

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
August 15, 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 August 15, 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, 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

JULY PAYROLL VOUCHER CANCELLATION

Chief Van der Veen informed the Board that since the July payroll voucher was turned in later than usual, the County required that the voucher be canceled and added to the August payroll voucher.

MOTION: Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to approve the cancellation of the July Payroll Voucher in the amount of \$896.00, which was added to the August payroll voucher. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) July 18, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – July \$7,253.76
 - b) Total Expenditures – August \$1,408.90
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$1,280.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$128.90

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance: Chief Ward provided information regarding the painting and siding replacement options for Britton Loop Station 12.

One bid has been received, and a second bid is in process. It is expected that the cost for both the admin and firefighter buildings will cost in the vicinity of \$500,000.

Chief Van der Veen noted that if the County EMS Levy is passed in November, the County will add an ALS unit, which may present an opportunity to relocate an existing unit to Britton Loop Station 12. If this occurs, the County would need to remodel the firefighter building, which may include or coincide with the re-siding or replacement project.

Chief Van der Veen expects to meet with the County and EMS coordinator to discuss the remodeling schedule if their levy is approved. There will be no action at this time.

City of Bellingham and District 4 Meetings: Chief Van der Veen and Bellingham Fire Chief Hewitt met to discuss the future annexation and funding question. Multiple scenarios were examined to determine the best long-term solution for the district.

It was proposed to have both chiefs and a fire commissioner attend three community meetings in strategic areas that would encourage the District 4 citizens to communicate their expectations of the fire district. The chiefs and commissioner would, in turn, present a unified message about what the current levy affords them and what the risks are to further reduction of the levy rate.

The meetings would be advertised through various mediums. Opportunities to provide input or ask questions will be in place for those citizens who cannot attend in person.

The Board unanimously agreed to participate in the meetings, which will be scheduled for late September or early October.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2022-03 Whatcom County EMS Levy Plan Support: Vice-Chairman Cooley read Resolution 2022-03 into the record.

Chief Van der Veen noted that other districts are approving similar resolutions.

MOTION: Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to approve Resolution 2022-03 Whatcom County EMS Levy Plan Support as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 3-0.

Whatcom County BLS Reimbursement: Chief Van der Veen and Chairman Lann signed the agreement allowing the district to receive BLS funding reimbursement in the amount of \$187,714.86 provided through the 2016-2022 Whatcom County EMS tax levy.

CORRESPONDENCE

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the September 12 meeting via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:26 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