

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
June 13, 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 June 13, 2022, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

With the rescission of Proclamation 20-28, Chief Van der Veen noted that the district is doing 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.

Chief Van der Veen announced that since the training room at Britton Loop Station 12 is frequently utilized by other agencies, including Whatcom County EMS, there has been a potential offer regarding installing a video conferencing system at no charge to the district. If completed, the Board would be able to offer the public and commissioners a hybrid option allowing for better in-person interactions during meetings.

The Board discussed the placement of the public comment section on the agenda in an effort to create more opportunities. Chief Van der Veen will explore how other departments allow public comment opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) May 16, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – May \$159,727.22
 - b) Total Expenditures – June \$576,478.25
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$512.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$275,966.25

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Currently, most contractors are not available to provide bids or complete any painting and siding work on the buildings until sometime in 2023.

Chief Ward continues to investigate the benefits and options regarding repairing or replacing the damaged siding.

HVAC and plumbing are being maintained.

Smith Rd. Station 13: Following the contract recommendations provided by Attorney Joe Quinn, Chief Van der Veen announced that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has agreed to all the revisions.

- Five-year lease
- \$2,000 per month
- DNR responsible for lawn maintenance, snow removal, utilities
- District 4 is accountable for the building repairs

Although Chief Van der Veen has signing authority, Chairman Lann requested that the Board members review the document as a formality. Once reviewed, Chief Van der Veen will poll the Board separately before signing the agreement on their behalf.

NEW BUSINESS

Bellingham Mayor Meeting: Chief Van der Veen and Chairman Lann met with the City of Bellingham Mayor Seth Fleetwood, finance team, and Bellingham Fire Chief Hewitt on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 to discuss Bellingham's annexations and potential annexation financial impacts and challenges for District 4.

During the meeting, Chairman Lann reviewed the letter he had sent to the mayor outlining the district's concerns, loss of revenue, and his request for action.

It was noted that Mayor Fleetwood was very cooperative and is invested in forming some type of partnership with District 4, although it was unclear how that may look. The Mayor authorized Chief Hewitt to work with Chief Van der Veen and the finance team to investigate and review future options.

Chief Van der Veen noted that he presented the Mayor with a timeline to keep the project moving forward in a judicious manner. Chief Van der Veen will keep the Board updated.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Jaret Hauge re: Increased insurance costs due to the closing of Northshore Station 11.

Although Chief Ward took the initial phone call from Mr. Hauge, Vice-Chairman Cooley also plans to send a response letter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **July Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the July 18 meeting via Zoom.
- **Washington State Fire Commissioner’s Conference:** Chef Van der Veen inquired as to whether there was any interest in attending the upcoming Commissioners Conference scheduled for October 27-29, 2022 in Spokane. Chief Van der Veen will forward information to the Board members.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- RFA/Merger

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 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