

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
12:00 p.m.
April 18, 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 April 18, 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.

INTERIM FIRE COMMISSIONER WELCOME

Chairman Lann welcomed Interim Fire Commissioner Tim Johnson.

Chairman Lann reviewed the Roberts Rules of Order, Open Public Meetings Act, and the meeting format.

Commissioner Johnson provided a brief introduction. He was born and raised in Pennsylvania and New York. He relocated to Whatcom County in 2004. He and his wife have raised three sons, all graduates of Bellingham schools. Two daughters also live in the Bellingham and Seattle area.

Commissioner Johnson currently works as a Public and Government Affairs Director. He has also been employed as an Environmental Team Leader and Site Remediation Program Manager for Phillips 66 and Chevron in Ferndale, Seattle, and Houston. In addition, Commissioner Johnson has experience in the Incident Command System and serves on the refinery Emergency management team as the Public Information Officer.

In his free time, Commissioner Johnson enjoys golfing, hiking with his wife, and fishing/crabbing.

He looks forward to serving the districts' citizens and supporting Chief Van der Veen.

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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) March 14, 2022 – regular
 - b) March 26, 2022 - special
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – March \$104,676.50

- b) Total Expenditures – April \$450,750.59
- 4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$266.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$450,490.59

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Regional Fire Authority / Merger: Chief Van der Veen reiterated from the last meeting that the districts do not plan to put an RFA ballot out for a vote until Spring 2023. Following a meeting with Vice-Chairman Cooley and District 21 Chairman Ansell, Chief Van der Veen, and Consultant Karen Reed, it was decided to focus on making better connections with the public.

Chief Van der Veen was recently informed that the City of Bellingham is planning on annexing additional properties that will significantly impact District 4's revenue tax monies. A small annexation around Kline and Kelly Roads is expected in the next six months, and a more substantial annexation around the Hillsdale area is expected in the next twelve to eighteen months. This annexation will encompass Britton Loop Station 12.

A meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022, and will include Chairman Lann, District 21 Chairman Ansell, Chief Van der Veen, and Bellingham Fire Chief Hewitt. The meeting will focus on reviewing past, and future annexations, the impact on District 4, and potential options before RFA meetings can resume.

Chief Van der Veen recently reviewed the 1997 interlocal agreement between Fire Districts 4, 6, and 8 regarding annexations. The agreement was made prior to the fire district's one percent property tax limitation being put into place and cursory compensation based on a sliding scale. The document memorializes when the City of Bellingham would be required to take over a fire district based on the total annexation percent and available legal steps.

Attorneys Joseph Quinn and Richard Davis are expected to review the agreement.

Chairman Lann and Chief Van der Veen will report information back to the Boards. Further discussion is expected at the May Board meeting.

Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance: Chief Van der Veen noted that Division Chief Ward was called away to command a fire. He will send out any pertinent information via email. The topic is tabled until the next meeting.

Smith Rd. Station 13: Chief Van der Veen noted that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) discussion regarding leasing Station 13 continues to move forward.

A copy of the draft lease agreement and Attorney Joseph Quinn's review for discussion were included in the Board packet. Chief Van der Veen concurred with Attorney Quinn's

suggestions. DNR will be expected to pay the station utilities, keep the station clean and maintain the yard. The district will bear any capital projects costs.

No decision was made regarding the monthly lease amount.

Revisions will be reviewed at the next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Whatcom County Auditor re: Submitting a ballot measure in 2022
- Snure Law Office re: Open Public Meetings Act Changes 2022 – There was discussion regarding resuming public comments in June. A Zoom link made available to the public will allow for public comment.

ANNOUNCEMENT

- **May Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the May 16 meeting via Zoom Meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- RFA / Merger Update
- Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance Update
- Smith Rd. Station 13 Update

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Commissioner Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Cooley and approved 3-0.

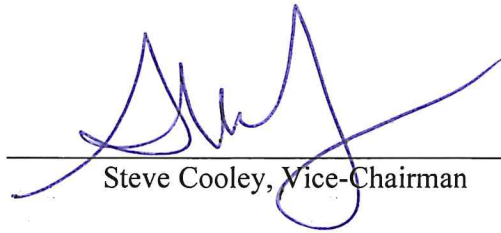
Respectfully Submitted by:


Jennie Sand Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Mark Lann, Chairman



Steve Cooley, Vice-Chairman



Tim Johnson, Commissioner



Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief