, and both Chairman Cooley and Vice-Chairman Johnson attended to answer queries.

Chairman Cooley thanked the union for their hard work.

City of Bellingham Interlocal Agreement Addendum: Chief Van der Veen provided a copy of the addendum in the Board packet. Chief Van der Veen noted that the City of Bellingham's first payment was based on the old agreement. The next payment will reflect the increased cost.

Commissioner Lann recognized the good partnership between Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewitt, the City of Bellingham, and the district. He hopes to continue to move forward with a positive relationship in the future.

Chief Van der Veen also noted that the district continues to lease Smith Rd. Station 13 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which is proving to be another good partnership.

NEW BUSINESS

Smith Road Station 13 Claim of Lien: Chairman Cooley noted that the district had received communication regarding a lien filed against the district, specifically for Smith Rd. Station 13. It seems to be an error however, the district is required to address the issue.

Executive Session

Chairman Cooley recessed the meeting for an Executive Session, RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) *"To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency."*

At 12:12 p.m., for approximately fifteen minutes until 12:27 p.m., Attorney Eric Quinn and Chief Van der Veen remained for the executive session. Action is not expected to be taken.

MEETING RECONVENED

Chairman Cooley called the regular meeting back into open session at 12:29 p.m. Action will not be taken.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Chairman Cooley re: Cascade Ambulance proposition
- Chairman Cooley re: George Kaas levy information request
- Keith Dewey re: Tax levies

- Lynden Tribune article re: Levy Lid Lift

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:31 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