

**Whatcom County Fire District #4  
via Zoom Meeting  
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230  
12:00 p.m.  
September 12, 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 September 12, 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) August 15, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
  - a) Expense Fund Revenue – August \$4,518.94
  - b) Total Expenditures – September \$578,808.20
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
  - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$384.00
  - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$578,424.20

**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**

**Future of District 4 Meetings with City of Bellingham and Community Meetings:** Chief Van der Veen noted that he plans to meet with Bellingham Fire Chief Hewitt at the end of the month to discuss dates and messaging for the community outreach.

Commissioner Johnson requested clarification regarding the commissioner's input into the messaging.

Chief Van der Veen noted that commissioner input would be needed once a draft has been compiled through either a special meeting, individual meeting, or email.

Chairman Lann expects Chief Van der Veen to reach out at the appropriate time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Contract for Services Expiration:** The group discussed the letter received from the North Whatcom Fire and Rescue Board regarding the contract for services inter-local agreement. The letter reminded the Board of the upcoming expiration of the contract and, if extended, how District 4 expects to pay for services past December 31, 2022.

While the Board appreciates the letter, they are unsure how much detailed information they will be able to provide by the November 1, 2022, deadline.

Vice-Chairman Cooley offered to assist Chief Van der Veen and Chief Hewitt with the planning process and a response letter to the North Whatcom Fire and Rescue Board. The Board expects to review a draft letter at the October meeting.

Chief Van der Veen noted that he is waiting on information from the City of Bellingham regarding the proposed Northern Heights annexation. If the City of Bellingham chooses not to move forward with the annexation, it will allow District 4 to pay for services in 2023 and beyond. In the interim, the District will need to work on parallel plans.

A special meeting may be held in October to discuss the draft letter and community message.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- From Bruce Ansell, Chairman NWFR Board re: Contract Expiration
- From Joseph Quinn, Attorney re: Retirement

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **October Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners are expected to attend the October 17 meeting via Zoom. Vice-Chairman Cooley will be out of town but should be able to join the Zoom Meeting.

## **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Future of District 4 Meetings with City of Bellingham and Community Meetings
- North Whatcom Fire and Rescue Response Letter regarding Deadline
- Firefighter L&I Information
- Whatcom County BLS Reimbursement
- Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance (November)
- Regional Fire Authority (RFA)/Merger

## **OTHER**

**Firefighter Information:** Commissioner Johnson requested information on the correlation between firefighter injuries (L&I reports) and lack of staffing compared to other districts within and outside Whatcom County. Chief Van der Veen will investigate.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Cooley moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Jennie Sand Board Secretary

**ATTEST:**

  
Mark Lann, Chairman

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Steve Cooley, Vice-Chairman

  
Tim Johnson, Commissioner

  
Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief