



Minutes

Meeting Standing Committee of Business Liaison
Date August 21, 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
 Dan Dahling, Local Business Community Representative
 Linda Jordan, Local Business Community Representative
 Sheryl Roger, Local Business Community Representative

Absent Amit Sharma, Local Business Community Representative

Staff Paige Sawyer, Economic Development Coordinator (Ex Officio) by video
 Amanda Knibbs, IT Coordinator (Ex Officio) by video

Public None.

Call to Order

Councillor Moore called the meeting to order at 10:03 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

H2 to be deleted from the agenda.

Approval of the Agenda

Dahling: COW 0086/2025

THAT the Agenda for the August 21, 2025 Standing Committee of Business Liaison be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

H. Business Arising 1 **Community Consultation/ Open House event preparation- continuation from August 5, 2025 .**

a) Standing Committee Open House Plan

Dahling: COW 0087/2025

THAT the Open House plan be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Lenahan: COW 0088/2025

THAT the Open House plan be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Moore: COW 0089/2025

THAT the Open House plan be included on the September 2, 2025 regular Council meeting agenda for information purposes.

CARRIED

b) Economic Development Plan Survey questions

Lenahan: COW 0090/2025

THAT the survey questions be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Lenahan: COW 0091/2025

THAT the survey questions be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Lenahan: COW 0092/2025

THAT the survey questions be included as amended on the September 2, 2025 regular Council meeting agenda for consideration.

CARRIED

c) Economic Development Plan Survey distribution

Lenahan: COW 0093/2025

THAT staff be requested to distribute the survey to Tahsis residents and businesses once approved by Council by hardcopy mail out, email, and Alertable.

CARRIED

3 Other items for consideration in relation to the Open House event

Lenahan: COW 0094/2025

THAT the draft version of the Open House event poster be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Lenahan: COW 0095/2025

THAT the Open House event poster as amended be approved for distribution.

CARRIED

4 **Items to be discussed at the next Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting.**

Lenahan: COW 0096/2025

THAT the committee discuss the following items be on included on the agenda of the next Standing Committee of Business Liaison meeting:

Finalize plans for the Open House.

CARRIED

Adjournment

Lenahan: COW 0097/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

2nd day of September, 2025.



Chief Administrative Officer

Open House DRAFT Survey Questions

In order to engage as many community stakeholders as possible, the business committee would like to open a survey on the weekend of the Open House, with a plan to leave it open for 10 days.

The questions would follow the same format as the Open House, which is to look for reactions and resonance with the Strategic Priorities, Goals and Action items proposed, and ample room to provide comments and propose new ideas.

Strategic Priority #1 – People and Investment

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)

Goal - Build on our reputation for front row access to world class fishing and outdoor recreation by developing tourism infrastructure including trails, camping options, and outdoor gathering spaces that benefit both residents and visitors.

- Develop a more formal Tourism Development Plan.
- Create a development & maintenance plan for existing local trails.
- Make the Leiner Trail a destination: improve to an accessible standard with plant, animal and historical interpretive signs, and other appropriate infrastructure.
- Apply for an Active Transportation Planning Grant in partnership with MMFN to create a village network for way finding and safe travel (walking, biking) to all parts of the village including connecting to IR11 and the newly funded Grease Trail project.
- Create a development plan for the Waterfront Park including sheltered gathering space, washrooms, parking, and garbage disposal. Alternatively consider other waterfront VOT properties for development.
- Create a development plan for washrooms, parking and signage at the boat launch.

- Create a development and protection plan for Pete's Farm
- Add poles at the waterfront to support seasonal flags and light displays
- Make it easier for visitors to navigate the village by improving road signs and adding way-finding signs.
- Move benches and shelters to more useful and scenic locations. Ensure they are installed with accessibility in mind.
- Purchase accessible picnic benches and locate them throughout the village in appropriate locations.
- Continue the 'red chair' project by adding two chairs every year.

(Survey question)

Goal - Prioritize maintenance and beautification of the village and building assets in order to make the village physically attractive.

- Make an annual calendar to prioritize seasonal efforts to keep the village looking its best.
- Buy more concrete flower planter blocks to beautify the flood wall.
- Invest in targeted annual budgets specific to beautification, for hanging baskets on all municipal buildings, new planters and other similar beautification efforts.
- Create small municipal Neighborhood Beautification grants that are awarded annually.
- Work with Western to build a new fence along the sidewalk/ mill site interface.
- Apply for the provincial invasive species grant to tackle the growing broom issue in the village.
- Look at capital costs to ensure we have the tools we need for maintenance (ie: street cleaner)

(Survey question)

Goal - Market Tahsis to the world through strategic partnerships.

- Consider the creation of a regional Destination Marketing Organization.
- Interact with 4VI (Tourism Association of Vancouver Island), Destination Campbell River and other North Island tourism initiatives, as well as the Destination Marketing efforts of the Mowachaht- Muchalaht First Nation and develop co-strategies where possible.
- Create branding and a village theme to create cohesive colour and form across the built environment and digital presence.
- Build a new VOT website with strong branding, visuals and easy navigation.
- Develop a more formal Tourism Marketing Plan.

(Survey question)

Goal - Develop community cohesion and make Tahsis more socially attractive through community programming and events.

- Improve VOT consultation with residents and visitors to help guide a community centered approach to future planning.
- Launch a survey specific to Recreation Centre programming and hours to inform local services.
- Create an annual Tahsis events calendar and strategy.
- Launch a regular newsletter through the VOT website to keep both residents and visitors looped in to everything going on in our community.
- Actively work to improve accessibility in the village including the built environment and service delivery (ie: library, trails, recreation centre, parking, programming and events) to support full participation and an inclusive community.
- Apply for grants to renew all municipal playgrounds- including in the Townsite, Recreation Centre & Trailer Park

Create a dog park to support social connection for community members and their four legged friends.

(Survey question)

Goal - Create a business/co-working hub to support a sub-community of remote workers. both existing and future

· Create a small business/coworking hub in the Tahsis Recreation Centre to support the needs of budding entrepreneurs and remote workers who may need a different space to work or resources such as a printer or fax.

(Survey question)

Goal - Establish a municipal social enterprise entity through which to promote economic development and provide opportunity for strategic partnerships

Needs action – ask Paige about work to date

Strategic Priority #2 – Employment Opportunities

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)

Goal - Create attractive entry level Village of Tahsis employment opportunities for residents and people interested in relocating to Tahsis.

· Consider the opportunity for the VOT to join the living wage movement and if successful, encourage local businesses to do the same.

- Look for opportunities to increase Village of Tahsis employment opportunities while also supporting economic development, by extending the hours of operation of the Tahsis Recreation Centre and the Museum and Tourist Information Centre

(Survey question)

Goal - Work with local and First Nations partners to establish new value-added industries in Tahsis and area.

Implement the Aquaculture strategy to create jobs in community.

Approach MMFN to see if there is interest in Community Forest partnerships in the Tahsis area.

Create an Agriculture strategy towards the goal of local food security and a sustainable, diverse industry.

Strategic Priority #3 – Infrastructure

Please read the Goal and then respond to the Action items that follow by checking all that you support as actions to reach the goal. Keep in mind that we are looking for a long-term vision that will still need to be funded through grants and budgets in order to become a reality.

(Survey question)

Goal - Continue to advocate for an increased number of kilometres of seal coat and for continuous maintenance and improvements to Head Bay Road, connecting Tahsis to the rest Vancouver Island.

- Continue Head Bay Road working group discussions and report to residents every six months or less

- Build a coalition of road users (potentially to include Coast Guard, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, SD 72, village residents, etc.) to lobby the Province of BC to improve both capital investment in and ongoing maintenance of the Head Bay Road.

- Consider ways to better communicate current road conditions to residents and visitors (ie: on the Village of Tahsis website or by providing a link to the road conditions FB page or by setting up a webcam at the Bull Lake Summit)
- Use the tagline “Road to Adventure” as a way to provide a spin on the experience of getting to Tahsis

(Survey question)

Goal - Invest in maintenance and renewal of key assets (ie Recreation Centre, Municipal Office) that make Tahsis attractive as a visitor and resident.

- Make a phased plan to renovate the Recreation Centre including the exterior façade, accessibility, and any other updates required. Assign budget and apply for grants to implement the plan over five years.
- Identify and act on priorities in the Asset Management Plan that also benefit Economic Development.

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore opportunities to provide additional housing options that will support current and future community housing needs.

- Identify suitable VOT lands for a multi-unit, accessible and affordable housing development to meet housing needs.
- Identify non-profit partners for a housing project and approach BC Housing to explore the opportunity

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore and support the need for renewal and renovation of existing housing stock.

- Build an information resource that will help residents find renovation and retrofitting grants and trusted contractors that are willing to travel to Tahsis.

(Survey question)

Goal - Explore and support the need for transportation services for goods and people including locals and visitors.

- Continue to explore opportunities for both public and private transportation partnerships with the Strathcona Regional District and the Mowachaht-Muchalaht First Nation.

(Survey question)

Please share your overall thoughts on the identified goals and actions.

Do they resonate with you? Are there gaps that you'd like to note?

All ideas and suggestions are welcome whether they are small and specific or large and broad. (Might want to add an opportunity to be contacted?)



From Amanda Knibbs <AKnibbs@villageoftahsis.com>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 9:26 AM

To Janet St. Denis <J.St.Denis@villageoftahsis.com>

From: Reception Account <Reception@villageoftahsis.com>

Sent: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:00 PM

To: Mark Tatchell <MTatchell@villageoftahsis.com>

Cc: Amanda Knibbs <AKnibbs@villageoftahsis.com>

Subject: FW: Small talk forum potential agenda/ discussion topics

From: Sarah Fowler <SFowler@villageoftahsis.com>

Sent: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 12:29 PM

To: bsihota@ubcm.ca

Subject: Small talk forum potential agenda/ discussion topics

Mayor O'Connor
Small community representative

Mr Sihota

It is my intention of sending this note to be both a success story and an ongoing challenge for the small talk Forum before August 15th 2025, from the perspective of the Village of Tahsis. As is likely the case with many places of lower populations, the greatest concern our community is grappling with is inflationary pressure between grant funding windows and the end of each projects timeline. Many improvements are needed to core public service but undertaking day to day operations becomes a circumstance whereby the tyranny of the urgent rules against oversight and long term renewal.

Firstly, our journey to a, new to us, Fire Hall started years ago near the beginning of my own start in municipal politics. I am proud to report that seven years later, we expect to have an open house by the end of September.

Secondly with regards to water infrastructure we have also made progress with the following items.

1. Sewer system retrofits with lift stations and sewer plant upgrades.
2. We have proceeded to a new phase for the flood protection plan.
3. This next summer there are hopes to attend the asset of our boat launch & Airline dock in order to bolster Regional Marine Economic Development and active transport of northwest

Vancouver Island.

I expect that if more information is required on any of the above topics I will be able to provide in a timely manner, simply reach out as required.

Sincerely,
Sarah Fowler
250 202 8416

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