



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
Tuesday, July 28th, 2026

PRESENT: Tim McGonigle, Mayor
Councillor Carolyne Austin
Councillor Aaron Frisby
Councillor Kristine Sandhu
Councillor Lorna Vomacka

STAFF: John Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services
Viktoria Muehlbauer, Manager of Tourism and Business Development
Caroline von Schilling, Director of Bylaw and Development Services
Brigid Reynolds, Contract Planner
Roni-Lee Roach, Deputy Corporate Officer

PUBLIC: 4

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor McGonigle wished to acknowledge on behalf of Council the outstanding service of the members of the Lake Cowichan Fire Department who have been deployed to assist with wildfire response efforts across British Columbia and wished to thank them for volunteering and assisting communities across British Columbia.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- Cowichan Lake Recreation Waiving of Fees Review.

3. AGENDA

No. R.0120/26
Agenda

Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Angie Cousins, Riverside Inn Pub spoke on the matter of the LCRB2026-01 application for the Riverside at 56 North Shore Road, Item 11(a).

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No. R.0121/26
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes

- (a)** Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That the minutes of the Regular meeting of Council held on June 23rd, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0122/26
Annual General Meeting
Minutes

- (b)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
That the minutes of the Annual General meeting held on June 23rd, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0123/26
Committee of the
Whole Meeting Minutes

- (c)** Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 14th, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0124/26
Special Meeting Minutes

- (d)** Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on July 21st, 2026, be adopted.



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CARRIED.

No. R.0125/26
Actionable Resolutions –
July 14th, 2026

6. BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- (a) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
That Council adopt the actionable resolutions from the July 14th, 2026, Committee of the Whole as presented:

1—Correspondence(s)

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- (a) Joint Letter to Minister of Health – repurposing of the Existing Cowichan District Hospital and Letter of Response from Minister of Health;
- (b) AVICC at UBCM – 2026 Elections and Student Program;
- (c) AVICC – Opportunities for AVICC Members; and
- (d) District of Oak Bay – Local Government Climate Action Program (LGCAP) funding.

2— Building Permit Summary

That Council accept the Building Permit Summary Report for the month of June 2026..

3—Financial Report to June 30th, 2026

That Council receives the Finance report for the six months ending June 30th, 2026 as information.

4—Fire Department Incident Report

That the staff report be received; and

That Council approves the Lake Cowichan Fire Department’s Incident Report in the amount of \$14,345.00 for June, 2026.

5—Direction to Staff

That staff be directed to report back on short term rental options with rental vacancy rates, if available, licensing options and other aspects of zoning allowances.

CARRIED.

7. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

- (a) Doug Drummond, spoke on behalf of the Lake Cowichan Broombuster group and its 2026 activities in the community.

The Chair afforded an opportunity for members of Council to ask questions of Mr. Drummond. Discussion on more promotion and volunteer recruitment that could be undertaken next year to assist with efforts of the group, including the Fire Department, service groups and baseball and hockey teams.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Moved: Mayor McGonigle
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
That staff be directed to come back with recommendations to remediate the concerns outlined in the correspondence received from Janice and Craig New; and

That staff be directed to refer the matter of River Road safety for 2027 budget consideration.

CARRIED.

Direction was given for a letter of reply to be sent to Mr. and Mrs. New on the matter.

No. R.0126/26
Traffic Volume on River
Road - Safety



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No. R.0127/26 Letter of Support	(b)	Moved: Councillor Frisby Seconded: Councillor Vomacka That the Town of Lake Cowichan send a letter of support to the Cowichan Valley Regional District on its renewal of the Municipal and Regional District Tax (MRDT) program for the upcoming five-year period, 2027 to 2032. CARRIED.
No. R.0128/26 Correspondence Items – Received and Filed		Moved: Councillor Austin Seconded: Councillor Sandhu That the following correspondences be received and filed: (c) Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) – meeting Summaries, Resolution Database and UBCM Strategy Session – Items (i) and (ii); (d) Regional District of Central Okanagan – BC Local Government Climate Action Program(LGCAP). CARRIED.
Committee of the Whole	9.	<u>COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS</u>
	(a)	The Committee of the Whole meeting held on July 14 th , 2026 was discussed earlier in the meeting.
Cowichan Lake Recreation Commission	(b)	Councillor Sandu reported on the meeting that was held on July 27 th , 2026 at the Mesachie Lake hall. The next scheduled meeting is set for September 28 th , 2026.
Vancouver Island Regional Library	(c)	Councillor Vomacka gave a verbal report on the recent activities at the local library branch, including Stuffy Night and the summer snack programme.
Advisory Planning Commission	(d)	Councillor Sandhu reported that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 24 th , 2026, at 3:00 pm.
Community Forest Co-operative	(e)	None.
Cowichan Valley Regional District	(f)	Mayor McGonigle reported that the Cowichan Valley Regional District Board held its meeting on July 22 nd , 2026 which included discussions on transit, renewal plan, grants-in-aids, and district matters addressing planning and development.
Community Outreach Team	(g)	None.
Our Cowichan	(h)	None.
Cowichan Watershed Board	(i)	Councillor Sandhu gave a verbal report on the meeting held July 27 th , 2026 and reported that Minister Neil had been given a tour of the estuary project and that the lower river cleanup is planned for August 23 rd , 2026.
Ohtaki Twinning	(j)	Councillor Frisby reported on the itinerary set for the upcoming delegation visiting Lake Cowichan in October, 2026. Councillor Austin shared the fundraising efforts currently underway by the 2027 delegates planning to travel to Ohtaki Japan.
	10.	<u>OTHER REPORTS</u> None.
	11.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>



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No. R.0129/26
LCRB2026-01 –
56 North Shore Road

- (a) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
That Council support the proposed change in hours 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. for the Riverside Inn & Pub at 56 North Shore Road, legally described as Parcel B (DD33019i), Section 6, Renfrew District, and

That Council directs staff to complete the online portal reporting of Council's resolution to the LCRB.

CARRIED.

No. R.0130/26
Climate Action Resilience
Framework

- (b) Moved: Councillor Vomacka
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
That Council approve the Climate Action Resilience Framework as presented.
CARRIED.

12. BYLAWS

None.

13. NEW BUSINESS

Councillor Sandhu spoke on the matter of the Cowichan Lake Recreation waiving fees review that is being undertaken for all the hall rentals in Lake Cowichan, Honeymoon Bay, Mesachie Lake and Youbou and if the Town should have its own policy for the waiving of fees for its community hall or if it should be in line with the current Regional District's policy for regional recreation.

Direction to put this subject to the Committee of the Whole meeting for September 8th, 2026 with the Manager, Cowichan Lake Recreation notified of this referral.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor provided a report for July as follows:

As we head into August, Lake Cowichan continues to move forward with confidence. Council remains focused on responsible governance and delivering the services our residents rely on.

I'd like to state again, that If you don't have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, please register through 811. Every registration helps demonstrate the need for primary care in our community. Accurate numbers strengthen the case for additional health-care resources, providers, and future funding for communities like Lake Cowichan.

I'd like to thank our municipal staff, first responders, volunteers, and local businesses for their ongoing contributions to our community.

This is our final regular Council meeting before the August recess. While meetings pause, Town operations will continue as normal, and Council remains available should urgent matters arise.

I would also like to note that Council elections will be held on October 17, an important opportunity for residents to participate in shaping the future leadership of our community.

On behalf of Council, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing you back in September.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION



16. QUESTION PERIOD
None.

No. R.0131/26
Retire to In-Camera

17. IN CAMERA
Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Vomacka
That the Council close the meeting to the public to deal with matters which falls under s. 90(1) (c), (d), e) and (k) of the Community Charter. (5:56 pm).
CARRIED.

No. R.0132/26
Adjournment

18. ADJOURNMENT
Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Sandhu
That Council arise and report when appropriate and adjourn the meeting (7:47 pm).
CARRIED.

Certified correct Original Signed.

Confirmed on the 22nd day of September , 2026

Original Signed.

Mayor