



Minutes

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<u>Meeting</u>	<b>Regular Council Meeting</b>
<u>Date</u>	<b>January 20, 2026</b>
<u>Time</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Place</u>	<b>Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means</b>

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<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore Councillor Cheryl Northcott	<b>by video</b>
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<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance Kyle Wilkinson, Fire Chief Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	<b>by video</b> <b>by video</b>
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<u>Public</u>	17 members of the public.	<b>7 by video</b>
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**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** M1 to follow the adoption of the minutes.

**C. Approval of the Agenda**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0047/2026**  
**THAT** the Agenda for the January 20,2026 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as amended.

**CARRIED**

**D. Delegation** None.

**E. Public Input # 1** A member of the public thanked the Tahsis Volunteer Fire Department.

**F. Adoption of the Minutes**

**1 January 6, 2026 Standing Committee of the Business Liaison Minutes.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0048/2026**

**THAT** the Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting minutes of January 6, 2026 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**2 January 6, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0049/2026**

**THAT** the Regular Council Meeting minutes of January 6, 2026 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3 January 7, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0050/2026**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes of January 7, 2026 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**G. Rise and Report**

None.

**M. New Business**

**1 Report to Council Re: Fire Incident Update.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0051/2026**

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

The Village of Tahsis Fire Chief presented fire incident statistics noting that since September 2023 there have been 12 structure fires reported to the Fire Commissioner's Office. The Fire Chief also referenced historical data, noting 39 structure fires in the community since 1998.

Concern was expressed over the lack of working smoke detectors in homes as only two of the recent structure fires involved homes with functioning fire detectors. The Fire Chief explained that previous campaigns involving the handing out of fire detectors had limited long-term impact due to detectors being removed by tenants or not installed. The need for direct installation by fire personnel was emphasized.

The Fire Chief clarified that by Council's decision in 2016, the department operates as an exterior-only fire fighting service, meaning firefighters do not enter burning buildings. This policy places the responsibility on residents to ensure early detections and self-evacuation, making working smoke detectors critical for safety.

Plans were announced for a community fire safety meeting on February 9th, 2026 at the Senior's Centre, aiming to address fire prevention and self-extraction strategies in the event of a fire.

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0052/2026**

**THAT** the discussion be opened up to public input.

**CARRIED**

During public input, residents raised concerns about single egress in some houses, the need for self extraction tools, and the importance of calling the fire department promptly for chimney fires.

**H. Business Arising**

**1**

**Report to Council Re: Standing Committee of Business Liaison (SCBL) Annual Review of Objectives and Scope.**

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0053/2026**

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

The CAO presented an analysis of the committee's effectiveness, noting that its main achievement was facilitating community consultation for the Strategic Economic Development Plan. The review highlight that while the committee did not deliver on education or training opportunities, it contributed to policy recommendations and community engagement.

Council discussed the significant staff time required to support the committee and the additional burden posed by the upcoming General Local Election. Options considered included dissolving the committee, reducing the meeting frequency, or transitioning to an ad hoc meeting model.

Committee members and public participants expressed strong support for the committee's continuation, emphasizing its role in connecting residents to council. Suggestions included reducing meetings to quarterly and focusing on core objectives, while some expressed concern that fewer meetings might hinder progress.

**Moore/Fowler: VOT 0054/2026**

**THAT** option # 1 be approved (deem the receipt and consideration of this staff report as satisfying the annual review requirements of the SCBL's Terms of Reference).

**CARRIED**

**Lenahan/Moore: VOT 0055/2026**

**THAT** the SCBL continue with an amended objective (to interact with Mayor and Council and to develop a dialogue to enable the delivery and future development of the Strategic Economic Development Plan) and the following amended scope:

- 1) Identify alternative funding opportunities and grants for business and tourism development.
- 2) Consider information, suggestions and recommendations for economic development and business growth working within the approved Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action plan.
- 3) Consult with the public as per the existing Economic Development Plan mandate

and;  
THAT the meetings be held quarterly.

CARRIED

## J. Council Reports

### Mayor Davis

The pool has been closed for up to four months to deal with ventilation and other issues, which have been leading to growth of mold within the building. An extended closure is necessary to deal with these issues which can constitute a health hazard. A new pool cover will be installed which will also help reduce excessive humidity and condensation within the structure.

Just a little public service announcement: with the cold weather, the wolves are back in town. Please don't leave your pets out at night, including penned. The owner should be present when letting it out and it should ideally be on a leash. In the last few years, Village dogs have been attacked and on at least one occasion, killed. A bear was also killed within the Village.

I would like to extend our sympathies to Councillor Moore and his family regarding the fire at their home, resulting in extensive damage. I had asked for the fire chief to produce a broad report on the multiple structure fires that have occurred within the Village in the last two years or so. It is included in this agenda.

Yesterday I met with our MLA, Anna Kindy, to advocate for improvement to the Head Bay Forest Service Road, which she has agreed to do once we provide her with further information. My goal is to secure a meeting directly with the Minister of Transportation to make the case for paving the road and its positive implications for economic development of our community. I was also advocating for renewed funding for the Island Coastal Economic Trust and believe that the MLA is willing to advocate for this. The Village of Tahsis has received grants from ICET in the past.

### Councillor Northcott

No report.

### Councillor Lenahan

No report.

### Councillor Moore (verbal report)

My only report would be that I will once again thank our fire department and ambulance service and say that we have one of the most beautiful communities on the planet. I'm overwhelmed. Thank you.

### Councillor Fowler

My report this week includes a draft letter from correspondence regarding the Salmon Allocation Policy.

Additionally, I have a notice of motion (Re: Elect Respect) that I am bringing forward, which I learned about through my participation on the AVICC Executive board. As 2026 is a municipal election year my hope is to both attend emerging local issues that require federal advocacy in addition to encouraging civil civics this fall.

Attachment #1 Draft letter re: Salmon Allocation Policy & Notice of Motion - Re: "Elect Respect".

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0056/2026**  
**THAT** the Council Reports be received.

**CARRIED**

**K. Bylaws**

None.

**L. Correspondence**

- 1** January 10, 2026 email from Erin Murphy, Moutcha Bay Resort Manager, Nootka Marine Adventures Re: Tahsis Feedback Salmon Allocation Policy Proposed Changes.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0057/2026**  
**THAT** this correspondence item be received.

**CARRIED**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0058/2026**  
**THAT** correspondence item #1 be pulled for discussion.

**CARRIED**

- L1** January 10, 2026 email from Erin Murphy, Moutcha Bay Resort Manager, Nootka Marine Adventures Re: Tahsis Feedback Salmon Allocation Policy Proposed Changes.

Council reviewed the correspondence regarding proposed changes to the Salmon Allocation Policy, which would shift priority from recreational to commercial fisheries after First Nations, potentially reducing local access to Coho and Chinook salmon and impacting the duration and the scope of recreational fishing.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0059/2026**  
**THAT** Erin Murphy, Manager of Moutcha Bay Resort, be permitted to speak to her letter, correspondence item "L1".

**CARRIED**

The manager of Moutcha Bay Resort explained that the proposed changes would have significant ramifications for local businesses and the broader community, as many local business are tied to the recreational fishery.

**Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0060/2026**

**THAT** Council submit a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans advocating for continued prioritization of recreational fishing, incorporating local economic data and stakeholder input.

**CARRIED**

**M. New Business**

**2 Report to Council Re: Preliminary scope of repairs to the Tahsis Recreation Centre Swimming Pool Complex.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0061/2026**

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

**CARRIED**

The CAO outlined the key components of the repair work required to safely and legally reopen the Recreation Centre pool.

The pool is closed until at least April 30, 2026 to address water damage from the leaking HVAC equipment, structural deficiencies in the roof deck, extensive mold remediation and failures in the water air re-circulation and boiler systems.

**3 2026 AVICC (Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities) Convention and AGM - April 24-26, 2026.**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0062/2026**

**THAT** Council discuss the number of delegates to send to the 2026 AVICC Convention and AGM.

Attendance at the 2026 AVICC convention was discussed, with councillors considering the benefits of attendance and budget implications. All members of Council had the opportunity to express their interest in attending this convention.

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0063/2026**

**THAT** Council send Mayor Martin Davis, Councillor Ryan Moore and Councillor Sarah Fowler to the 2026 AVICC Convention and AGM.

**CARRIED**

**1 registered  
"no vote"  
Councillor  
Lenahan**

**N. Public Input #2**

A member of the public expressed strong support for the continuation of the Standing Committee of Business Liaison and expressed concern that fewer meetings might hinder progress.

Several residents emphasized importance of the recreation centre for the community. One resident suggested expanding concession options and another inquired about the possibility of renting the kitchen space for commercial ventures. Council agreed to consider these suggestions and review related policies.

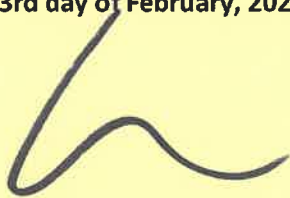
**O. Adjournment**

**Fowler/Moore: VOT 0064/23026**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**Certified Correct this  
3rd day of February, 2026.**



**Chief Administrative Officer**

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Re: Fowler report: Jan 20 2026 a)draft response to correspondence b)The Resolution —notice of motion/ ELECT RESPECT

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Fowler report: Jan 20 2026

My report this week includes a draft letter from correspondence regarding the Salmon Allocation program.

Additionally, I have a notice of motion (resolution forwarded below) that I am bringing forward, which I learned about through my participation on the AVICC Executive board. As 2026 is a municipal election year my hope is to both attend emerging local issues that require federal advocacy in addition to encourage civil civics this fall.

Pleased to share for information and consideration, in hopes of receiving endorsement from the entire village of Tahsis council.

1. draft response to correspondence
- b) Resolution —notice of motion/ ELECT RESPECT

[DFO.SAPReviewBC-PASRevueBC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.SAPReviewBC-PASRevueBC.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

January 5, 2026

Subject: DFO SAP Review “Consultation Process” Input  
Submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the Village of Tahsis

Attention: DFO SAP Review Public Consultation Team

On behalf of the Village of Tahsis, I am writing to express our community's perspective on the proposed changes to the Salmon Allocation Policy. Nestled on the rugged west coast of Vancouver Island, Tahsis is a unique rural coastal community renowned for its salmon fishing, seasonal tourism and pristine natural environment. Our village is defined by its strong connection to the land and waters, which shape both our local identity and our way of life.

Recreational salmon fishing is a cornerstone of our Tahsis economy and a critical economic driver for Nootka Sound. Local businesses, from guiding outfits and Lodges to accommodations, resorts, and restaurants, depend heavily on the influx of anglers drawn to our region's Chinook and Coho salmon runs. The resulting employment opportunities and economic activity are vital

for the sustainability of our small community, providing livelihoods for residents and supporting local growth. Beyond economic benefits, recreational salmon fishing is deeply woven into the social and cultural fabric Tahsis. Generations have gathered on our rivers and inlets, forging bonds, passing down traditions and nurturing a sense of belonging. Recreational fishing contributes significantly to community well-being, offering a healthy outdoor activity that builds resilience, pride, and connection among residents and visitors alike.

The Village of Tahsis and community organizations are also committed to environmental stewardship. Local annual fishing derbies that raise funds for stewardship and collaborative habitat restoration projects exemplify the responsible management and conservation ethic that are central to our community values. These initiatives help ensure the long-term health of salmon populations and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Considering these important factors and the fact that our regional Nootka Sound Watershed Society is leading in riparian enhancement, we respectfully request that priority access for recreational fishers to Chinook and Coho salmon be maintained in the Salmon Allocation Policy. The economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits of recreational fishing in Tahsis and the larger Nootka Sound region are substantial and warrant full consideration in the policy review process. We urge DFO policymakers to recognize the unique character and needs of rural coastal communities like ours as you deliberate on these important changes.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute our perspective and look forward to a policy outcome that supports the continued well-being of Tahsis village in Nootka Sound, and similar communities across coastal BC.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to sustainable fisheries management.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Fowler

Deputy Mayor  
Village of Tahsis

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**From:** Sarah Fowler <[sarahfowlertahsis@gmail.com](mailto:sarahfowlertahsis@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 19, 2026 10:46:40 a.m.  
**To:** Sarah Fowler <[SFowler@villageoftahsis.com](mailto:SFowler@villageoftahsis.com)>  
**Subject:** The Resolution — ELECT RESPECT

<https://electrespect.ca/resolution>

Notice of draft motion

The Resolution

Take action by presenting this resolution to your local Council—it's time to drive change in our community.

WHEREAS democracy is healthy when everyone is able to participate fully and safely and contribute to the well-being of their community;

AND WHEREAS we are witnessing the dissolution of democratic discourse and respectful debate across all levels of government and in neighbouring jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS municipally elected officials are dealing with increasingly hostile, unsafe work environments facing threats and harassment;

AND WHEREAS social media platforms have exacerbated disrespectful dialogue, negative commentary, and toxic engagement which disincentivizes individuals, especially women and candidates from diverse backgrounds from running for office;

AND WHEREAS better decisions are made when democracy is respectful and constructive and the voices of diverse genders, identities, ethnicities, races, sexual orientation, ages and abilities are heard and represented around municipal council tables;

AND WHEREAS the Association of Municipalities of Ontario's Healthy Democracy Project has identified concerning trends with fewer people voting in local elections and running for municipal office;

AND WHEREAS in 2024, female elected representatives from across Halton formed a group called H.E.R. (Halton Elected Representatives) which pledged to speak out against harassment and negativity in politics and call on elected officials to uphold the highest standards of conduct;

AND WHEREAS H.E.R. Halton has launched a campaign called Elect Respect to promote the importance of healthy democracy and safe, inclusive, respectful work environments for all elected officials that encourages individuals to participate in the political process;

AND WHEREAS on June 5, 2025, the Canadian Association of Feminist Parliamentarians launched a non-partisan "Parliamentary Civility Pledge" to encourage all parliamentarians to commit to end workplace harassment and increase civility on Parliament Hill, the BC Legislature and our local Council table.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT \_\_

The Village of Tahsis

\_\_\_\_\_ Council supports the Elect Respect pledge and commits to:

Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online,

Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks,

Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks,

Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office,

Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and

Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.

AND THAT \_\_\_\_

## The Village of Tahsis

\_\_\_ Council calls on elected officials, organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the online pledge at [www.electrespect.ca](http://www.electrespect.ca).

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities, Union of British Columbia Municipalities and Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

### Background.

This draft resolution came to my attention in December 2025, when I added my name. After making some minor edits that added some BC specific language my hope is to bring this resolution forward in the new year.

### Contact

[info@electrespect.ca](mailto:info@electrespect.ca)

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<https://calendly.com/sarahfowlertahsis>

appreciate your time & input

take it easy, smf