

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
January 12, 2026
Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Cooley called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for January 12, 2026, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Steve Cooley; Vice-Chairman Tim Johnson; Fire Commissioner Mark Lann; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen.

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

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) December 15, 2025 – public hearing
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Expenditures – January \$18,598.27
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Monthly Expenditure Payroll Voucher: \$644.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$8,682.70
 - c) Capital Voucher: \$9,271.57

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

The December 2025 financial report is not yet available from the County.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1997 Agreement: Chief Van der Veen stated that he and Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewitt plan to schedule a date to begin discussion on this topic. Chief Van der Veen suggested removing this topic from the regular agenda until new information becomes available. The board agreed.

Northern Heights Annexation: Chief Van der Veen stated that there have been no updates. Chief Van der Veen suggested removing this topic from the regular agenda until new information becomes available. The board agreed.

Resolution 2026-01 - Establishing the 2026 Meeting Dates: This resolution was introduced at the December meeting for consideration. presented the draft 2026 meeting dates for consideration.

The proposed dates are as follows.

January 12	July 13
February 12 (<i>Thurs</i>)	August 17
*March 16	*September 14
April 13	October 12
May 18	*November 16
*June 15	* December 14

* denotes in-person meetings

MOTION: Chair Cooley moved to approve the Resolution 2026-01 Establishing the 2026 Meeting Dates as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Johnson and approved 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

District 4 Accountability and Oversight: Commissioner Lann expressed concern about a reorganizational structure in District 21's administration office, as mentioned in the chief's report. He pointed out that although District 21 manages staff as outlined in the contract for services agreement, the District 4 board should have been informed of the recent administrative changes and invited to discuss or participate in the process. Commissioner Lann noted the importance of the board ensuring proper representation for their district. Chair Cooley agreed.

Chief Van der Veen apologized for the omission, stated that their partnership is crucial, and assured that there would be more inclusion with both boards in the future. It is anticipated that the District 21 Chair will reach out to Chairman Cooley regarding this topic.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Eric T. Quinn, PS re: professional service rate increase

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **February Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the February 12 (Thurs) meeting via Zoom.

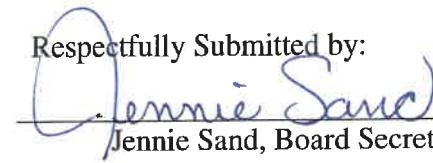
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Improved Communications

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Steve Cooley, Chairman



Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman



Mark Lann, Commissioner



Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief