

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
12:00 p.m.
May 16, 2022
Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lann called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for May 16, 2022, to order at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Mark Lann, Vice-Chairman Steve Cooley, Fire Commissioner Tim Johnson; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen; Division Chief Shaun Ward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment. Due to Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, District 4 was prohibited from providing a location for the public to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Cooley joined the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) April 18, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – April \$793,869.11
 - b) Total Expenditures – May \$3,066.00
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$1,024.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$2,042.00

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regional Fire Authority / Merger: Chief Van der Veen noted that a more in-depth discussion would occur during the upcoming joint workshop scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2022. Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewitt is also expected to attend the meeting.

Chairman Lann, District 21 Chairman Ansell, Chief Van der Veen, and Bellingham Fire Department Chief Hewitt recently met on Tuesday, April 19, 2022, to review past, present, and future annexations. All parties are looking for a permanent and beneficial solution. The meeting resulted in a letter by Chairman Lann sent to the City of Bellingham Mayor, requesting to discuss the impacts of the annexations and proposed future annexations. The Board has not received a response to the letter at this time.

Chief Van der Veen noted that the district’s attorney Joe Quinn is also being kept in the loop.

District 7 may also join the discussion at some point in the future.

Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance: Chief Ward provided information regarding the maintenance needs at Britton Loop Station 12.

The district has received three bids for painting and repairs to Britton Loop Station. Two of the bids are for paint only.

Bid One	Bid Two	Bid Three
Paint and Repairs	Painting Only	Painting Only
\$111,396.17	Building A \$39,113.6	Building A \$2200
	Building B \$22,401.92	Building B \$5800

Chief Ward plans to request additional bids for repairs. Formal proposals and repair alternatives will be presented for consideration and recommendations during the next meeting.

Chief Ward noted that since the gutters on both stations were custom-built, they cannot be repaired but will need to be replaced by sections as needed.

The Britton Loop training tower will also need additional repairs in the future.

It was also noted that acquiring the needed paint and materials might be challenging and would also be a factor in the decision.

Chief Van der Veen noted that with Basic Life Support (BLS) transports increase this year, there is no need to dip into the revenue fund to pay for the contract for services with North Whatcom Fire and Rescue. Chairman Lann emphasized that the difficult personnel decision made last year has aided in balancing the budget.

Vice-Chairman Cooley stated that he wanted to protect the public’s investment in Britton Loop Station 12.

Smith Rd. Station 13: Chief Van der Veen continues discussions with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding leasing Smith Rd. Station 13.

Britton Loop Station 12 Training Tower: During the April 14, 2021, meeting, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposed installing a gantry device on top of the training tower for rope insertion training. The cost of the engineering study, the device, and the installation was borne by the DHS and is now complete.

Groups utilizing the system include DHS, Sheriff, Customs and Border Patrol, and the Bellingham Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS

In-Person Board Meetings: Per Attorney Joe Quinn’s correspondence in the board packet, Chief Van der Veen noted that as of June 1, 2022, board meetings are expected to return to in-person whenever possible. Past meetings have been held at Britton Loop Station 12 in the training room and included the Board, Fire Chief, Board Secretary, and any public wishing to attend. The public was also able to provide public comments during a specific section of the meeting.

Chairman Lann would like to allow the flexibility to continue to have the meetings online or in-person.

Chief Van der Veen requested that in-person meetings be held in the morning instead of noon.

Chief Van der Veen will confer with the district’s attorney and disseminate pertinent information.

CORRESPONDENCE

- To Mayor Seth Fleetwood re: Impact of City of Bellingham Annexations
- From Attorney Joe Quinn re: Open Public Meetings Act

ANNOUNCEMENT

- **June Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the June 13 meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance
- Smith Rd. Station 13
- Future Meeting Time and Location

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Mark Lann, Chairman

Steve Cooley, Vice-Chairman

Tim Johnson, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief