

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
July 13, 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 July 13, 2026, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Attendees: Chairman Steve Cooley; Vice-Chairman Tim Johnson; Fire Commissioner Mark Lann; District 21 Commissioner Bruce Ansell; Fire Chief Jason Van der Veen; Deputy Fire Chief Tony Melillo.

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) June 15, 2026
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenues – July \$3,012,263.96
 - b) Total Expenditures – August \$33,747.68
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Direct Deposit Payroll: \$644.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$33,103.68

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Britton Loop Training Ground Project: Chief Melillo provided an update on the project.

He noted that Western Refinery Services (WRS) informed him that the permitting process may be lengthy and costly due to the scope of work. Contributing factors include the drainage system and the proportion of permeable versus non-permeable surface. Chief Melillo noted that this was only speculation at this point.

The next steps include contacting the Whatcom County Planning Department to determine the potential costs and timelines.

Once additional information is confirmed and the project moves forward, the district may consider hiring a contractor. Another option may be to consider Plan B.

Chief Van der Veen will keep the Board informed.

Britton Loop Training Room HVAC: Chief Van der Veen stated that the project is complete and the HVAC is operational. The old furnace has been decommissioned and removed.

Environmental Concerns (ReSource): Chief Van der Veen provided an update.

Britton Loop Retention Pond

After a recent site evaluation, the district identified that approximately twenty years of accumulated undergrowth in and around the retention pond needed to be cleared. After reviewing several removal options, the district decided to move forward with a local company that specializes in natural undergrowth removal using a herd of lambs and goats.

The initial cleanup is expected to take about ten days and will begin on August 1, 2026. It may take a few occurrences to prevent the underbrush from returning.

This approach offers several advantages over traditional methods, including minimal noise and disruption to neighbors, no soil disturbance, and the added bonus of being quite enjoyable to watch the herd at work.

Chief Van der Veen noted that it may be necessary to remove larger trees in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September Board Meeting Attendance Query:** all commissioners present plan to attend the September 14 Board Meeting via Zoom.

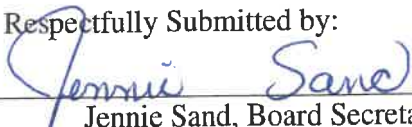
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Training Ground Project Update
- Britton Loop Station 12 Retention Pond Update

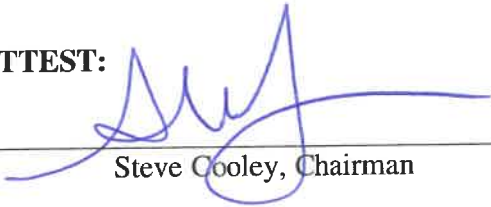
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 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