

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98230
12:00 p.m.
September 14, 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 September 14, 2026, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

1. Meeting Minutes
 - a) August 17, 2026
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenues – August \$824,759.32
 - b) Total Expenditures – September \$2,815.81
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Direct Deposit Payroll: \$805.00
 - b) Capital Projects Voucher: \$2,010.81

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 information regarding the Whatcom County Planning process.

It was noted that if the permitting process, which includes stormwater, drainage, and pervious surface certifications, is not completed within the next few weeks, the project may be too late in the season to proceed (curing process concerns). If that happens, the project will be scheduled for the following year.

Chief Melillo stated that he expects the bids to carry over to 2027; however, they may not account for possible increases in material costs.

Britton Loop Retention Pond: Chief Van der Veen will provide an update at the October meeting. He noted that removing unwanted vegetation from the pond remains the primary goal.

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NEW BUSINESS

District 21 Work Session: District 21 held a post-levy workshop on September 2. Commissioner Lann attended the meeting and provided a summary of the meeting. He noted that topics included the successful approval of the levy lid lift, opening of Semiahmoo Station 62, the Birch Bay Station 63 renovation, and purchasing apparatus and equipment.

There was also a brief discussion regarding the current contract for services with District 4 and how opening Semiahmoo Station 62 will affect the agreement in the future.

District 21 Commissioner Ansell stated that the District 21 Board will review the commissioner roles, including the difference between governance vs. management.

A joint (D4/D21) budget study session will be scheduled for late October or early November.

Contract for Services Agreement: Chief Van der Veen reviewed the current contract for services between District 4 and District 21.

Although the amendment expires at the end of the year, both parties have historically verbally extended the agreement each year.

There was discussion about how the agreement may change District 4's payment once Semiahmoo Station is open and fully staffed. Currently, District 4 pays 25% of operating costs quarterly based on the current staffing model.

There was discussion about a more formal motion or resolution to extend the current agreement and the process for when the Semiahmoo Station is open, which is currently unknown. This topic will be discussed at the joint budget study session.

Chief Van der Veen invited each Board member to schedule a meeting to review the budget line items.

Chief Van der Veen pointed out that both districts have worked well together for over fifteen years and hopes to continue the good relationship.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau (WSRB)
 - WSRB will reevaluate in fall 2027; completed first quarter in 2028
- Office of the Washington State Auditor
 - Setting rates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **October Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All commissioners plan to attend the October 12 Board Meeting.

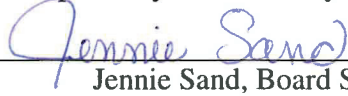
AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

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

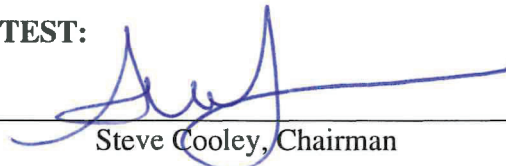
ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 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