

Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
October 17, 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 October 17, 2022, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Mark Lann; Fire Commissioner Tim Johnson; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen; Division Chief Shaun Ward.

Vice-Chairman Steve Cooley was excused from this meeting.

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) September 12, 2022 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Expense Fund Revenue – September \$289,915.32
 - b) Total Expenditures – October \$385.32
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$384.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$1.32

MOTION: Commissioner Johnson moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Chairman Lann and approved 2-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Future of District 4 Meetings with the City of Bellingham and Community Meetings: Chief Van der Veen continues to meet with Bellingham Fire Chief Hewitt regarding community outreach in District 4's response area. The process has been slower than expected for a variety of reasons. Chief Van der Veen also plans to meet with Commissioner Cooley to begin crafting the message to the District 4 community.

It is anticipated that the meetings will take place sometime in November. The hope is to provide information regarding what service the district can provide and gather feedback.

Some financial questions cannot be answered until after the Whatcom County EMS levy election.

Chief Van der Veen noted that with property taxes continuing to rise, the community might not be sympathetic to the district.

The City of Bellingham has placed the anticipated Northern Heights annexation on hold until the future of District 4 has been determined.

All three commissioners are expected to review the draft community presentation.

Contract for Services Letter Response:

Chairman Lann noted that the Board has yet to draft a follow-up letter to the North Whatcom Fire and Rescue (NWFR) Board regarding the contract for services inter-local agreement.

Chairman Lann hopes to have further discussions with NWFR Chairman Ansell during the upcoming Washington State Fire Commissioners Conference. Following the discussion, a formal letter will be reviewed by the Board prior to distribution.

Whatcom County BLS Reimbursement: Chief Van der Veen stated that the district continues to wait on information regarding the disbursement of the BLS reimbursement.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Issues: Chief Van der Veen updated the Board on the current staffing crisis. Due to the staffing shortages, the Britton Loop Station was browned down to two firefighters on Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16. Slower stations have also been forced to brown down due to than unavailability of overtime coverage. The district relies on other stations and districts to provide additional support in those occurrences.

Chief Van der Veen noted that four recruits are expected to graduate from the Washington State North Bend Fire Academy on November 4. Once their reintegration is complete, they will become part of a three-person shift.

Chief Van der Veen expressed his concerns regarding how much overtime the members are completing every month and its effects.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Lynden Tribune article re: Whatcom County EMS Levy

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **November Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the November 14 meeting via Zoom.

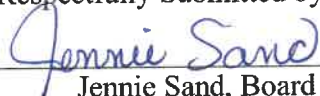
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Public Hearing – One Percent Increase
- Whatcom County BLS Reimbursement
- Britton Loop Station 12 Maintenance
- Regional Fire Authority (RFA)/Merger

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Chairman Lann moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Johnson and approved 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

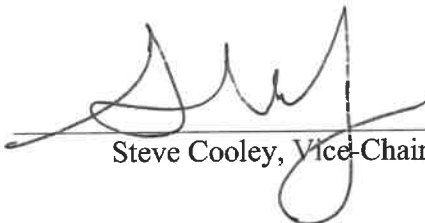


Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:




Mark Lann, Chairman



Steve Cooley, Vice-Chairman



Tim Johnson, Commissioner



Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief