

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
September 15, 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 September 15, 2025, to order at 12:02 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) August 18, 2025 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenue – August \$130,658.41
 - b) Total Expenditures – September \$106,779.64
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Direct Deposit Payroll: \$483.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$1,902.00
 - c) Capital Voucher: \$104,394.64

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.

In August, 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,

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and implications. Chief Van der Veen announced that the City Council voted not to move forward with the annexation. Reasons included the costs of additional infrastructure and the lack of affordable housing. The issue is closed for now.

Discussion will continue regarding updating the 1997 agreement after the budget season.

Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project: Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the project. There was minimal rot issues detected, and one repair on the flat portion of the roof was addressed. It is expected that painting will begin later this week. Station colors will remain the same.

Chief Van der Veen noted that the project is running smoothly and is expected to be completed before the October 13 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Britton Loop Station 12 Alarm Panel: Chief Van der Veen provided information regarding an ongoing power loss issue with the alarm panel at Station 12. A company that inspected the panel has suggested that the panel be replaced.

Chief Van der Veen plans to complete further investigation regarding why this is a continuing issue before a plan is put in place. If a replacement is needed, it will be completed as a 2026 capital expense.

In addition, it was noted that while the panel was being replaced, a fire watch would need to be posted.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **October Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the October 13 meeting via Zoom.
- **District 21 September Budget Study Session:** Commissioner Johnson plans to attend the September 17 meeting, which will be held at Odell St 61.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- 1997 Agreement (*tentative*)
- Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project
- Britton Loop Station 12 Alarm Panel

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

Whatcom County Fire District #4
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Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Steve Cooley, Chairman

Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Mark Lann, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief

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