

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
August 17, 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 August 17, 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.

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) July 13, 2026
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenues – July \$72,462.45
 - b) Total Expenditures – August \$817,249.66
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Direct Deposit Payroll: \$644.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$800,102.81
 - c) Capital Projects Voucher: \$16,502.85

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Britton Loop Training Ground Project: Chief Van der Veen provided an update on the project.

Both Chiefs Van der Veen and Melillo have contacted the Whatcom County Planning Department and are working through the permitting process.

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

Britton Loop Retention Pond

Chief Van der Veen reported that the brush-clearing project using lambs and goats at the Britton Loop Station 12 training grounds, conducted under the contract period, had concluded. The area has been partially cleared. Chief Van der Veen will evaluate the total area cleared and use those findings to determine the best path forward for continuing or expanding the program.

Clearing the retention pond of vegetation remains the primary goal.

D4 Fire Engine Purchase Update: Chief Van der Veen noted that the D4 fire engine approved at the March meeting has been ordered and is expected to be delivered within 12 months.

Chief Van der Veen noted that if District 21 places an order for engines and includes D4 in the group order, the engines may arrive sooner.

NEW BUSINESS

District 21 Levy Planning: District 21 Commissioner Ansell noted that, with the passage of the D21 levy and the goal of opening Semiahmoo Station 62 as a career station, the current contract for services will likely change and will need to be updated, reviewed by the attorneys, and approved by both Boards.

District 21 July Meeting Overview: Chairman Cooley attended. The main topic was the Levy Lid Lift.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All commissioners plan to attend the September 14 Board Meeting. This is an in-person meeting. Vice-Chairman Johnson will attend via Zoom.
- **September D21 Board Meeting:** Commissioner Lann will attend the District 21 Board meeting scheduled for September 20.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Training Ground Project Update
- Britton Loop Station 12 Retention Pond Update
- District 21 Work Session

ADJOURNMENT

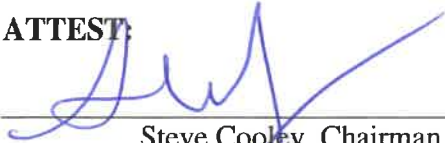
The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:



Steve Cooley, Chairman

Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman



Mark Lann, Commissioner



Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief