



Minutes

<u>Meeting</u>	Regular Council Meeting
<u>Date</u>	November 18, 2025
<u>Time</u>	7:00 PM
<u>Place</u>	Municipal Hall - Council Chambers and by electronic means

<u>Present</u>	Mayor Martin Davis Councillor Sarah Fowler Councillor Brenda Lenahan Councillor Ryan Moore Councillor Cheryl Northcott	by video by video
<u>Staff</u>	Mark Tatchell, Chief Administrative Officer Adia Mavrikos, CPA, CA, Director of Finance Janet StDenis, Corporate Services Manager	by video by video
<u>Guests</u>	Sgt. Greg Young, Nootka Sound RCMP	
<u>Public</u>	15 members of the public.	8 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 None.

C. Approval of the Agenda **Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0421/2025**
 THAT the Agenda for the November 18, 2025 Regular meeting of Council be adopted as presented. **CARRIED**

E. Public Input # 1 There was a question regarding the status of the tendering process for Phase 3 of the Flood Wall Project and the N. Maquinna Integrated Corridor Project. Mayor Davis clarified that neither project has gone out to tender and the grant application for the N. Maquinna Integrated Corridor Project is still pending.

A question was raised regarding the need for an updated environmental impact study for Phase 3 of the Flood Wall Project to which Mayor Davis responded the study was done.

A resident expressed her concerns about the prevalence of derelict vehicles as defined under the Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 614. Council explained that bylaw enforcement is complaint-driven, meaning residents must file complaints for issues to be addressed by the bylaw enforcement officer.

F. Adoption of the Minutes

1 November 4, 202 Standing Committee of Business Liaison Minutes.

Lenahan/Fowler: VOT 0422/2025

THAT the Standing Committee of Business Liaison Meeting minutes of November 4, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

2 November 4, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Lenahan/Fowler: VOT 0423/2025

THAT the Regular Council Meeting minutes of November 4, 2025 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

G. Rise and Report

None.

H. Business Arising

**1 Nootka Sound RCMP- Village of Tahsis quarterly report
Sgt. Greg Young, NCO i/c Nootka Sound RCMP Detachment**

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0424/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Sgt. Greg Young provided Council with a comprehensive update on policing activities since August 1st, 2025 which included file statistics, crime trends, staffing changes, traffic enforcement and the introduction of body-worn cameras. Sgt. Greg Young responded to detailed questions from council about service levels, mental health and community safety training.

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0425/2025

THAT the public be permitted to speak.

There was a discussion around youth safety training through positive reinforcement, the need for helmets and options to improve road users' visibility at night.

2 Report to Council Re: Q3 Operating Results to September 30, 2025

Moore/Fowler: VOT 0426/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

The Director of Finance presented the Q3 Operating results, highlighting a net operating surplus, major revenue and expense variances and projections for year-end. The net operating surplus is primarily due to the timing of revenue recognition and pending expenses.

Key revenue variances reported were attributed to higher than expected landfill revenue, higher user fees, slightly higher daycare revenue and the timing of grant payments. Key expenditure variances reported were attributed to increased demand for public works staff to address operational issues arising from the South Treatment Plant Upgrades, higher MIABC insurance premiums and project delays.

3 Report to Council Re: Tahsis Visitor Centre and Museum Project - Procurement

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0427/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received for information.

CARRIED

The CAO spoke to the direct award procurement process. The Village proceeded with direct award contracts for the millwork and the flooring for the Museum Upgrade Project due to time constraints and the contractual obligation to complete the Museum Upgrade Project by December 31, 2025.

4 Report to Council Re: SPARC Community Accessibility Grant Application- Financial and Operational Implications.

Councillor Lenahan declared a conflict of interest and exited the Council Chambers.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0428/2025

THAT this Report to Council be received.

CARRIED

Council and staff extensively debated the operational and financial implications of the SPARC Community Accessibility Grant Application. The grant application included a pool access ramp, privacy curtains and a power-adjustable mobile adult change table. Installation and operational cost would likely exceed the \$1000 budgeted, potentially requiring up to \$5000 in additional village funds.

Concerns were raised about equitable access to the change table for all genders, the practicality of storing and moving equipment and the impact on staff workload.

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0429/2025

THAT resolution VOT 0385/2025 be reconsidered.

CARRIED

Fowler/Northcott: VOT 0430/2025

THAT resolution VOT 0385/2025 be rescinded.

CARRIED

Councillor Lenahan returned to the Council Chambers.

J. Council Reports

Mayor Davis

I recently attended a health care summit in Nanaimo along with our CAO. One of the big issues is recruitment to deal with the shortage of trained doctors and nurses. Due to the political issues south of the border, many medical professionals are emigrating to Canada to work which will alleviate these pressures. Steps are being taken to streamline the approval process for medical professionals, which has in a large part been responsible for the shortages. We are doing ok in Tahsis at the moment with our current need being for a second receptionist. I have noticed that in the years that I have lived here that waits for appointments have increased from one week to four though.

Following our last council meeting I had directed staff to add more comprehensive information and plans regarding Phase 3 of our flood and tsunami control project. The Village website has now been updated. At the regional district level, I have been providing input regarding the Heritage Conservation Act which is being updated following province-wide consultation. One of the most common concerns is regarding slow response times and increasing costs around development permit applications which has a chilling effect on new housing development. The provincial government will need to recruit and fund more archaeologists in order to speed up assessments and reduce backlogs. I was also advocating for education, interpretive and conservation signage for sites such as burial caves, which are common along our coast and are subject to plundering by souvenir collectors. People are not allowed to plunder our cemeteries and First Nation internment sites deserve the same level of respect. Penalties need to be tightened up and enforced.

The Island Coastal Economic Trust, of which I am a Board member, is undergoing a provincial legislative review along with all trusts, which is a first step to recapitalizing. Last year, we received a \$10 million cash infusion to keep it running until 2027. We are seeking enough funding to enable it to continue operating using future investment revenue alone ensuring financial stability and sustainability. Tahsis and communities across the Island apply to fund economic development projects. All communities are represented on the Regional Advisory Committee and we have recently extended that representation to First Nation bands with their consultation and approval. I have just sent a letter representing mayors across our provincial riding to our MLA asking to meet regarding this.

Once again, I was honoured to attend Remembrance Day ceremonies. As part of an immigrant family to Canada, I grew up with the stories of WW2, which had ended just 12 years before my birth day. My six uncles fought in the war and miraculously all survived. My parents, who were the youngest of each family, grew up during the war with the constant threat of bombing. A bomb destroyed a house on our street. Both my parents served in the military just after the war. They emigrated because they thought WW3 was coming and would be nuclear. They did not want to raise their children under this threat and so we moved to Canada. What a blessing they gave to their kids and future offspring. But it doesn't mean the threat of totalitarianism has ever gone away. In fact it seems closer than it has been in years when you see what is going on south of the border. But I feel like Canada is on the right track at least for now. It continues to remain true that if we don't remind ourselves of the evils of the past, that we condemn ourselves to a bleak future. May we continue to build a world which is kind and equitable to all, no matter their race or beliefs.

Councillor Northcott

No report.

Councillor Lenahan

I just returned from Ottawa where I had the opportunity to see our federal democracy in action at Question Period and met in the West Block with the federal Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health.

I also was honoured to attend an event for Indigenous Disability Awareness Month where the Accessibility Commissioner addressed us and I was honoured to meet several dignitaries, Ministers and MP's.

It was an interesting time exploring our Capital city.

Councillor Moore

No report.

Councillor Fowler

Councillor Fowler noted Mayor Davis' article "Guided by Nature" on page 56 of Strathcona Collective, Volume 12, Fall & Winter 2025.

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0431/2025

THAT the Council Reports be received.

CARRIED

K. Bylaws

1 Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025

Third Reading

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0432/2025

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

CARRIED

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0433/2025

THAT the Village of Tahsis Official Community Plan Bylaw No 675, 2025 be reconsidered, finally passed and adopted this 18th day of November 2025.

CARRIED

L. Correspondence

1 November 3, 2025 letter from Laura MacKenzie to Mayor and Council Re: Proactive removal of "weed trees".

2 November 4, 2025 letter from Mervyn Brown to Mayor and Council Re: Flood Protection Project.

3 November 6, 2025 email from Sara Darling, Director of Corporate Services, Port Alberni, BC to VIRL Board and all member municipalities Re: Resolution for consideration and endorsement - VIRL Funding Model.

4 November 3, 2025 email sent from the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development to Mayor Davis and Council Re: Proclamation of November as Adoption and Permanency Month.

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0434/2025

THAT these correspondence items be received.

CARRIED

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0435/2025

THAT correspondence item L1 and L4 be pulled for discussion.

CARRIED

L1 November 3, 2025 letter from Laura MacKenzie to Mayor and Council Re: Proactive removal of "weed trees".

Council discussed a resident's letter about proactive tree maintenance and the challenges of addressing risks on both private and village property, emphasizing the importance of communication and resource constraints.

L4 November 3, 2025 email sent from the Honourable Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development to Mayor Davis and Council Re: Proclamation of November as Adoption and Permanency Month.

Mayor Davis spoke to this correspondence item.

Council debated the implications of formally proclaiming November as Adoption and Permanency Awareness Month, ultimately deciding to acknowledge the minister's letter and share available resources without committing additional staff time.

M. New Business

1 Report to Council Re: Grant Application for Canada Day 2026

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0436/2025

THAT this grant application be received.

CARRIED

Council's discussion on the annual grant application for Canada Day celebration included the following topics: eligible expenses; event location; accessibility and the inclusion of free transportation for the members of the Mowachaht/ Muchalaht.

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0437/2025

THAT this grant application be approved.

CARRIED

2 Councillor Fowler's Motion Re: Invitation to the 2026 BC COFI (Council of Forest Industries) Convention - Forestry is a Solution.

WHEREAS forestry planning in TFL 19 has future impacts on the Village of Tahsis and surrounding areas of Nootka Sound,

THEREFORE, be it resolved to claim this chance for cost reduction by registering Councillor Fowler as a delegate at the Council of Forest Industries Conference on April 8-10, 2026 in Vancouver B.C. before the January deadline.

Fowler/Lenahan: VOT 0438/2025

THAT this resolution be received for consideration.

CARRIED

Council Fowler proposed attending the 2026 Council of Forest Industries Convention to represent the Village, but after discussion about costs, benefits and priorities, council decided not to proceed with the proposal.

Fowler/

THAT this resolution be approved.

motion failed

N. Public Input #2

A resident question the rationale for Council's decision on the SPARC grant. A discussion followed.

Individual travel budgets for the Mayor and Councillors were suggested as a way of providing council members the opportunity to choose which conferences they wish to attend.

O. Adjournment

Lenahan/Fowler: VOT 0439/2025

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

CARRIED

**Certified Correct this
2nd Day of December, 2025**

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, sweeping initial 'L' followed by a wavy line.

Chief Administrative Officer