



TOWN OF LAKE COWICHAN

Minutes of a Regular meeting of Council
Held and transmitted electronically via Council Chambers located at 39 South
Shore Road, Lake Cowichan, BC
on Tuesday, January 28th, 2025

PRESENT: Tim McGonigle, Mayor
Councillor Carlyne Austin
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

REGRETS: Councillor Kristine Sandhu
(with prior notice)

STAFF: Joseph A. Fernandez, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

PUBLIC: 13

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

3. AGENDA

No. R.001/25
Agenda

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the agenda be approved as amended as follows:

BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference attendance.

CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No. R.002/25
Regular Council
Meeting Minutes

(a) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that the minutes of the Regular meeting of the Council held on December
17th, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No. R.003/25
Federation of
Canadian
Municipalities

(a) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that Councillor Vomacka be approved to attend the Federation of Canadian
Municipalities conference to be held May 28th, 2025 to June 1st, 2025 in
Ottawa, Ontario, as Mayor McGonigle is unable to attend.

CARRIED.

(b) Mayor McGonigle moved the New Business agenda item on the matter of
loss of physicians be brought forward.

Presentations were made on the matter of Community Healthcare system
support to deal with the retention and recruitment of healthcare and
emergency workers. Information packets were provided to Council which is
to be distributed to all members.

The need for urgent and primary care for those residing in West Cowichan
was addressed and discussed.

The Mayor invited members of the public in attendance that wished to speak
on the matter.

Mayor McGonigle gave a brief outline of what the Town has been working on to address the physician and health care shortage crisis and outlined some options and innovative ideas that were being looked at with further details forthcoming as they become available.

No. R.004/25
Physician Shortage in
Lake Cowichan and
community

Moved: Mayor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that Council send a letter to the Honorable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health regarding the Town's dire need for local doctors, physicians and health care providers with a request for a meeting to address the community's lack of provision of health services.

CARRIED.

Councillor Frisby requested clarification on whether COVID relief funding was available to utilize for research and promotion on seeking physicians and health care providers to the community. Staff will research and report back on the matter.

7. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Action Items:

No. R.005/25
Appointment

- (i)** Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that Brigid Reynolds, Contract Planner be appointed as the Town's representative to the Cowichan Valley Regional District's regional growth strategy development working group.

CARRIED.

(b) Information or Consent Items

No. R.006/25
Letter of Reply

- (i)** Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that a response be sent to Gerard Specialty on its concerns regarding commercial rent increases by way of resolutions passed at the Union of BC Municipalities conference.

CARRIED.

9. REPORTS

(a) Council and other Committee Reports

No. R.007/25
Committee of
the Whole

- (i)** Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on January 14th, 2025, be approved, as amended, with the following:

1—Annual Water and Sewer Parcel Tax Increases

That Council approve an increase of the water parcel tax by \$50 for annual tax of \$350; and
an increase of the sewer parcel tax by \$75 for an annual tax of \$325.

2—Advisory Planning Commission Appointments - 2025

that appointments to the Advisory Planning Commission of the following for a two-year term beginning January 1st, 2025, be made as follows:

- Duncan Brown,
- Karmen Cozens,
- William D. Garrett, and
- Vicki Pauze

as the residential members and

- Stephanie Harper

as a non-residential member.

3—Leave of Absence

that a leave of absence for Councillor Sandhu be approved for her absence from the Regular meeting of Council to be held on January 28th, 2025

CARRIED.

- Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission (ii) No report for the Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission.
 - Vancouver Island Regional Library (iii) No report for the Vancouver Island Regional Library.
 - Advisory Planning Commission (iv) The Chief Administrative Officer reported that the Advisory Planning Commission would be meeting on Thursday, January 30th, 2025 at 4:00 pm.
 - Community Forest Co-operative (v) No report for the Community Forest Co-operative.
- (b) **Other Reports**
- (i) Mayor McGonigle reported on the current budget meetings held by the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board and how it will affect the Town’s own budget discussions. He stated that there were significant budget increases to the regional recreation service due to the current funding model.
- He further reported that he was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Board for a one-year term.
- Community Outreach Team (ii) Councillor Austin reported on her written report on the Community Outreach Team and outlined the local services being provided in the community.
 - Our Cowichan (iii) No report for Our Cowichan.
 - Cowichan Watershed Board (iv) No report for Cowichan Watershed Board.
 - Ohtaki Twinning (v) Councillor Austin provided a verbal report on the group travelling to Ohtaki, Japan in July 2025.
- (c) **Staff Reports**
None.

10. BYLAWS

- No. R.008/25 Development Approval Procedures and Notifications No. 1109-2024 (a) Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
that the “Town of Lake Cowichan Development Approval Procedures and Notifications Bylaw No. 1109-2024” may be reconsidered and adopted.
CARRIED.

11. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) The information provided on the update of the Cowichan Region Workforce Housing Strategy was treated as information.
- (b) The matter of the loss of physicians was dealt with earlier in the meeting.

12. MAYOR’S REPORT

None.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

None.

14. QUESTION PERIOD

Dr. Froese spoke to Council and those in attendance and conveyed his thanks to the community for the opportunity to pursue his career in Lake Cowichan.

15. IN CAMERA

No. R.009/25
Retire to In-Camera

Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
that the Council close the meeting to the public to deal with issues dealing with litigation or potential litigation affecting the municipality which falls under s. 90(1) (g) of the Community Charter. (6:10 pm).

CARRIED.

16. ADJOURNMENT

No. R.0010/25
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
that the meeting arise with report on the following:
that Council approve an extension on the option to purchase covenant with the Cowichan Lake Elder Care Society Land agreement for a further term of 5-years;
and that the meeting be adjourned (6:25 pm).

CARRIED.

Certified correct _____.

Confirmed on the _____ day of _____, 2025.

Mayor