



Financial Planning Committee Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting: January 21, 2026
Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Island Municipality (Chair)
Mairead Boland, Saturna Island Local Trust Area (Vice Chair) and
Regional Planning Committee Representative
Tobi Elliott, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area, Executive Committee
Judith Gedye, Bowen Island Municipality, Governance Committee
Representative
David Graham, Denman Island Local Trust Area
David Maude, Mayne Island Local Trust Area, Executive Committee
Laura Patrick, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area, Executive Committee
Tim Peterson, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area, Executive Committee
and Trust Programs Committee Representative
Susan Yates, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area, Islands Trust Conservancy
Board Representative

Staff Present: Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer
Julia Mobbs, Director, Financial and Employee Services
Stefan Cermak, Director, Planning Services
David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Nancy Roggers, Finance Officer
Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder

Others Present: One member of the public was present.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fast called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and acknowledged that participants in the meeting were on many Coast Salish territories.

2. AGENDA

2.1 Review of the Agenda

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

- Briefing from Islands Trust Conservancy Board: “Trust Council motion re Islands Trust Conservancy Board proposed 2026/27 budget”- to be included under agenda item 7.1.3.3 in the agenda package, Islands Trust Conservancy Board Projects, and to be discussed as item 7.0.
- Briefing from staff: “Budget Changes Since Last Review” – to be included as agenda item 7.1.1.1, under “Budget Overview Briefing”

2.2 Approval of the Agenda

ADOPTED

By general consent the Committee approved the agenda as amended.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No member of the public was present.

4. DELEGATIONS

4.1 Friends of the Gulf Islands Society – Maxine Leichter

The delegate spoke to the material provided to the Committee, indicating no support for continued increases in the number of staff positions and the budget without demonstrably clear increases in protection of the Trust Area; support for full costing of projects that includes estimates of staff resources required to complete the project; support for a full-time biologist position; and support for a review of the water sustainability project.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 From Brian Milne, dated 2025-12-19

The Committee reviewed and discussed the above noted letter which requested the Committee to consider reducing funding for Bylaw Compliance and Enforcement work and legal opinions.

FPC-2026-01

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee request staff to return the correspondence from Brian Milne to the correspondent.

CARRIED

6. ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

6.1 Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1.1 Financial Planning Committee Minutes of November 12, 2025

By general consent the Committee approved the minutes as presented.

6.2 Resolutions Without Meeting

None.

6.3 Follow up Action List

Received for information.

ADOPTED

7. BUSINESS - WORK PROGRAM ITEMS

7.0 Late item: Briefing from Islands Trust Conservancy Board (ITCB)

Director Frater indicated that it is expected that ITCB will continue to discuss this topic. Committee discussion:

- there is a significant increase to the ITCB budget request
- there is an impact to the budget as a result of the completion of the Species At Risk federal grant

FPC-2026-02

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee receive this correspondence from ITCB.

CARRIED

7.1 2026/27 Budget: Draft 2, Version 1

7.1.0 Changes to the Draft 2026/27 Budget - Briefing

Director Mobbs introduced the late item Briefing highlighting key changes made to the budget since the previous Financial Planning Committee meeting.

7.1.1 Draft 2026/27 Budget Overview – Briefing

Director Mobbs introduced the Briefing, noting that a substantial portion of the draft tax increase is a result of lost revenue streams, expenses for election, base staff wage increases, and inflation.

Committee discussion included:

- a brief summary describing how the budget is impacted by the above factors would be of value for trustees in explaining the budget
- Reconciliation Action Plan expenses
- information process to support Trust Council budget decisions

FPC-2026-03

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee request staff to provide speaking notes for trustees on the proposed 2026/27 budget explaining budget changes as per the second and third paragraphs of the draft 2026/27 budget overview presented to Financial Planning Committee on January 21, 2026.

CARRIED

Committee discussion continued in regards to how Financial Planning Committee can assist Committee of the Whole budget discussions.

Committee recessed at 11:12 a.m. and resumed at 11:27 a.m.

ADOPTED

FPC-2026-04

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,

that Financial Planning Committee request staff to prepare a summary of budget requests which represent the +3.1% (discretionary spending/inflation) for the February 18, 2026 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

Committee discussion continued in regards to:

- potential reserve fund specific to supporting elections
- election costs have increased significantly
- there is a lack of policy in regards to reconciliation capacity funding expenses
- a potential overview of legislation, policies, Trust Council direction, and all staff positions involved with reconciliation

FPC-2026-05

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,

that Financial Planning Committee request Islands Trust Conservancy Board to reconsider the request already asked of them by Trust Council to review their budget, with a view to reducing it, and to look at in particular the part-time Indigenous Relations Advisor.

CARRIED

Committee discussion continued:

- Bowen Island Municipality's contribution to the budget is set by the *Islands Trust Act* and codified in Trust Council Policy 7.2.6 (Municipal Tax Requisition Calculation)

Trustee Boland left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Financial Planning Committee recessed at 12:30 and resumed at 1:00 p.m.

FPC-2026-06

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,

that Financial Planning Committee direct staff to remove the item under the Trust Area Services communication budget for the \$10,000 for contractor support from the draft 2026/27 budget.

DEFEATED

Committee discussion continued:

- possibility of requesting staff to make suggested amendments to the draft 2026/27 budget
- possibility of delaying the start time of new potential staff positions
- the provincial contribution to Islands Trust has remained the same for several years yet the Province has increased responsibilities for Islands Trust to undertake, such as reconciliation actions

ADOPTED

The Committee recessed at 2:04 p.m. and resumed at 2:17 p.m.

FPC-2026-07

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee request staff to prepare options for further budget reductions for consideration at the February Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

FPC-2026-08

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee forward the budget materials contained in item 7.1 of the January 21, 2026 agenda, as amended, and other motions passed, to the Committee of the Whole for the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting as it's recommended 2026/2027 Budget to Trust Council.

CARRIED

7.1.2 2026/27 Budget Guidelines Assessment

No comments.

7.1.3 Funding Requests

No comments.

7.1.4 Operating Budgets Increase Justifications

No comments.

7.1.5 Unfunded Requests

No comments.

8. BUSINESS – NEW

None.

9. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

10. CLOSED MEETING

10.1 Motion to Close the Meeting

FPC-2026-09

ADOPTED

It was MOVED and SECONDED,

that Financial Planning Committee close the meeting of January 21, 2026, to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3, s.90,(f)law enforcement, as the Financial Planning Committee considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the conduct of an investigation under or enforcement of an enactment; and that the recorder and staff attend the meeting.

CARRIED

The Committee closed the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

11. RISE AND REPORT

None.

12. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the Committee adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Sue Ellen Fast, Chair

Certified Correct:

Robert Barlow, Legislative Services Clerk/Recorder