

**Whatcom County Fire District #4
via Zoom Meeting
4142 Britton Loop, Bellingham, WA 98226
12:00 p.m.
August 12, 2024
Regular Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Johnson called the regular Whatcom County Fire District #4 Board of Fire Commissioners meeting for August 12, 2024, to order at 12:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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) July 15, 2024 – regular
2. Staff Reports – Chief / Operations / Training / Technical Support
3. Financial Report
 - a) Total Revenue – July \$51,251.24
 - b) Total Expenditures – August \$2,565.50
4. Voucher / Payroll / Benefits
 - a) Direct Deposit Payroll: \$483.00
 - b) Monthly Expenditure Voucher: \$2,082.50

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Department of Ecology Water Adjudication Update: No updates were noted at this time. This item will be removed from the agenda until additional information is available.

Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation Update: Chief Van der Veen noted that the City of Bellingham has approved the annexation and intends to review its impacts on various departments within the City.

Chief Van der Veen has met with Bellingham Fire Chief Bill Hewitt several times. It is unclear if this annexation will trigger the City of Bellingham to annex all of District 4's areas.

Chief Hewitt would like to attend the District 4 September meeting to review the information he intends to provide to the City of Bellingham regarding his concerns about responding to the proposed annexed areas.

Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Projects

Upgrading of the Britton Loop Station 12 exterior:

With Division Chief Ward's return to work, he will oversee this project. Chairman Cooley, Chief Van der Veen, and Division Chief Ward recently met to review the project.

An update may be available at the September meeting.

Fire Engine Bid Quote: Chief Van der Veen stated that District 21 is no longer utilizing the same purchasing cooperative and that the District will need to solicit bids.

An update may be available at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Interlocal Agreement for First Emergency Medical Services: Chief Van der Veen provided information regarding the 2024-2029 Interlocal Agreement for First Emergency Medical Services.

After an almost year-long review by the Whatcom County Fire Chiefs and Attorney Richard Davis, all parties have come to an agreement.

Based on yearly responses, the district's share of the \$1.5M BLS allocated annual funds amongst all districts is \$74,030.03.

MOTION: Commissioner Lann moved to approve the 2024-2029 Interlocal Agreement for First Emergency Medical Services as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Johnson and approved 2-0.

Future Planning Session with District 21: Chief Van der Veen stated that the District 21 Board will schedule a future planning session in October or November. The District 4 Board is invited to participate. Potential dates will be forwarded to the Board. The City of Bellingham may also be invited to attend.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Community member Travis Wells re: Fire Protection Class Rating Concern

Vice-Chairman Johnson and Chief Van der Veen will collaborate on a response letter to address Mr. Wells' concerns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **September Board Meeting Attendance Query:** All Commissioners present are expected to attend the September 16 meeting via Zoom.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Britton Rd/Northern Heights Annexation Update – BFD Chief Hewitt guest
- Britton Loop Station 12 Exterior Project Update
- Possible Fire Engine Bid Quote

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lann and approved 2-0.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Jennie Sand, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Steve Cooley, Chairman

Tim Johnson, Vice-Chairman

Mark Lann, Commissioner

Jason Van der Veen, Fire Chief