

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
July 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 July 18, 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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) June 4, 2022 – special
 - b) June 13, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – June \$13,702.27
 - b) Total Expenditures – July \$1,051.00
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$896.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$155.00

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 painting and siding replacement options for Britton Loop Station 12. Information from one company was included in the Board packet along with multiple options. An additional bid by another company is expected in the near future.

The cedar siding on the east and south sides of the building will need to be replaced. Chief Ward noted that the pre-painted laminate siding option is a better quality product and more cost-effective.

Vice-Chairman Cooley suggested waiting until the cost of materials comes down to proceed.

Chief Ward is expected to provide additional information at the next Board meeting.

Chief Van der Veen noted that if the Whatcom County EMS levy passes in November, a new medic unit could be placed at Britton Loop Station 12, which would trigger an extensive remodel. The remodel would be paid for by the County and may include the re-siding project. It may be prudent for the Board to wait to make a decision.

Smith Rd. Station 13: Chief Van der Veen: Chief Van der Veen announced that the Smith Rd. Station 13 lease has been signed, and the Department of Natural Resources personnel are now utilizing the station. A couple of maintenance issues are being addressed to alleviate any future water damage. It was also noted that the exterior would require re-painting in the next two years.

NEW BUSINESS

Whatcom County EMS Levy Plan: Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the proposed EMS Levy plan. Initially, the levy rate was set at \$.295, however, the County had amended the plan to reduce the levy amount to \$.199 and added adversity, equity, and inclusion language for fire agency recruitment and hiring processes. The information was added without discussion with other agencies.

Ultimately the levy rate was returned to \$.295, and the additional diversity language remained in the document.

After a final vote by the County, the Bellingham City Council must then vote to allow the levy to be included in the city election.

The Board agreed to formally pass a resolution supporting the EMS levy at the appropriate time.

Chief Van der Veen will keep the Board updated with any new information.

Commissioner Johnson thanked Chief Van der Veen for attending the recent Whatcom County Council meeting.

City of Bellingham and District 4 Meetings: Chief Van der Veen noted that the City is currently focusing on the EMS levy. Once the levy has been placed on the ballot in August, discussions regarding District 4's future will resume.

Recruitment and Hiring: Chief Van der Veen announced that the district had completed a recent hiring process. Four entry-level and one lateral firefighter were given conditional offers. The entry-level firefighters will complete a three month academy in North Bend before being placed on a shift. The anticipated hire date is August 1, 2022.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **August Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the August 15 meeting via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance
- EMS Levy Endorsement
- Future of District 4 Meetings with City of Bellingham


ADJOURNMENT

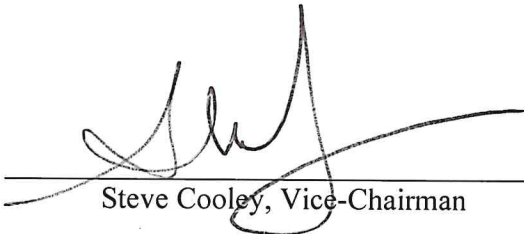
MOTION: There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:28 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:


Jennie Sand Board Secretary

ATTEST:


Mark Lann, Chairman


Steve Cooley, Vice-Chairman


Tim Johnson, Commissioner


Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief