



AGENDA

**Regular Meeting of the Village of Tahsis Council
to be held on March 3, 2026 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers
Municipal Hall, 977 South Maquinna Drive and by electronic means**

Remote Access **To attend this meeting remotely via Microsoft Teams/ phone
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A. Call to Order **Mayor Davis will call the meeting to order.**

Land Acknowledgement **Mayor Davis will acknowledge and respect that we are meeting upon Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory.**

B. Introduction of Late Items None.

C. Approval of the Agenda

D. Petitions and Delegations None.

E. Public Input #1

F. Adoption of the Minutes **1 February 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.**

2 February 18, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

G. Rise and Report

- H. Business Arising**
- 1 **Nootka Sound RCMP - Village of Tahsis quarterly report- Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment.**
 - 2 **Reconsideration of Resolution VOT 0055/2026 (January 20, 2026 Regular Council Meeting).**

At the January 20, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Council passed the following resolution.

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.

- J. Council Reports**
- 1 **Mayor Davis**
 - 2 **Councillor Fowler**
 - 3 **Councillor Northcott**
 - 4 **Councillor Lenahan**
 - 5 **Councillor Moore**

- K. Bylaws**
- 1 **Report to Council Re: Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 682, 2026**

Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 682, 2026

1st, 2nd and 3 Readings

- L. Correspondence**
- None.**

- M. New Business**
- 1 **Report to Council Re: Grant Opportunity- 2026-2027 FireSmart Community and Funding Support.**

Public Input # 2

Rise and Report

O. Adjournment



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	February 17, 2026
<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
 Councillor Cheryl Northcott by video

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

Guest Shaun Koopman, Manager, Emergency Services, SRD by video left at
7:12 p.m.

Public 2 members of the public. 2 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 "M1" and "M2" to follow "G".

C. Approval of the Agenda
Fowler/Moore: VOT 0090/2026
THAT the Agenda for the February 17, 2026 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as amended. **CARRIED**

D. Delegation None.

E. Public Input # 1 None.

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 February 3, 2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0091/2026

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of February 3, 2026 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None.

M. New Business

1 Report to Council Re: Regional Grant Opportunity - Growing Community Canopies.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0092/2026

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Shaun Koopman, Manager, Emergency Services, SRD, presented a proposal for the Village of Tahsis to partner with Strathcona Regional District and other municipalities and First Nations on a grant application to the Growing Community Canopies Fund for a regional equity-focused tree planting prioritization study.

The CAO noted that while the study may not generate significant recommendations for Tahsis, a council resolution of support would strengthen the regional grant application, benefiting the broader district and potentially other municipalities.

It was confirmed that there would be no financial costs to Tahsis for participating in this regional grant opportunity.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0093/2026

THAT option # 1 be approved (**THAT** the Village of Tahsis pass a Council Resolution in support of the Strathcona Regional District's application to the 2026 Growing Canada's Community Canopies grant in order to fund a regional equity-focused tree planting prioritization study).

CARRIED

2 Report to Council Re: Regional Grant Opportunity - Emergency Operation Centre

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0094/2026

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Shaun Koopman, Manager, Emergency Services, SRD, presented a proposal for the Village of Tahsis to partner with Strathcona Regional District and other municipalities and First Nations on a grant application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund February 2026 Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) program from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

The proceeds from this grant application would fund the purchase/ installation of a generator and transfer switch at the new fire hall. This grant opportunity is 100% fully funded.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0095/2026

THAT option # 1 be approved (**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 2026 Emergency Operation Centre grant be authorized for submission to the UBCM, in order to fund a generator and transfer switch for the firehall and; **THAT** the Village of Tahsis agrees to the Strathcona Regional District submitting an application on its behalf, and that if funded, agrees to the Strathcona Regional District managing the grant and being the recipient of all funding.)

CARRIED

H. Business Arising

1 Reconsideration of Resolution VOT 0358/2025 (October 7, 2025 Regular Council meeting).

At the October 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Council passed the following resolution.

"Fowler/Moore: VOT 0358/2025

CARRIED

THAT option #1 be approved (approve the survey analysis and community consultation report [attached as "Appendix A"] as presented and request staff to prepare an updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan incorporating the results presented in the report and present the updated Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan to the Standing Committee for Business Liaison for review and comment before submitting these documents to Council for consideration)."

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0096/2026

THAT resolution # VOT 0358/2025 be reconsidered.

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

Some members of Council had expressed an interest in reviewing the draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan prior to a budget meeting. The CAO provided guidance to Council on the procedural requirements necessary to review the draft documents ahead of the Standing Committee of Business Liaison.

After reconsideration, Council agreed not to rescind the original resolution, allowing the draft Strategic Economic Development Plan and Action Plan to return to the committee for review.

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

No report.

Councillor Northcott

No report.

Councillor Lenahan

No report.

Councillor Moore

No report.

Councillor Fowler

No report.

K. Bylaws

1 None.

L. Correspondence

1 **February 2, 2026 email from Mike Mountan to Mayor and Council Re: Cardiac Climb Safety Issues.**

2 **Epilepsy Awareness Month - Proclamation Draft Re: Proclaim Wednesday March 26, 2026 as "Purple Day".**

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0097/2026

THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Lenahan/Fowler: VOT 0098/2026

THAT correspondence item L1 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

1 **February 2, 2026 email from Mike Mountan to Mayor and Council Re: Cardiac Climb Safety Issues.**

Councillor Lenahan spoke to this correspondence and the resident's concern about a deteriorating stump under a section of pavement on Cardiac Climb and the overall poor condition of this municipal street.

Council and staff discussed the limitation of temporary fixes with such a small budget for cold patch (currently \$500), the need to prioritize repairs, and the operational nature of these decisions, while considering the possibility of increasing the road repair/ cold patch budget.

Moore/ Lenahan: VOT 0099/2026

THAT Staff respond on behalf of Council to Mike Mountan's email that Council received his email and that Council is in annual budget deliberations, which includes the road maintenance and repair budget.

CARRIED

M. New Business

3 Councillor Fowler's Motion Supporting the Elect Respect Campaign.

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 at our local council table;

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; BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Village of Tahsis Council call on elected officials and organizations and community members to support the Elect Respect campaign and sign the on-line pledge at 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.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0100/2026

THAT this motion be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Councillor Fowler spoke to her motion in support of the Elect Respect campaign. Council discussed the motion's overlap with the existing code of conduct, its symbolic value and possible actions. Council debated whether to take concrete actions such as sharing the campaign on social media or sending it to higher bodies, ultimately agreeing to limit the motion to a symbolic endorsement. The last two paragraphs of the motion were deleted to remove the need for any operational follow-up.

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0101/2026

THAT this motion be approved as amended (last two paragraphs in yellow removed).

N. Public Input #2

None.

O. Adjournment

Fowler/Moore: VOT 0102/2026

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified Correct this

3rd day of March, 2026

Chief Administrative Officer



Minutes	Village of Tahsis
Meeting	Committee of the Whole- Budget Meeting #5
Date	February 18, 2026
Time	7 p.m.
Place	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

Present	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Cheryl Northcott Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore	by video by video
Staff	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	by video by video
Public	12 members of the public	5 by video

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.

Introduction of Late Items

None.

Approval of the Agenda

Moore: COW 0017/2026

THAT the Agenda for the February 18, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

M. New Business

- 1 2026-2030 Financial Plan/ Budget Meeting #5**

Moore: COW 0018/2026

THAT this presentation be received.

CARRIED

The Director of Finance presented to Council and the members of the public the proposed 2026-2030 Financial Plan and the 2026 Operating Budget, outlining the 2026 budget meeting schedule, the public consultation process and the budget adoption requirements.

The presentation of the 2026 Operating Budget highlighted the current deficit, the main cost drivers and options for balancing the budget. The options for balancing the budget included: reducing services, reducing transfers to reserves, increasing taxes or some combination of these options. Council discussed the implications of each option.

There was a lengthy discussion on the road maintenance budget. Council discussed the inadequacy of the current road maintenance budget, funding source limitations, recommended annual maintenance budget and addressing the backlog of repairs.

The budget presentation included a detailed overview of the current reserve balances and the proposed 2026 transfers to reserves.

The proposed 5 year capital plan presentation included a review of the ongoing and proposed projects.

For the benefit of members of the public who had not attended prior budget meetings, the Director of Finance explained the impact of BC Assessment value changes within each class and the use of tax multipliers to shift the tax burden among property classes. Adjustments to the tax multipliers to be explored at the April 8, 2026 Budget meeting.

Fowler: COW 0019/2026

THAT the meeting be opened up to public input.

CARRIED

Several Residents deemed Tahsis Days to be important and a priority.

Members of the public offered the following cost savings and revenue generation suggestions to Council: increasing volunteer engagement for Tahsis Days to save on staffing costs, reducing council and staff travel through more on-line meeting attendance and bringing back Recreation Centre user fees.

The CAO provided some history on the rec centre user fees, noting a substantial increase in usage after the fees were removed.

Several residents supported road repair even if it meant an increase in taxes.

There were questions regarding the East Wing School Project, The Library Project and Hangar Building repairs to which Council and Staff responded.

Moore: COW 0020/2026

THAT \$15,000 be budgeted for road repairs and cold patching, a total of \$3,500 (\$2,500 in addition to the \$1,000 presently budgeted) be budgeted for climbing wall operations and \$7,800 **CARRIED** be budgeted for staff wages and benefits to plan and execute Tahsis Days in 2026.

Adjournment

Fowler: COW 0021/2026

THAT the meeting adjourn at 9:58 p.m.

CARRIED

Certified correct this
3rd day of March, 2026

Corporate Officer

VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council
From: Director of Finance
Date: February 18, 2026
Re: Revenue Anticipation Bylaw No. 682, 2026

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To obtain Council approval to give three readings to Revenue Anticipation Bylaw No. 682, 2026, to authorize short-term borrowing, if required, to meet the lawful and regular financial expenditures of the Village for the 2026 fiscal year.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES

1. Give first, second, and third readings to Revenue Anticipation Bylaw No. 682, 2026.
2. Any other option that Council deems appropriate.

BACKGROUND:

Municipal revenues are not received evenly throughout the year. While expenditures such as payroll, utilities, insurance, and contract services occur consistently beginning in January, most property tax revenues are not collected until July or later.

To manage this annual timing difference, municipalities adopt a Revenue Anticipation Bylaw early in the year. This bylaw authorizes the Village to borrow funds on a short-term basis, if required, in anticipation of current year revenues. Although the Village has capital activity planned in 2026, including the Community Boat Launch project, this bylaw is not being brought forward to finance capital works. Capital projects are funded through approved reserves, grants, or other dedicated sources. The purpose of this bylaw is to ensure sufficient working capital to meet regular operating expenditures and maintain uninterrupted service delivery should temporary cash flow pressures arise.

The bylaw provides authority only and does not obligate the Village to borrow. Any funds borrowed under this authority must be included within the 5 year Financial Plan and repaid no later than December 31, 2026.

POLICY/LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS:

Section 177 of the Community Charter authorizes municipalities to borrow money necessary to meet current lawful expenditures, provided that:

- *The borrowing is repaid within the same calendar year; and*

- *The total amount borrowed does not exceed legislated limits based on anticipated revenues.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed bylaw authorizes borrowing up to the legislated maximum (not exceeding 75% of estimated current year property tax revenues). Borrowing will occur only if necessary to manage short-term cash flow. Interest costs apply only to the amount borrowed and for the duration it remains outstanding.

Short-term interest rates are variable and subject to market conditions at the time of borrowing. Any interest expense incurred will be reported to Council through regular financial updates. Adoption of Revenue Anticipation Bylaw No. 682, 2026 is considered prudent financial management and ensures the Village can continue to meet payroll, supplier payments, and operational obligations without disruption.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY:

N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Option #1

Respectfully submitted:



Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA
Director of Finance

Attached: Revenue Anticipation Bylaw 682, 2026 (draft).



VILLAGE OF TAH SIS

REVENUE ANTICIPATION BORROWING BYLAW No. 682, 2026

A BYLAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE BORROWING OF MONEY IN ANTICIPATION OF REVENUE

WHEREAS the Village of Tahsis does not have sufficient money on hand to meet the current lawful expenditures of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by Section 177 of the *Community Charter* that Council may, without the assent of the electors or the approval of the Inspector of Municipalities, provide for the borrowing of such sums of money as may be necessary to meet the current lawful expenditures of the municipality provided that the total of the outstanding liabilities does not exceed the sum of:

- a) The whole amount remaining unpaid of the taxes for all purposes levied during the current year, provided that prior to the adoption of the annual property tax bylaw in any year, the amount of the taxes during the current year for this purpose shall be deemed to be 75% of the taxes levied for all purposes in the immediately preceding year; and
- b) The whole amount of any sums of money remaining due from other governments;

AND WHEREAS there are no liabilities outstanding under Section 177;

AND WHEREAS the total amount of liability that Council may incur is one million one hundred thirty- six thousand three hundred forty-six dollars (\$1,136,346) made up of the sum of eight hundred five thousand three hundred and forty six dollars (\$805,346), being 75% of the whole amount of the taxes levied for all purposes in prior year, and three hundred and thirty one thousand dollars (\$331,000), being the whole amount of the sum of money remaining due from other governments;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Tahsis, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited as "Revenue Anticipation Borrowing Bylaw No. 682, 2026."
2. The Council shall be and is hereby empowered and authorized to borrow upon the credit of the municipality an amount or amounts not exceeding the sum of one million one hundred thirty- six thousand three hundred forty-six dollars (\$1,136,346)
3. The form of obligation to be given as acknowledgement of the liability shall be a promissory

note or notes bearing the corporate seal and signed by the Mayor and the officer assigned the responsibility of financial administration of the municipality.

4. All unpaid taxes and the taxes of the current year when levied or so much thereof as may be necessary shall, when collected, be used to repay the money so borrowed.

READ a first time this 3rd day of March, 2026

READ a second time this 3rd day of March, 2026

READ a third time this 3rd day of March, 2026

Reconsidered, Finally Passed and Adopted this day of March, 2026

MAYOR

CORPORATE OFFICER

VILLAGE OF TAHSIS

Report to Council

To: Mayor and Council

From: M. Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer
K. Wilkinson, Fire Chief

Date: March 3, 2026

Re: **Grant Opportunity – 2026-2027 FireSmart Community & Funding Support**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To consider a grant application to the Community Resiliency Investment 2026-2027 FireSmart Community and Funding Supports program to fund supports to increase the Village of Tahsis' resiliency to wildfires.

OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES

1. *Provide a resolution as drafted*
2. *Decline to provide a resolution*
3. *Any option that Council deems appropriate*

Staff recommends **Option 1** in order to pursue this funding opportunity.

BACKGROUND:

The FireSmart Community Funding and Supports program provides funding to First Nations and local governments in BC to increase community resiliency by undertaking community-based FireSmart planning and activities to reduce the community's risk from wildfire. In order to qualify for funding, the Village of Tahsis must pass a Council Resolution acknowledging its willingness to provide overall grant management. Eligible applicants with low risk of wildfire may apply for up to \$150,000 per year (for up to two years) and may submit one application per intake. Tahsis is designated a Wildfire Urban Interface Risk Class 5 (the lowest risk rating). The deadline to submit this grant application is April 30, 2026.

The grant application proposes that the Village would utilize this grant to:

- Provide FireSmart rebates to residential property owners;
- Update its Community Wildfire Protection Plan;
- Hire a seasonal FireSmart Crew Member;
- Purchase Structural Protection Unit equipment;
- Fund additional salary and benefits for the Fire Chief (FireSmart Coordinator) to conduct FireSmart activities as an enhanced service and the wages and benefits for a seasonal FireSmart Crew member;
- Fund the Village's overhead costs associated with administering this program;
- Offer free (organic) yard waste pickup;
- Provide funding to the Strathcona Regional District for continued access to two their Wildfire Risk Reduction Coordinators to assist the Village with administering the grant activities; and

- Support members of the Tahsis Volunteer Fire Department with wildfire training and fund the travel and conference costs for attending the annual BC Wildfire Resiliency Summit.

Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP)

The Village's current Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was approved by Council in 2020 and in order for the Village to continue to be eligible for FireSmart grant funding the CWPP needs to be updated utilizing the 2024 CWRP Standard. A Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan focuses on the Village's boundaries and integrates the seven FireSmart principles of education, emergency planning, vegetation management, legislation, development considerations, interagency cooperation, and cross-training. The key goals of the Community Wildfire Resiliency Planning process are to:

- Increase communities' capacity and understanding of wildfire risk;
- Foster greater collaboration within and across administrative boundaries; and
- Develop achievable and accountable action items.

Through the grant, a maximum of \$35,850 can be allocated to updating the CWRP. The Strathcona Regional District will undertake a multi-community Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan development and update process on behalf of several municipalities and First Nations in 2026. The Village has the opportunity to realize grant cost savings and administration efficiently by joining the SRD's Request for Proposal process. Any cost savings achieved on this grant project will be invested in other eligible activities such as procurement of Structural Protection Unit equipment.

FireSmart Crew Member

The application includes hiring a temporary (12-weeks long) summer position in 2026 and 2027. The FireSmart Crew Member would report to the Fire Chief and be responsible for assisting property owners with undertaking low-risk FireSmart work on their properties as well as supporting public education through school presentations and a booth at community events. The FireSmart Crew Member's job duties would be:

- Attending community events to engage with the public and distribute FireSmart information.
- Undertaking general yard work on private property, including moving firewood, raking debris and cleaning gutters.
 - Gutter cleaning is limited to gutters, not above 10 feet off the ground.
- Vegetation management, including pruning and brushing.
 - Branch pruning up to 6-feet off the ground.
- Maintenance, setup, and cleaning of the Fire Department's Structural Protection Unit equipment.

The grant allows for a maximum of \$5,000 to be spent on tools and personal protective equipment to support this position, therefore the budget reflects the maximum amount permitted.

FireSmart Rebates

Tahsis property owners could apply for a FireSmart rebate for any amount between \$500 and \$5000. The rebate is a 50% cost share with the property owner. This means the owner must complete \$1,000 worth of mitigation work to receive \$500. It is proposed that the rebate limit for this project be set at \$2,500 per property.

Purchase Structural Protection Unit Equipment

Structure Protection Units (SPU) are trailers that contain pertinent equipment such as pumps, hoses, sprinklers and water delivery attachments for structure protection and defense. The grant allows for a maximum of \$50,000 per year to be spent on SPU equipment.

Wildfire Resiliency & Training Summit

Once a year, the Wildfire Resiliency & Training Summit brings together wildfire practitioners from all over BC and beyond. With speakers and workshops, attendees explore how to make homes, communities, and the landscape more resilient to wildfires. While the grant allows for funding of up to \$2,200 per attendee, additional travel costs are permitted for remote communities. The grant application proposes an additional travel cost of \$1,000 per attendee as the locations of the 2027 and 2028 Wildfire Resiliency & Training Summit have not been confirmed.

Wildfire Training for Tahsis Volunteer Fire Department

It is proposed that this grant be utilized to provide the following wildfire training for Tahsis Volunteer Fire Department members:

- 14 members – Incident Command System Level 100. Participants will learn the system for command, control and coordination of response at an emergency site.
- 4 members – Fire & Life Safety Educator. Participants will gain knowledge and skills to deliver sound public education to their communities.
- 14 members – S-100 (Basic Fire Suppression and Safety) / S-185 (Fire Entrapment Avoidance). Participants will learn about basic wildfire suppression tactics, safety and entrapment avoidance
- 4 members – S-231 Engine Boss. Participants will learn the skills and knowledge needed to perform in the position of Engine Boss in a structure defense capacity.
- 4 members – SPP-115 Wildland Structure Protection Program. Participants will learn exterior sprinkler applications and other structure protection techniques utilizing FireSmart principles.

ICS 100 and Fire Safety Lifeline Educator are offered through an online, self-paced format. An instructor will be contracted to teach the 2-day long S-100 / S-185 combination course in Tahsis. Regarding the SPP-115 and S-231 courses, the BC Wildfire Service hosts these courses in various communities throughout the year. While the cost of the course is free, the proposed budget represents for this course encompasses the stipend received by Tahsis Volunteer Fire Department members, 4 nights of accommodation per member, and mileage reimbursement for two vehicles.

Curbside Debris Removal (Chipping)

The Village has historically offered free curbside wood debris chipping for road-accessible properties. Residents place wood debris at the edge of their driveways for chipping, and the debris is disposed of in accordance with UBCM policy. When the Village previously offered this service in 2022 the cost was \$2,500 therefore a budget of \$3,500 has been allocated for this service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The grant is 100% fully funded. The proposed budget is provided below.

Item	Cost
Year 1 – May 2026 to May 2027	
Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan update	\$35,850
Additional salary and benefits for the - Fire Chief for the enhanced service assisting with administering grant activities and undertaking the Local FireSmart Coordinator role	\$28,308.03
Structural protection unit equipment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark-3 pumps \$10,524.94 x 2 = \$21,049.88 - Portable 11,356L tanks \$1,800.85 x 2 = \$3,601.71 - Duel fuel line for pumps \$185.11 x 2 = \$307.22 - Budget based on equipment previously purchased by SRD for other community SPU trailers 	\$24,958.81
Village administration costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the grant guidelines the Village is permitted to allocated up to 10% of the budget to assist with internal costs of administering this grant. 	\$15,000
Wages and benefits- seasonal FireSmart Crew Member	\$13,933.27
Attending annual Wildfire Resiliency Training Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant eligibility of \$2,200/members x 2 members = \$4,400 - Additional travel costs due to remote location of Tahsis - \$1,000 allocation per member x 2 members = \$2,000 	\$6,400
S100 / S185 Fire Safety Combination Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$350/member x 14 members = \$4,900 - \$25 stipend per day x 14 members x 2 days = \$700 	\$5,600
Tools and personal protective equipment for FireSmart Crew Member	\$5,000
Strathcona Regional District – Wildfire Risk Reduction Coordinator administration assistance costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$50/hour x 100 hours = \$5,000 	\$5,000
Free (organic) yard waste pickup – wood chipping provided by contractor	\$3,500
Public education and FireSmart branded materials (give aways) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Budget based on similar order of t-shirts, totes, temporary tattoos, toques, mugs and sporks SRD has ordered for other communities. 	\$2,649.53
Fire Safety & Lifeline Educator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$550/member x 4 members = \$2,200 - Training stipend \$25/member x 4 members = \$100 	\$2,300
Incident Command System Level 100 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$70/member x 14 members = \$980 - Training stipend \$25/member x 14 members = \$350 	\$1,330
Total	\$149,829.64
Year 2 May 2027 – May 2028	

<p>FireSmart rebates for residential property owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of \$2,500 per property x 13 properties. 	\$32,500
<p>Additional salary and benefits for the - Fire Chief for the enhanced service assisting with administering grant activities and undertaking the Local FireSmart Coordinator role</p>	\$32,797.75
<p>Structural protection unit equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Butterfly Sprinklers = $\\$320.22 \times 15 = \\$4,803.28$ - Large Set-Spike Sprinkler = $\\$70.33 \times 50 = \\$3,516.55$ - Small Set-Spike Sprinkler = $\\$70.33 \times 50 = \\$3,516.55$ - Mercedes Forest Guard II Hose = $\\$299.94 \times 10 = \\$2,999.42$ - Gutter Mount Sprinkler = $\\$63.37 \times 1,584.25$ - Pump Tool Kits = $\\$1,551.50 \times 2 = \\$3,103$ - Portable Berms for Pump Sites = $\\$262.15 \times 2 = \\524.30 - Firefighting Axe = $\\$375.88$ - Backpack Pump = $\\$256.75$ - Pulaski Axe = $\\$48.11$ - Firefighting shovel = $\\$15.08$ 	\$20,743.16
<p>Wages and benefits- seasonal FireSmart Crew Member</p>	\$18,475.51
<p>Village administration costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the grant guidelines the Village is permitted to allocated up to 10% of the budget to assist with internal costs of administering this grant. 	\$15,000
<p>Attending annual Wildfire Resiliency Training Summit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant eligibility of $\\$2,200/\text{members} \times 2 \text{ members} = \\$4,400$ - Additional $\\$1,000 \text{ allocation per member} \times 2 \text{ members} = \\$2,000$ 	\$6,400
<p>S231 Engine Boss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation = $\\$4,000$. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 nights accommodation per person x 4 members x 16 nights x $\\$250/\text{night}$. • Member stipends = $\\$200$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - $\\$25 \text{ per member per day} \times 4 \text{ members} \times 2 \text{ days}$. • Mileage reimbursement = $\\$1,180.88$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - $\\$0.73/\text{km} \times 128\text{km} \times 2 = \\186.88 - $\\$0.61/\text{km} \times 700\text{km} \times 2 = \\994 	\$5,380.88
<p>SPP =115</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation = $\\$4,000$. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 nights accommodation per person x 4 members x 16 nights x $\\$250/\text{night}$. • Member stipends = $\\$200$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - $\\$25 \text{ per member per day} \times 4 \text{ members} \times 2 \text{ days}$. • Mileage reimbursement = $\\$1,180.88$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - $\\$0.73/\text{km} \times 128\text{km} \times 2 = \\186.88 - $\\$0.61/\text{km} \times 700\text{km} \times 2 = \\994 	\$5,380.88

Strathcona Regional District – Wildfire Risk Reduction Coordinator administration assistance costs. - \$50/hr x 100 hours = \$5,000	\$5,000
Free (organic) yard waste pickup – wood chipping provided by contractor	\$3,500
Public education and FireSmart branded materials (give aways) - Budget based on similar order of t-shirts, totes, temporary tattoos, toques, mugs and sporks SRD has ordered for other communities.	\$2,649.53
Total	\$147,827.70
Total Grant	\$297,657.35

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report from the Chief Administrative Officer be received.
2. THAT as part of the Village of Tahsis ongoing work in relation to wildfire risk reduction that an application for financial assistance under the Community Resiliency Investment 2026-2027 FireSmart Community and Funding Supports program be prepared and submitted based on the scope and budget presented in this staff report and

THAT the Village of Tahsis commits its willingness to provide overall grant management if the application is successful.

Respectfully submitted:



Mark Tatchell
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A – Link to Village of Tahsis Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2020)

https://villageoftahsis.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Tahsis_CWPP_FINAL_2020-06-25-signed.pdf

Appendix B – UBCM Use and Disposal of Wood Chips Policy



Community Resiliency Investment Program FireSmart™ Community Funding & Supports Additional Information on the Use and Disposal of Wood Chips Generated by FCFS-Funded Projects

1. Issue

A small number of approved applicants under the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program have requested the ability to use wood chips generated through approved FireSmart activities for residential areas for landscaping purposes on residential properties.

2. Current FireSmart Community Funding & Supports Requirements

Currently, the FireSmart Community Funding & Supports program requires that all vegetative debris from residential properties or homeowners who have undertaken their own vegetation management be disposed of off-site.

3. FireSmart Research & Evidence

- [Research](#) into the role that different types of mulch and woody debris (i.e. wood chips) can play when influencing wildfire spread within a community supports a conservative approach to the re-distribution of this material in proximity to structures. For example, in low fuel moisture conditions such as a high or extreme fire danger rating, the low fuel moisture conditions of both mulch and woody debris support a very high probability of ignition potential from fire brands (embers).
- Applying or re-distributing the woody debris within the community to be used around gardens and homes on smaller lots would not be consistent with core recommendations from [Firesmart BC](#). In addition, wood chips dry out faster and stay dryer longer than bark mulch and therefore present a higher threat than bark mulch from a garden center.
- The threat from embers generated by wildfires may seem small, but they should not be underestimated — 50% of home fires caused by wildfires are started by embers. This [video](#) is a good demonstration of a moderate ember attack. Many wildfires have a lot more embers than this video shows and this does not include the radiant heat factor that will prepare fuel to ignite.

4. Additional Guidance

The CRI Management Committee has confirmed that the requirement that all vegetative debris from residential property or home owners who have undertaken their own vegetation management be disposed of off-site should remain.

However, if approved applicants wish to allow residential property or home owners to use woody debris generated through approved FireSmart activities for landscaping purposes on residential properties, with the understanding that woody debris plays in a role contributing to fire ignition, this can be allowed only outside of the [FireSmart Non-combustible Zone and Priority Zones 1, 2 and 3](#) (i.e. ~100 metres beyond residential structures).



**First Nations'
Emergency Services Society**
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Forest Enhancement
Society of British Columbia



Appendix C – Free Yard Wood Debris Pickup Promotional Poster



Strathcona
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Free Yard Wood Debris Pickup

The SRD is encouraging community members to FireSmart their properties by bringing excess yard wood debris to the end of driveways on the following dates:

- Sun. June 19 by 9:00 am Road accessible Electoral Areas A, B, C & D properties and Village of Sayward
- Mon. June 27 by 9:00 am Gold River and Tsaxana
- Wed. June 29 by 10:00 am Tahsis

View wood chipping rules & more information at srd.ca/woodchipping-2022

250-830-6702 | preparedness@srd.ca

Appendix D – FireSmart Rebate Information



VILLAGE OF SAYWARD

FIRESMART REBATE PROGRAM

Limited spots available, applications are first come, first served, so

**APPLY
TODAY**



Spend at least \$500 to get 50% back (up to \$3000) for doing FireSmart work on your property



Schedule a FREE FireSmart Assessment to be eligible to apply. Contact wrr@srd.ca or call **250-914-9234**.



Visit srd.ca/firesmart-rebate-program to learn more and to apply today!