



Village of
Tahsis

Minutes

Meeting	Standing Committee of Business Liaison
Date	December 2, 2025
Time	10:00 a.m.
Place	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Committee Members	Councillor Ryan Moore, Committee Chair	
	Councillor Brenda Lenahan, Committee Vice Chair	by video
	Linda Jordan, Local Business Community Representative	
	Sheryl Roger, Local Business Community Representative	
	Dan Dahling, Local Business Community Representative	

Absent Amit Sharma, Local Business Community Representative

Council Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Sarah Fowler

Staff Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer (Ex Officio) by video
Paige Sawyer, Economic Development Coordinator (Ex Officio) by video
Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager (Ex Officio) by video
Amanda Knibbs, IT Coordinator by video

Guest Mr. Tony Ellis, Past President, Tahsis Chamber of Commerce

Public None.

Call to Order

Councillor Moore called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Land Acknowledgement

Councillor Moore acknowledged and respected that the Standing Committee of Business Liaison is meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.

Introduction of Late Items

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Dahling: COW 0140/2025

THAT the Agenda for the December 2, 2025 Standing Committee of Business Liaison be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

**H. Business
Arising**

1 Tahsis Chamber of Commerce- Status Update

Dahling: COW 0141/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison engage in a discussion with Mr. Tony Ellis regarding the status of the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce.

CARRIED

Mr. Tony Ellis, Past President of the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce provided the committee with a detailed account of the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce's history, including its active years, decline due to lack of local business participation, the challenges in maintaining an executive team as local businesses closed or lost interest and its current status and finances.

The committee discussed the potential pathways for reviving the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce which included the potential merger and collaboration with the Gold River Chamber of Commerce.

The committee debated whether activities related to reviving the Tahsis Chamber of Commerce fall within the committee's scope.

The committee emphasized the need for all committee members to bring back proposed changes to the Standing Committee of Business Liaison's terms of reference to the next meeting, aiming to better define the committee's objectives, frequency of meetings and areas of focus.

2 Fundraising for Village Projects that align with the Village's Strategic Economic Development Plan

Dahling: COW 0142/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison discuss fund raising avenues to fund projects within the Village that align with the Village of Tahsis' Strategic Economic Development Plan.

CARRIED

The committee discussed various fundraising mechanisms and grants to support village beautification and economic development projects.

3 Business Licences - Discussion

Dahling: COW 0143/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison discuss the pro's and con's of business licences.

CARRIED

The CAO provided the following reference information on business licensing for the committees consideration:

- * s. 194 of the Community Charter requires that fees can only be charged for a service the municipality provides. Unless there is a service provided with the issuance of the business licence, there is no statutory authority for charging a fee.
- * Larger municipalities require businesses to meet specific requirements and are inspected as a condition of issuing a licence. Those municipalities use business licences as a means of regulating certain businesses, e.g., cannabis retail, massage parlours, etc. and cancelling a business licence can result in a businesses closing. There is an enforcement arm of the business licence programs in larger municipalities. The Village of Tahsis does not have the staff to conduct business inspections, enforce business regulation and manage a new program without new revenue from taxation as there are too few businesses in Tahsis to pay for this service. And without a service, there is no statutory authority for charging a business licence fee.
- * Issuing a business licence, even with an inspection program, creates a potential liability for the municipality if the business defrauds customers or clients and engages in other types of illegal or disreputable activity.
- * A program or service needs to have a purpose or address a problem, e.g., garbage collection or wastewater treatment. It is unclear what the purpose of a business licence is, especially if there is no inspection and enforcement program. What problem has the absence of business licences caused?
- * Business licences were introduced when businesses were mostly brick and mortar. Many businesses that operate in Tahsis are home-based or internet-based. There is no means to licence those businesses. Would Amazon need a business licence? So there is a question of equity and fairness of charging brick and mortar businesses and not others.

- * In summary, there are statutory, policy and financial implications for Council to consider in adopting a business licence bylaw and service.

4 Items for the January 6, 2026 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Agenda.

Dahling: COW 0144/2025

THAT the following items of business be put on the January 6, 2026 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Agenda:

- 1) Review the Draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan.
- 2) Review and propose changes to the Standing Committee of Business Liaison Terms of Reference.
- 3) Potential Fund Raising Sources/ Grants

(if time permits)

CARRIED

Adjournment

Dahling: COW 0145/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison adjourn at 11:23 a.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

6th day of January , 2026



Chief Administrative Officer