

**Whatcom County Fire District #4**  
**via Zoom Meeting**  
**4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
**August 18, 2025**  
**Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Due to technical difficulties, Chairman Cooley called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for August 18, 2025, to order at 12:02 p.m.

Chief Van der Veen stated that once the Zoom issues have been corrected, the meeting will be added to the website for viewing.

**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) July 14, 2025 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
  - a) Total Revenue – July \$13,121.97
  - b) Total Expenditures – August \$102,568.21
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
  - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$483.00
  - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$7,391.41
  - c) Capital Voucher: \$94,693.80

Chief Van der Veen noted that a water leak was discovered at E. Smith Station 13. Since the leak was detected quickly, there was minimal damage, keeping costs down.

**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**

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

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

After hearing testimony from the annexation consultant and property owners, the Bellingham City Council moved to refer the Britton Road/Northern Heights annexation to the Committee of the Whole for a work session to discuss the concerns, costs, and implications. Chief Van der Veen noted that the topic was not on the committee agenda for the August 11, 2025, meeting and will alert the board when it is added as an agenda item.

**Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project:** Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the project.

The re-siding project is moving forward at Britton Loop Station 12. Building “A” has been stripped of all the old, damaged siding and trim. Some plywood sheathing has been replaced due to rot. The building is being rewrapped as the new siding is being applied, with about half of the building being completed.

There have been no noise complaints or concerns raised in the neighborhood.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Rick Harrison, Project Manager, Critical Partners LLC re: Whatcom County Draft Assessment Report

- Chief Van der Veen stated that the Fire Chiefs have provided feedback, and a final report is expected by the end of September.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **September Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the September 15 meeting via Zoom.
- **District 21 September Budget Study Session:** Vice-Chairman Johnson and possibly Commissioner Lann may attend the September 17 meeting, which will be held at Odell St 61. Although the group will review the 2026 budget, the majority of the time will be spent on District 21’s financial future and a future levy lid lift.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation / 1997 Agreement
- Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

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