



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	May 2, 2023
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Meggan Joseph (by video)
Councillor Sarah Fowler
Councillor Cheryl Northcott
Councillor Douglas Elliott

Staff Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer (by video)
Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance (by video)
Janet St-Denis, Corporate Services Manager (by video)
Wanda Waksdale, Admin Assistant

Public 12 Members of the public. (8 by video)

A. Call to Order

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Mayor Davis acknowledged and respected that Council is meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

B. Introduction of Late Items

None.

C. Approval of the Agenda

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0202/2023

THAT the Agenda for the May 2, 2023 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

D. Petitions and Delegations

None.

E. Public Input # 1

A member of the public had concerns regarding the content of the Mayor's April 13, 2023 letter, including the financial information.

A member of the public commented on his questions from prior meetings.

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on April 18, 2023.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0203/2023

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of April 18, 2023 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

2 Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting held on April 24, 2023.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0204/2023

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of April 24, 2023 be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None.

H. Business Arising

None.

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis - written

We received a \$1.89 million grant for the fire hall relocation project. This grant, from the Canada Community Building Fund, is administered by the Union of BC Municipalities. I am happy to see that we will finally be able to get our fire department a new home at the least cost to Tahsis taxpayers. This has been a long time coming and it is important to have a fully functional fire department that can meet its obligations.

Since our last council meeting, I have attended meetings of the Regional District Board and the First Nations Relations Committee there, as well as the Comox-Strathcona Regional Health Board. More Tahsis-specific, we have had meetings with staff from both Strathcona and Comox Valley Regional Districts dealing with the Connected Coast project and Solid Waste Management.

I just wanted to acknowledge the passing of Gordon Lightfoot. He was very much the voice of Canada for a generation and his music will always live on. I feel lucky to have seen him perform live once, at the 1982 Stein Valley festival.

Councillor Joseph - no report.

Councillor Fowler -

Attached is my written report outlining the 30 plus meetings I have attended since the last meeting. I have also brought all sorts of information, for your review, from my double barrelled trips to Nanaimo (AVICC) and Victoria (UBCM) respectively.

Also worth noting the Spring Bazaar is scheduled for May 13 and we need folks who want to be exhibitors to sign up for tables by Friday.

Lastly, the Tahsis Buyers Club submitted its 10th order today. Since restarting the initiative in December we have brought in 164 good food boxes for residents in our village to the total of \$2970. Approximately 23 have been sponsored as we have many generous people in our community.

Thanks to those who donate their time and talent to food security in action.

Submitted respectfully,
Councillor Fowler

Councillor Northcott- no report

Councillor Elliott- written report

Hello,

My last report.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to take this opportunity to apologize to the CAO for my prior conduct.

I, Councillor Doug Elliott, would like to, without reservation, retract any comments I made about Mr. Tatchell, on a professional and personal level. My comments about Mr. Tatchell are not true.

Mr. Tatchell is a highly educated person, with a Bachelor of Arts degree (with honors) from the University of Victoria, a Master's degree from Colorado State University and a skilled Chief Administrator Officer. Prior to Mr. Tatchell's appointment as the CAO for the Village of Tahsis, Mr. Tatchell had a distinguished career, including the following positions;

- From 2013-2015 Mr. Tatchell was the Deputy Auditor General for Local Government, Office of the Auditor General for Local Government.
- From 2010 to 2013, Mr. Tatchell was the Executive Director, Strategic Information Management, Ministry of Labour, Citizen's service and Open Government.
- From 2009 to 2010, Mr. Tatchell was the Executive Director, Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- From 2006 to 2009, Mr. Tatchell was the Executive Director, Strategic Justice Partnerships, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Tatchell was the Deputy General Manager, Liquor Control and Licensing Branch, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- From 1998 to 2002, Mr. Tatchell was the Deputy Director, Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General.
- From 1994 to 1998, Mr. Tatchell was the Regional Manager, Employment Standards Branch.

Mr. Tatchell has provided me, as one member of the Council, with all the Budget information to which I am entitled.

I erred in messaging within my January 24th, 2023 letter and at other times that the Village is impecunious. To the contrary, the Village is in a surplus position.

I also erred in messaging;

- How, whether and if bylaw enforcement occurs.
- That it is the CAO of the Village, not the Council, that decides whether and when the Village's bylaws are enforced and in what manner.

Mr. Tatchell, my deepest apologies for my unprofessional conduct. I let emotion interfere with my better judgement and I crossed over the line. My inexperience in parliamentary procedures led to this violation of the Code of Conduct. I hope that you can forgive me and I wish you success in your continued efforts to serve the village.

I, Councillor Elliott, agree to not be disrespectful towards Mr. Tatchell in public, during Council meetings or any further correspondence.

I, Councillor Elliott, also agree to cease and desist from any slanderous, libelous or defamatory comments of and concerning Mark Tatchell and in any forum and indefinitely.

On a separate issue

Looking back on this experience, I realize that my mail outs should have been focused on providing information that fueled debate on the issues of this village rather than criticizing individuals in the administration. There is no structure in place for an opposition to exist in local government unlike the provincial and federal levels. Due to my inexperience, I tried desperately to slow down the process of deficit spending in hopes to promote discussion on the consequences of taking on debt at a time when interest rates are rising. I campaigned on streamlining the overhead of the administration, to increase the resources for the Public Works Department and to promote economic development on the former mill site. I realized that my visions are not the same as the council that you elected. This has created tensions and divided us.

I have reached out to the provincial government for assistance, mediation and intervention. The response has been disappointing at best and I have come to the conclusion that the provincial government does not enforce the Community Charter whatsoever. Our system is designed for the rich. It is up to the wealthy to hold elected officials accountable and have the courts determine their political fate. This is a rather disturbing aspect of our democracy and hopefully there will be changes in the future. I did not seek political office to engage in legal disputes that are not in the best interest of our community. After a soul searching discussion with my wife, we both feel that it is not in our best interest to continue my role as a councillor of this village. We moved here because of the spectacular surroundings, the friendly neighbours and economic potential. Regardless of what direction the village moves towards, it will not have an impact on our happiness. We have a wonderful group of friends, we enjoy our interactions with the local business community and will continue to explore our spectacular coastline. I wish to take this time to extend my deepest appreciation to my supporters. It has been a wonderful experience working with you and it is very inspiring to see so many individuals that are committed to the wellbeing of our community.

However, In the interest of my own wellbeing, I wish to announce my resignation effective September 18, 2023.

I was very pleased that Mark and I shook hands.

Councillor Doug Elliott

Village of Tahsis

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0205/2023

THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

Bylaws

**1 2023-2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No.656, 2023
Adoption**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0206/2023

THAT the 2023-2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 656,2023 be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0207/2023

THAT the 2023-2027 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 656,2023 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted the 2nd day of May, 2023.

CARRIED

**2 Tax Rate Bylaw No.657, 2023
Adoption**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0208/2023

THAT the Tax Rate Bylaw No.657, 2023 be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0209/2023

THAT the Tax Rate Bylaw No. 657, 2023 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted the 2nd day of May, 2023.

CARRIED

L. Correspondence

**1 BC Recreation and Parks Association Re: Designation of the month of June as
Recreation and Parks Month - In support of PaRx- A Prescription for Nature.**

**2 Email from Councillor Fowler Re: Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP)
Community Workshop.**

**3 April 25, 2023 email to Mayor and Council from Cathy Peters, BC anti human
trafficking educator, speaker, advocate Re: An Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative"
Be Amazing".**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0210/2023

THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0211/2023

THAT correspondence items 1 & 2 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

**1 BC Recreation and Parks Association Re: Designation of the month of June as
Recreation and Parks Month - In support of PaRx- A Prescription for Nature.**

Councillor Northcott spoke to this correspondence item and a discussion followed.

Northcott/Elliott: VOT 0212/2023

THAT the Village of Tahsis designate June as Recreation and Parks month in support of PaRx- A prescription for Nature.

CARRIED

2 Email from Councillor Fowler Re: Salmon Enhancement Program (SEP) Community Workshop.

Councillor Fowler spoke to this Community Workshop.

M. New Business

1 Director of Finance Re: Presentation the Draft 2022 Village of Tahsis Financial Statements and The Audit Findings Report for the year ending 2022.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0213/2023

THAT this presentation and documents be received.

CARRIED

The Director of Finance presented the Audit Findings Report which was prepared by Chan Nowosad Boates, Chartered Professional Accountants.

As per the attached Audit Findings Report prepared by Chan Nowosad Boates the financial statements present fairly in all material respects, the financial position of the Village as at December 31, 2022.

There were no control deficiencies identified nor did not make any adjustments.

The Director of Finance presented the Village of Tahsis 2022 Financial Statements explaining the composition of the Villages' assets, liabilities, surplus, revenue and expenditures.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0214/2023

THAT Council approve The Draft 2022 Village of Tahsis Financial Statements and receive The Audit Findings Report.

CARRIED

Public Input #2

None.

Adjournment

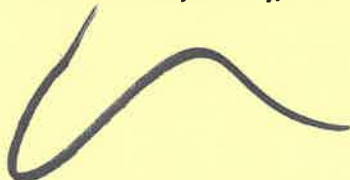
Elliott/Fowler: VOT 0215/2023

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

the 16th Day of May, 2023



Chief Administrative Officer