



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	September 16, 2025
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present

Mayor Martin Davis
Councillor Sarah Fowler
Councillor Brenda Lenahan
Councillor Ryan Moore **by video (left at 8 p.m.)**
Councillor Cheryl Northcott

Staff

Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer **by video**
Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance **by video**
Paige Sawyer, Economic Development Coordinator **by video**
Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager

Guests

Corey Cooper, Planner, McElhanney **by video (left 7:40 p.m.)**
Lesley Fettes, Director of Coast Area Strategic Projects, Ministry of Forests **by video (left 7:25 p.m.)**
Shane Simard, District Manager, Campbell River District, Ministry of Forests **by video (left 7:25 p.m.)**
Bob Craven, Forestry Consultant **by video (left 7:25 p.m.)**
Moses Track, Project Manager **by video (left 7:25 p.m.)**

Public 6 members of the public. **5 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 Business Arising as "H4" a resolution in regards to a grant application under Strategic Priority Fund for the North Maquinna Integrated Corridor Upgrade Project and under New Business as "M4" a letter in support of the Tahsis Seniors' Society New Horizons grant application.

Agenda item "K1" to follow "H1".

C. Approval of the Agenda

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0329/2025

THAT the Agenda for the September 16, 2025 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as amended.

CARRIED

E. Public Input # 1

A member of the public commented on the SPARC Local Community Accessibility Grant.

F. Adoption of the Minutes

- 1 September 2, 2025 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting Minutes**

Northcott/ Fowler: VOT 0330/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting minutes of September 2, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

- 2 September 2, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes**

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0331/2025

THAT the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of September 2, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None.

H. Business Arising

- 1 Presentation Re: West-Central Vancouver Island Forest Landscape Planning**

Fowler/Northcott VOT 0332/2025

THAT this presentation be received.

CARRIED

Lesley Fettes updated Council on the status of the West Central Vancouver Island Forest Landscape Plan, including the plan area, involvement of First Nations, structure of the planning process and the focus of the current phase of the plan.

The plan is currently in phase 2 which focuses on values identification and assessment with the opportunity for public input through public open houses and a public survey. The public open house for Tahsis is scheduled for October 28, 2025 at the Tahsis Recreation Centre. The public survey is scheduled to run from October 1, 2025 to November 30, 2025.

Council inquired about the following: the actions identified within the Old Growth Strategic Review; the McKelvie Creek watershed; sensitive karst ecosystems and the reopening of the Grease Trail. Council discussed preparing a written report to provide further input.

Lesley Fettes confirmed that the actions, including the Village of Tahsis submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review would be taken into account in this process.

K. Bylaws

1 Report to Council Re: OCP Updates- Housing Needs

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0333/2025

THAT the Report to Council and the Village of Tahsis - Official Community Plan be received.

CARRIED

Corey Cooper from McElhanney presented the results of the 2024 housing needs assessment to council highlighting the key findings and recommendations for updating the Village of Tahsis' Official Community Plan. The six main areas of focus from the housing needs report were: affordable housing, rental housing, low barrier housing, housing for seniors, housing for families and addressing homelessness. The recommendations for the OCP updates and policy changes to reflect these needs were presented.

Council raised concerns about the population data projections to which staff responded.

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0334/2025

THAT option # 1 is approved (Council receives the recommendations and associated report, gives First and Second Reading to Bylaw No. 675, 2025 and schedules a Public Hearing on October 21, 2025, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for review and comment from the community).

CARRIED

Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025

First and Second Reading

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0335/2025

THAT the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025 be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0336/2025

THAT the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025 receive a first reading this 16th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0337/2025

THAT the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025 receive a second reading this 16th day of September, 2025.

CARRIED

2 2025 UBCM Official Opposition Meeting Opportunities

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0338/2025

THAT discussions continue on this email received at the September 2, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

CARRIED

Councillor Lenahan presented this meeting invitation from the Official Opposition at the 2025 UBCM as an opportunity to discuss issues with the HBFSR maintenance. Council discussed extending an invitation to our local MLA to attend the Village of Tahsis' quarterly Committee of the Whole meetings with Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the Ministry of Forests regarding the maintenance of the Head Bay Forest Service Road.

Northcott/Lenahan: VOT 0339/2025

THAT Staff extend invitations to our MLA to attend our quarterly meetings with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit and the Ministry of Forests.

CARRIED

3 Report to Council Re: SPARC Local Community Accessibility Grant

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0340/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Staff presented the four reported accessibility barriers along with an initial budget and costs estimates for addressing three of the four barriers.

Councillor Lenahan provided additional insights from her community consultations, suggesting solutions such as a pool ramp, change table, privacy curtains and grab bars and other improvements.

Council debated options for the SPARC Local Community Accessibility grant. Discussions included: timelines and grant window concerns, staff capacity and involvement, scope issues, use of a consultant, obtaining a letter of support from the Strathcona Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee and role challenges.

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0341/2025

THAT option #3 be approved (Council not proceed with making an application under the SPARC Local Community Accessibility grant program.

CARRIED
1 registered
no to
Councillor
Lenahan

4 Re : Canada Community Building Fund, Strategic Priority Fund North Maquinna Integrated Corridor project – grant application resolution

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0342/2025

THAT this resolution be received and considered.

CARRIED

Council and staff discussed the submission of a grant for the North Maquinna Integrated Corridor Upgrade project. Staff clarified the Village's financial contribution and addressed concerns about the project scope, process and potential cost overruns.

The North Maquinna Integrated Corridor project combines water and sewer main upgrades, with \$250,000 Village contributed already allocated for in the budget from the Growing Communities Fund.

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0343/2025

THAT Council request staff to submit the North Maquinna Integrated Corridor Upgrade project to the Strategic Priorities Fund 2025 Grant Intake under the Capital Asset category in the amount of \$5,713,765; and

THAT Council agree that any cost overruns to the project will be funded from reserve funds designated for investments in capital infrastructure; and

THAT the 2026-2030 financial plan include a capital expenditure budget provision in budget year 2026 in the amount of \$5,713,765; and

THAT \$250,000 be allocated in the 2026 financial year as the Village's contribution towards this project.

CARRIED

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

On September 3, the North Island experienced an extensive internet outage which included cell coverage. This was an unusual outage and was traced to somebody cutting a fibre optic line beside the Island Highway. This act of sabotage was not explained to my knowledge. Having redundant internet lines will go a long ways towards mitigating these kind of acts as well as from other causes. The Connected Coast infrastructure is still not online but will help to prevent this in the future.

On September 10, I was part of the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Just Like Home facility in Campbell River. The Strathcona Regional District has been working for the last five years to bring it to this point. This facility, close to the Campbell River Hospital, will provide accommodations for families from remote communities such as ours when one of the family has a hospital stay. After the ceremony, I met Anna Kindy, our recently elected MLA. We had good discussions about various issues such as the state of our road, First Nation land claims and the state of health care on the North Island (she is herself a medical professional). She has promised to be a staunch advocate for Tahsis issues and is willing to go to bat for our advocacy for an extended care senior's home in Tahsis as well as paving of our road.

On the subject of seniors, there is a survey being conducted by the University of Victoria to identify research priorities on aging and technology that matters most to the community. I have included the link here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/iqdBxsiDTX>

I would also like to mention the recent passing of Rusty Turner, spouse of Brenda Overton. He was a longtime member of our community, working as a faller for many years. I wish to extend condolences to Brenda and his family.

Councillor Northcott

No report.

Condolences to Brenda Overton and her family.

Councillor Lenahan

As many of you know, our Business Liaison Committee has been working on draft updates to our Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan. Over the last several months, we have been making draft updates to the plans based on community conversations, committee discussions and using documents such as the Age Friendly Action Plan, the 2019 Community Survey, our Official Community Plan and the recent Housing Needs report.

We made minor adaptations to the current EcDev Strategic Priorities and introduced several new draft Goals & Actions. Then our committee decided to take the Goals and Actions out to the community to see how they resonate with local residents and business owners. We did this through an Open House format and by launching a survey. We had a great response to both.

The Open House was attended by almost 40 people over two days and the survey received 56 responses. I want to say thank you to everyone who came out, to our chair, Councillor Moore and to my volunteer committee colleagues who worked hard and collaborated beautifully to make this all happen.

At this juncture, we have been offered staff support to analyze the results of the survey and report back to our committee. After that we will be bringing those results to this table.

The plan from there is to decide where the community validated our draft updates, and where we may want to narrow down or add new ideas to the draft Goals and Actions. We look forward to bringing this work to you in the near future for consideration.

Councillor Moore

No report.

Councillor Fowler (verbal report)

I will be running for the Small Community Representative at UBCM.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0344/2025

THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

L. Correspondence

- 1 August 31, 2025 email from Mervyn Brown to Mayor and Council - Re: The Flood Project .**

- 2 September 10, 2025 email from Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant, School District 84- Vancouver Island West to Mayor and Council Re: meeting invitation with SD84 Board of Education on October 15, 2025.**

- 3 September 5, 2025 email from Dallas Brodie, MLA, Vancouver-Quilchena Re: 2025 UBCM - Invitation to a one-on-one meeting and or/ DRIPA round table event.**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0345/2025

THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0346/2025

THAT correspondence items #1 and #2 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

- L1 August 31, 2025 email from Mervyn Brown to Mayor and Council - Re: The Flood Project .**

Council discussed sending a letter in response to the resident's email explaining the current status of the Flood Project and the next steps.

Northcott/Fowler: VOT 0347/2025

THAT Staff write a letter in response to Mr. Brown' inquiry for the Mayor's signature.

CARRIED

- September 10, 2025 email from Ellena Gjesdal, Executive Assistant, School
L2 District 84- Vancouver Island West to Mayor and Council Re: meeting
invitation with SD84 Board of Education on October 15, 2025.**

Council discussed this invite and their availability to attend. Mayor Davis, Councillor Fowler and Councillor Lenahan confirmed their attendance. Councillor Northcott will attend if there is a virtual attendance option. Issues to be raised at this meeting included teacher attrition and food production programs. Staff to follow up with SD84 to confirm if an online or phone-in option will be available for this meeting.

- M. New Business**
- September 3, 2025 letter from Mark Baker, Chair, Strathcona Regional
1 District to the Ministry of Transportation and Transit Re: Village of Tahsis
Meeting Request.**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0348/2025

THAT this email be received for information.

CARRIED

- 2 Report to Council: Tahsis Canada Day Celebration**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0349/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Council thanked staff and volunteers for the Canada Day Celebration.
Council discussed funding this event in the budget.

- 3 Village of Tahsis- Appointment of Chief Election Officer and Deputy Chief
Election Officer**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0350/2025

THAT pursuant to Section 58(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act Amanda Knibbs be appointed as Chief Election Officer for conducting the 2026 General Election with the power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2026 General Election; and

THAT Trina Consalvi be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2026 General Election.

CARRIED

- 4 Tahsis Seniors' society letter of support for New Horizons grant**

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0351/2025

THAT this draft letter of support be received.

CARRIED

Staff clarified that the Village's role is primarily to provide support rather than administer the grant.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0352/2025

THAT this draft letter of support be approved.

CARRIED

N. Public Input #2

A member of the public inquired into the Village's contribution percentage for the Village's grant application (item H4) under the Strategic Priorities Fund. Staff responded that this grant is 100% funded.

O. Adjournment

Northcott/Lanahan VOT 0353/2025

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED

**Certified Correct this
7th day of October, 2025**



Chief Administrative Officer