



**Minutes**

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**Meeting** Regular Council Meeting  
**Date** January 16, 2024  
**Time** 7:00 PM  
**Place** Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

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**Present** Mayor Martin Davis  
Councillor Sarah Fowler  
Councillor Cheryl Northcott  
Councillor Meggan Joseph  
  
Councillor Doug Elliott

by video  
by video (7.26 p.m.) in  
briefly person)

**Staff** Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer  
Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance  
Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager  
Paige Sawyer, Rural Business Advisor  
Wanda Waksdale, Administrative Assistant  
Kyle Wilkinson, Fire Chief

by video  
by video  
by video

**Guests** Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment

**Public** 11 members of the public.

6 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**

Under New Business as "M3" a Notice of Motion by Council Fowler regarding a resolution for submission to the AVICC by the February 7, 2024 deadline.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0028/2024**

THAT the Agenda for the January 16, 2024 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**D. Petitions and Delegations**

None.

**E. Public Input # 1**

A member of the public commented on the standard behaviour she expected of Council and Staff.

A member of the public asked why the Village of Tahsis was surveying and sub-dividing (DL 442 PID 009 809 244) to which the Mayor responded.

A member of the public requested a list of capital projects and budgets to which Mayor Davis directed him to the office for a copy.

A member of the public had a question regarding the ordering of the blocks for the Flood Wall Project to which they were directed to the capital project staff report on the Village's website.

There was a request for the amount of funds spent on legal proceedings.

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**

**1 Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on December 21, 2023.**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0029/2024**

**THAT** the Special Council Meeting minutes of December 21, 2023 be adopted as presented

**CARRIED**

**2 Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 2, 2024**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0030/2024**

**THAT** the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 2, 2024 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**Rise and Report**

None.

**H. Business Arising**

**1 Nootka Sound RCMP -Village of Tahsis quarterly report**

**Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment**

**Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0031/2024**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c provided Council with an update on staffing, operations and recapped the 2023 statistics for the Village of Tahsis.

**2 Tahsis Council 2024 Strategic Priorities**

**Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0032/2024**

THAT the Village of Tahsis 2024 Strategic Priorities be received.

**CARRIED**  
1 "no vote" registered to  
Councillor Elliott

### **TAHSIS COUNCIL'S 2024 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

#### **ECONOMIC VIBRANCY**

Implement the action items from the Strategic Economic Development Strategy including promoting tourism. (Tourism promotion includes partnering with the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nation whenever possible and focussing on outdoor recreational activities.)

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE**

Negotiate formal information sharing agreements with ministries of Transportation and Infrastructure and Forests on monitoring and inspections of the Head Bay FSR maintenance and upgrades. Continue to lobby the Province for expanding capital improvements, i.e., chip sealing.

Replace the Recreation Centre heating and ventilation systems (including controls) and consider establishing a standing committee to develop new programming.

Develop a plan to re-purpose Captain Meares School east wing for municipal and community purposes, including space for the Tahsis library

#### **COMMUNITY WELL-BEING**

Undertake a Housing Needs Report (funded from the provincial housing capacity grant) as a first step in developing an affordable housing plan.

Continue to lobby the Province and Island Health for more and better services for residents with addiction and mental health issues. Facilitate communication about resources to residents whenever possible.

#### **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**

Develop an outdoor recreation policy to promote health and well-being, conservation of natural resources and community engagement and social cohesion.

**Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0033/2024**

THAT the Village of Tahsis 2024 Strategic Priorities be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**  
1 "no vote" registered to  
Councillor Elliott

#### **J. Council Reports**

**Mayor Davis**

No report.

**Councillor Joseph**

No report.

**Councillor Fowler (verbal report)**

My report is essentially just late item "M3". It is a motion that I brought up last year for the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal communities. Their deadline is February 7th for resolutions that will be debated at the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities in April.

**Attachment J1 Report to Council and motion for AVICC**

**Councillor Northcott (verbal report)**

I just wanted a huge thank you to public works for getting the water line fixed as quickly as they did in truly awful, awful conditions.

**Councillor Elliott (written report)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since this will be my last report, I didn't want to dwell on the fact that the Mayor is wasting your tax dollars taking me to court to have me disqualified when I already have submitted my resignation twice. This is a vindictive move to stick me with a legal bill and another example of how he has abused his power and dishonesty.

I also didn't want to dwell on the fact that I have not met one intelligent individual who believes that Councillor Joseph should hold on to her position now that she has relocated out of town and is not a property owner. Councillor Joseph, you should do the right thing as you discussed with me back in September and resign. By doing so, hopefully the community elects two Councillors that can add balance to the Council.

I don't have anything nice to say about the two re-elected councillors. I happy that I won't have to waste any more of my time with them. I firmly believe that their conduct will mark the end of their political careers in the upcoming general election.

Instead I want to take this opportunity to share with you the positive aspects of my experience as a councillor in the past year.

I found it a unique challenge to apply the skills that I obtained by reading the Robert Rules of Order and Parliamentary procedures. I recommend that anyone considering running in the by-election, to purchase these books and to study them before the election. In a properly chaired meeting, it gives you the skills to promote healthy debate and to share ideas. If that atmosphere is allowed to thrive in a public meeting, the community can contribute to solutions that will build a better community.

The formation of the Tahsis Taxpayers Association has been further proof that there are a number of individuals in the community that are truly concerned about the future of this village. I have had the distinct pleasure in participating in some of their meetings and listened to their concerns. These are community minded individuals that want to see our community succeed, but most of all, they believe that this village should exist within their financial means. When the administrative overhead is 95% of the tax base, this can attract a great deal of concern with individuals that understand the basic concepts of accounting. I will continue to work with them and I truly believe that this organization will have a positive influence with the local government.

I also want to share my appreciation to the members of the volunteer fire department. I have been of the belief that the 2 million dollar grant would be best served if the existing fire hall was repaired and that the balance of the grant be utilized to provide more modern resources to increase your expertise and service levels for the community. I have seen a lot of improvement within the department over the years and I hope that the trend continues. The relocation project lacks long term vision that will have severe financial consequences in the distant future. In my mind, this has been a colossal mistake and it will limit the amount of resources that could be purchased for the department.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to the Public Works Staff. As a former employee, I do appreciate the hard work that is required to perform the necessary services that this community relies on. The day to day challenges working with ailing infrastructure in all sorts of weather conditions can be challenging at the best of times. It is this department that is truly responsible for providing us with the services that define our quality of life. I was hoping that this council would direct more funds to provide the staff with modern tools, increased training opportunities and resources that would reduce our unnecessary dependence on contractors from out of town. Working for Public Work should not be just a job, it should be a long term career with compensation in line with other communities. We are fortunate to have a great crew that keeps this village running all year round.

I would also like to convey my appreciation to the ladies that work in the office. Your dedication to this village is very inspiring. I have received countless compliments concerning the pleasant services that you all provide. I have always enjoyed our interactions and I'm grateful for your assistance as a Councillor.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank all those who approached me to share their ideas. Unfortunately many individuals find it difficult to attend council meetings but it is not because they don't care. I received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from my earlier mail outs and this has been the foundation for numerous intelligent conversations concerning the wellbeing of the community. With the high rate of inflation, many of you are concerned about the taxation and financial wellbeing of the community. Many of us are here for the long haul and are concerned when the local government engages in deficit spending. Our existing tax rates are incredibly high. A recent news article in CHK News explained how a house that was assessed at 1.3 million dollars, located in the Nanaimo Regional District, would now have to pay 1162.00 dollars with the recently announced tax increase. That house is assessed over 8 times higher than my house and I pay almost double the tax rate. The sour taste of the 2022 tax increase has not been forgotten. There is growing support amongst the community that are interested in discussing the possibility of the Strathcona Regional District managing our village. The regional district employs qualified staff and has far more resources at their disposal. And for the record, recreation centres exist in every regional district throughout the province. In a regional district, you get what you pay for with a far more efficient administrative overhead.

A small minority in this community, that have the most to lose, are opposed and will go out of their way to argue this concept. Don't be fooled. We are the ones that pay the price.

I firmly believe that great ideas can come from all directions and it is important to listen with an open mind. This community has no shortage of great ideas. It is important that this community elects intelligent, open minded individuals that are willing to acknowledge the concerns of the community and engage in meaningful discussions concerning our future. Providing an occasional report concerning their efforts and justifying their trips wouldn't hurt.

I would like to recognize the property owners that continue to invest in their homes and provide economic opportunities for our local contractors throughout the community. These contractors, some of which are friends and neighbours greatly appreciate your investment in our community. I have seen some amazing upgrades throughout the community and I hope this trend continues in the future. This is vital if this community is to attract more similar investors. Pride of ownership is the key to creating an attractive community. It is one of the most important aspects of our limited economy. Our village continues to spend massive amounts of our tax dollars supporting contractors from out of town. This needs to change if we want to create local employment opportunities.

I hope in the next by-election, two positions for council become available. I urge the community to be careful in their selection. The strategic priorities of this Council are irresponsible and lack vision. This Council needs balance and intelligent individuals that understand the role of local government. It's about managing and maintaining our assets, implementing consistent contribution to our cash reserves, taking advantage of grants that we can afford, promoting investment and increasing the tax base, working with other levels of government to improve services, working with our largest taxpayers to promote economic growth and most of all, living within our financial means. Those who have been successful in their own personal growth and are willing to sacrifice their time to oversee that the administration is managing our community in a financially sustainable way, are the best choices we can make. Those that need the job are why this village has taken on debt for the first time since the mill closed and the reason why many of the residents are considering a transition to have the village placed under the control of the regional district. I urge you to vote in the interest of the community as a whole.

Tahsis is located in one of the most pristine areas on the planet. The natural surroundings attract tourism from all around the world. Unfortunately our summers are short and outdoor recreation is limited in the off season. The mill site has amazing potential for growth creating year round employment opportunities. Without the cooperation with WFP, our largest taxpayer, this site will remain dormant and restrict growth. This will have a negative impact on future road upgrades and services from other levels of government. Growth leads to prosperity and increased services that would enhance the quality of life for the entire community. Deficit spending to fix the infrastructure is a recipe for disaster.

Regardless of what happens, I still consider this place as paradise. I have been fortunate to meet many new friends throughout the community. I look forward to exploring more of the coast and the surrounding areas. This was the main attraction when I bought my home 20 years ago. It is also the reason why I want to spend the rest of my life here.

And most of all, I wanted to thank all of you that supported me this past year.

**Elliott/Joseph: VOT 0034/2024**

THAT the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**  
1 "no vote" registered to  
Councillor Northcott

**K. Bylaws**

None.

**L. Correspondence**

1 January 2, 2024 email from Shawna Gagne Re: Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Food Hamper Program.

**Northcott/ Elliott: VOT 0035/2024**

THAT this correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Elliott/ (no seconder)**

**THAT** correspondence item #1 be pulled for discussion.

**FAILED**

**M. New Business**

- 1 Report to Council Re: Appointment of Fire Chief and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Kyle Wilkinson.**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0036/2024**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO introduced Fire Chief / Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Kyle Wilkinson.

- 2 Report to Council Re: Regional Grant Opportunity - Emergency Support Services**

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0037/2024**

**THAT** this Report to Council be received.

**CARRIED**

The CAO spoke to this UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant and responded to questions from Council.

**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0038/2024**

**THAT** as part of the Village of Tahsis ongoing work in relation to emergency planning that an application for financial assistance under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund 2024 Emergency Operation Centre grant be authorized for submission to the UBCM, in collaboration with the Strathcona Regional District (SRD); and

**THAT** the Village of Tahsis agrees to the Strathcona Regional District submitting an application on their behalf, and that if funded, agrees to the Strathcona Regional District managing the grant and being the recipient of all funding.

**CARRIED**

- 3 Notice of Motion by Councillor Fowler Re: Resolution for submission to the AVICC by the February 7th, 2024 deadline.**

**Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0039/2024**

**THAT** this Notice of Motion be received for consideration..

**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS** climate change modeling showcases water temperature in salmon bearing streams is an indicator of the carrying capacity of this keystone species; and

**Whereas** cold water Refuge is a predictor of early survival in juvenile salmonoids;

**BE IT RESOLVED** to advocate to prioritize habitat health study and understanding of interconnected ecosystems of the Pacific wild salmon; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the AVICC receive by the February 7, 2024 deadline for motions to be accepted as Coastal communities and First Nations are leading on this knowledge gathering and sharing.

Councillor Fowler spoke to this resolution.

**Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0040/2024**

**THAT** this resolution be brought forward at the February 6, 2023 Regular Council meeting.

**CARRIED**

**Public Input #2**

A member of the public spoke about food insecurity.

A comment was made on carbon savings data with respect to the Good Food Box.

**Adjournment**

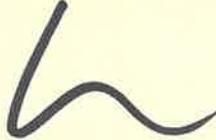
**Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0041/2024**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this**

6th Day of February, 2024



**Chief Administrative Officer**

**From:**  
**To:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**

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**Subject:** Fowler report January 16 with late item

Thank you, Natasha, that is quite helpful.

You have captured the story well and I have nothing to ammend except that village of Tahsis is both north and west Vancouver, but perhaps more west. We are in the jurisdictional boundaries to the regional district of Strathcona and our neighbour on the other side of rugged mountain, BC's smallest community of Zeballos, also recently started to offer their own good food box program.

I have no context for greenhouse gas calculations, so it blows my mind to say that the tahsis buyers have tallied 119,535,360 g (119,535.36 kg) CO2 saved in the last year of deliveries of GHG reduction for 2023 alone. After a quick search ( see photo attached) I have found the price of carbon for that year to be \$65 per metric ton but in this year, it's valued at \$80. The more people who share in the freight, the cheaper the healthy food and clean air. It's a triple win!

I hope to have your below email included in my council report because it has helped me so much to receive support and a multi-solving approach from the Tamarack Institute Cohort this past year.

Furthermore

I have a draft notice of motion for the next regular meeting as a **late item** that also is at the intersection of longer-term food security and UNDRIP. It is a revised (changes in bold) motion from last year that passed about **salmon parks** and *my hope is that it can be sent, with the background letter sent by Mayor Davis to the council of chiefs at the MMFN, into the AVICC by the resolution deadline of February 7.*

Notice of motion ( late item draft)

Whereas climate change modeling showcases water temperature in salmon **bearing** streams as an indicator of the carrying capacity of this keystone species.

And whereas cold water Refuge is a predictor of early survival in juvenile salmonids.

Be it resolved to Advocate to prioritize habitat health study and understanding of interconnected ecosystems of the Pacific wild salmon.

Be it further resolved the that the AVICC receive by the February 7th, 2024 deadline for motions to be accepted as Coastal communities and **First Nations** are leading on this knowledge gathering and sharing.

## Background

Since becoming involved in the Nootka Sound Watershed Society, a regional land use table which studies downstream effects, for the village 5 years ago I have learned a lot about Pacific salmon, their habitats for spawning and their lives in the ocean. It is my understanding that the association of Vancouver Island in coastal communities is the area Association most aligned to gather, share and disseminate lessons and follow the example of the Mowachaht Muchalaht First Nations stewardship. With the long-term focus on asset health and management, the subtle effects of the marine environment and the cumulative nature of many forms of pollution, like heat, on ocean creatures and food availability.

Submitted respectfully,  
Councillor Fowler

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**From:** Natasha Pei <[Natasha@tamarackcommunity.ca](mailto:Natasha@tamarackcommunity.ca)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 15, 2024 3:14:22 p.m.  
**To:** Councillor Fowler <[sarahfowlertahsis@gmail.com](mailto:sarahfowlertahsis@gmail.com)>  
**Cc:** Sarah Fowler <[SFowler@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:SFowler@villageoftahsis.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Short Phone Call

Hi Sarah,

Thank you for the phone call today. Below is a draft write-up of the story I heard you share. I've highlighted some things in blue that could use some fact checking by you. Particularly about which "region" the good food box now covers.

Also the math! I love math but please see if you can help make it better. I did a draft calculation of how much emissions you *might* be saving with the good food box. Below are my assumptions and the math rough work. Please change the equation and update the emissions count if anything is off.

For example: I did the calculation based on average Canadian emissions per km per car, but in Tahsis you may have a much higher expenditure with more heavy/older trucks on the road. Please update the calculation if you have a more accurate emissions estimate in Tahsis. Based on our conversation, I also estimated that anyone paying full price for the good food box would/could drive to the grocery store if the Good Food Box didn't exist, but I'm not sure how comfortable you are making that assumption. That was 60% of participants based on your PowerPoint.

Estimated emissions savings:

Assumptions:

- IF there was no Good Food Box, 40% of Good Food Box participants (the people receiving subsidies) would not go to the grocery store; 60% would drive to the grocery store individually in Campbell River
- The average Canadian car emits [206g CO2 per kilometer](#)

- Tahsis to Campbell River grocery store is 320 km (roundtrip)

Calculation:

- 206 g CO<sub>2</sub> x 320 km = 65,920 g CO<sub>2</sub> saved per person per trip
- 30 Good Food Box participants x 0.6 (who would drive to the grocery store) = 18 residents would drive if they didn't have access to the Good Food Box
- 18 residents x 65,920 g = 11,866,560 g CO<sub>2</sub> saved  
MINUS 1 trip (Sarah's car) = **11,120,640 g CO<sub>2</sub> saved in the first delivery**
- 7 Good Food Box participants x 0.6 (who would drive to the grocery store) = 4.2 residents who would drive if they didn't have access to the Good Food Box
- 4 residents x 65,920 g = 263,680 g CO<sub>2</sub>  
MINUS 1 trip (Sarah's car) = **197,760 g CO<sub>2</sub> saved in the most recent delivery**
- Average: 5,692,160 g CO<sub>2</sub> saved PER ORDER in the last year
- 21 deliveries made in the last year
- **TOTAL ESTIMATED: 5,692,160 g CO<sub>2</sub> x 21 deliveries = 119,535,360 g (119,535.36 kg) CO<sub>2</sub> saved in the last year of deliveries**

*LIMITATIONS: This calculation does not account for residents carpooling with neighbours to the grocery store, making the same trip anyways for dairy/meat which is not included in the box, nor picking up groceries while in-town in Campbell River already for other reasons. This calculation also assumes people who can pay full price for a good food box are also able to drive a car into Campbell River (e.g., they have the time, mobility/vision, and are not financially constrained, etc.).*

## STORY

### Direct Benefits to People and the Environment: Tahsis, BC

The Tahsis community restored its Good Food Box program and completed one year of service in 2023. The program served between 7 and 30 households bi-weekly in a small remote village of 400 people, helping people reduce their carbon emissions and increase access to fresh, affordable food. Food insecurity in the Village of Tahsis is due in large part to their geography; located 63km down a gravel road where food distributors cannot travel, the closest grocery store for residents is in neighbouring Campbell River, which is 160km away.

The Good Food Box program is a produce bulk buying program. Rather than each resident driving to the nearest grocery store on their own, one person takes everyone's orders, makes the drive to a closer community – Gold River – which acts as a Hub for volunteers to distribute *all* of the Good Food Boxes for the small communities on Vancouver Island's west (or north?) coast. Good Food Boxes are brought back to Tahsis and are either delivered or picked up by residents at the community centre. This saves an estimated 65,920 g of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per person per trip to the grocery store. In total, it is estimated that for residents who would otherwise drive to the grocery store on their own, the 21 deliveries made by the Good Food Box in 2023 have saved approximately 119,535.36 kg CO<sub>2</sub>.

The program is also reducing food affordability challenges, as Tahsis has a median after-tax income well-below the Canadian average (\$40,400 in Tahsis compared to \$68,400 for Canada), a high unemployment rate (35.7% in Tahsis compared to 6% for Canada), and one-third of all residents are seniors 65 years and older. Without the Good Food Box, it's estimated that the 60% of participants receiving Food Box subsidies (income less than \$52,000 per year) would not be able to access fresh produce at all, unless from friends,

family or neighbours.

Finally, during this year they practiced collaboration with which is very important in their small, rural community, where there are few financial and public resources. They have collaborated with the Greenways Land Trust, United Way and several communities in the **Strathcona** region to expand the Good Food Box across the region.

Please help to change anything above that may be incorrect or that you're uncomfortable with sharing. Congratulations again on the success of the program! As you mentioned, it seems like there is drop-off of participants, but if the numbers bounce back, it has great potential too!

Thank you,  
Natasha

<b>Year</b>	<b>Carbon tax (\$/tonne)</b>	<b>Cost per liter</b>
2021	\$40	\$0.09
2022	\$50	\$0.11
2023	\$65	\$0.14
2024	\$80	\$0.18
2025	\$95	\$0.21
2026	\$110	\$0.24
2027	\$125	\$0.28
2028	\$140	\$0.31
2029	\$155	\$0.34
2030	\$170	\$0.38