



Trust Council Committee of the Whole

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Date: February 18, 2026
Location: Electronic Meeting

Executive Members Present:

1. Laura Patrick, Chair, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area
2. Tobi Elliott, Vice-Chair, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area
3. David Maude, Vice-Chair, Mayne Island Local Trust Area
4. Timothy Peterson, Vice-Chair, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

Members Present:

5. Sue Ellen Fast, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
6. Judith Gedye, Bowen Island Municipal Trustee
7. Sam Borthwick, Denman Island Local Trust Area
8. David Graham, Denman Island Local Trust Area
9. Susan Yates, Gabriola Island Local Trust Area
10. Lisa Gauvreau, Galiano Island Local Trust Area
11. Ben Mabberley, Galiano Island Local Trust Area
12. Joe Bernardo, Gambier Island Local Trust Area
13. Kate Louise Stamford, Gambier Island Local Trust Area
14. Jeanine Dodds, Mayne Island Local Trust Area
15. Aaron Campbell, North Pender Island Local Trust Area
16. Jamie Harris, Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area
17. Mairead Boland, Saturna Island Local Trust Area
18. Lee Middleton, Saturna Island Local Trust Area
19. Kristina Evans, South Pender Island Local Trust Area
20. Dag Falck, South Pender Island Local Trust Area
21. Ken Hunter, Thetis Island Local Trust Area

Members Regrets: 22. Mikaila Lironi, Lasqueti Island Local Trust Area

Members Absent:

23. Alex Allen, Hornby Island Local Trust Area
24. Grant Scott, Hornby Island Local Trust Area
25. Deb Morrison, North Pender Island Local Trust Area
26. Peter Luckham, Thetis Island Local Trust Area

Staff Present:

Rueben Bronee, Chief Administrative Officer
Stefan Cermak, Director, Planning Services
Clare Frater, Director, Trust Area Services
David Marlor, Director, Legislative and Information Services
Julia Mobbs, Director, Financial and Employee Services
Alexandra Trifonidis, Executive Coordinator
Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder

Others Present: There was 1 member of the public present.

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Chair Patrick acknowledged that the meeting was held on the territory of the Coast Salish First Nations.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was approved as presented.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Draft Committee of the Whole November 17, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes

By general consent the Committee of the Whole Special Meeting minutes of November 17, 2025 were adopted.

5. FOLLOW UP ACTION LIST

5.1 Committee of the Whole Follow Up Action List

Received for information.

6. BUSINESS

6.1 2026/27 Budget: Draft 2, Version 2

6.1.1 Budget Session Outline

Director Mobbs introduced the session outline and clarified the resolution examples provided reflect templated example language for resolutions and are not recommended motions.

6.1.2 Budget Discussion Support Materials

Director Mobbs reviewed support materials and the impacts of budget amendments on local Trust Area taxes and the Bowen Island Municipal levy.

6.1.3 Islands Trust Conservancy Board Results of Budget Request Review – Briefing

Director Frater summarized the briefing which reflects Trust Council's request that the Islands Trust Conservancy Board reconsider their budget. Director Frater noted amendments and corrections for clarity will be made to the briefing prior to it coming before Trust Council in March.

6.1.4 Changes in Draft 2026/27 Budget Since Trust Council's Review – BRE

Director Mobbs summarized changes to the draft budget since Trust Council last reviewed it in December as outlined in the briefing and noted that currently the tax increase for Local Trust Areas is 9.9% and 18.1% for Bowen Island Municipality.

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Trustee Hunter arrived to the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

Director Mobbs reiterated that drawing on surplus is not sustainable year over year, surplus is typically a result of underspending on budget and staffing positions, and if budget is fully spent and there is no surplus to draw on there would be a significant tax increase in order to fund operations.

6.1.5 2026/27 Draft Budget Overview – Briefing

Director Mobbs summarized the briefing and noted planned spending has increased 6.6% over last year, the tax increase on purely discretionary budget increased by 1.3%, non-discretionary budget lines have increased by 3.7%, and variable non-discretionary budget lines have increased 4.3%.

The estimated tax increases for residents in the Local Trust Area would result in an approximate increase of \$40 to \$45 and between \$30 to \$35 for Bowen Island residents.

Trustee Peterson left the meeting at 2:07 p.m. and returned at 2:10 p.m.

6.1.6 2026/27 Budget Guidelines Assessment

6.1.7 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options

The Chief Administrative Officer stated that the Financial Planning Committee requested staff to identify potential budget reduction options and noted that the options are not necessarily recommendations from staff but options to consider in response to the direction given. He expressed that while all of the options would help reduce the budget, they would also impact operations. The scope of the impact for each option has been identified on the list, and a brief summary of the options was provided.

Trustee Campbell joined the meeting at 2:21 p.m.

Each item on the Reduction Options list was explained. Following discussion on each of the options Trustees indicated either support of, or opposition to, reducing the budget through the option.

Items 1 through 9 were discussed.

Trustee Peterson left the meeting at 3:23 p.m. and returned at 3:27 p.m.

Items 10 through 12 were discussed.

Trustee Fast left the meeting at 3:29 p.m. and returned at 3:32 p.m.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 3:37 p.m. and reconvened at 3:46 p.m.

Trustee Maberley left the meeting at 3:49 p.m.

Items 13 through 23 were discussed.

The meeting was recessed for a break at 4:34 p.m. and reconvened at 4:46 p.m.

DRAFT

TC-COW-2026-001

It was MOVED by Trustee Gedye, and SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council not hire a professional photographer for new trustee photos and reduce the related draft 2026/27 item #19 budget line by \$3500.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-002

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #4 (Meeting Expense) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$3000.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-003

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #6 (Reconciliation Action Plan) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$25,000.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-004

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Boland,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #7 (Reconciliation Action Plan - Capacity Funding) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$50,000.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-005

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #8 (Recruitment and Labour Relations) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$5,500.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-006

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Hunter,

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that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #9 (Staff recognition and training) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$4,000.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-007

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Campbell,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #10 (Staff salaries & benefits – Indigenous Relations Manager) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$45,564.

DEFEATED

A Trustee requested the vote count be detailed and the Director of Legislative and Information Services clarified that 10 opposed, 9 were in favour, and 1 abstained, an abstention is counted as a vote in favour resulting in a tied vote, and under the *Local Government Act* and related *Community Charter* regulations a tied vote results in a defeated resolution.

TC-COW-2026-008

It was MOVED by Trustee Boland, and SECONDED by Trustee Dodds,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council hold one additional regular business meeting as a virtual meeting next fiscal year, and reduce the related draft 2026/27 Meeting Expense budget line by \$33,750.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-009

It was MOVED by Trustee Stamford, and SECONDED by Trustee Bernardo,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council remove referral fees for the Gambier Island Local Trust Committee Official Community Plan project and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget line by \$2,000.

CARRIED

Trustee Dodds left the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Trustee Hunter left the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

TC-COW-2026-010

It was MOVED by Trustee Peterson, and SECONDED by Trustee Gauvreau,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council reduce the draft 2026/27 Contracted Services budget line by \$5000.

CARRIED

DRAFT

TC-COW-2026-011

It was MOVED by Trustee Elliott, and SECONDED by Trustee Bernardo,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council not fund in-person meetings for Council Committees, and remove the draft 2026/27 budget of \$6,500 associated with this work.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-012

It was MOVED by Trustee Peterson, and SECONDED by Trustee Yates,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Executive Committee request staff to update the business case for Meeting Streaming & Editing Recordings for Posting to include more information on alternatives for recording and/or publicly posting meeting recordings.

CARRIED

Trustee Hunter returned to the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

TC-COW-2026-013

It was MOVED by Trustee Gedye, and SECONDED by Trustee Evans,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council cancel newspaper subscriptions and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget item #18 budget line by \$1000.

CARRIED

TC-COW-2026-014

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Campbell,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #20 (Travel - Chair) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$1,000.

DEFEATED

TC-COW-2026-015

It was MOVED by Trustee Evans, and SECONDED by Trustee Gedye,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget reduction option #22 (Union of BC Municipalities Attendance) as presented in the Draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options table and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by \$7,000.

CARRIED

Trustee Peterson left the meeting at 5:28 p.m. and returned at 5:35 p.m.

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TC-COW-2026-016

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Evans, and **SECONDED** by Trustee Bernardo,

that Committee of the Whole recommend that Trust Council adopt staff budget options at 50% reduction as presented in the draft 2026/27 Budget Reduction Options items 15, 16, and 17; and reduce the related draft 2026/27 budget by a total of \$50,000.

CARRIED

Trustees Falck and Campbell left the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

TC-COW-2026-017

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Fast, and **SECONDED** by Trustee Yates, that Committee of the Whole forward the Draft 2026/27 budget materials to Trust Council, as amended, for approval.

CARRIED

6.1.8 Funding Requests

6.1.8.1 Strategic Plan Projects

6.1.8.1.1 Policy Statement Amendment Project

6.1.8.1.2 Policy Review - Continuation from FY26

6.1.8.1.3 Freshwater Sustainability Strategy Review and Implementation

6.1.8.2 ITC Board Projects

6.1.8.2.1 ITC Five-Year Plan: First Nations Engagement Project

6.1.8.2.2 Protected Area Management Software Project

6.1.8.3 Local Trust Committee Projects

6.1.8.3.1 Denman: Housing Review (for OCP and LUB Amendments), Stage 2 - Phase 2 Project (Year 4 of 4)

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

6.1.8.3.2 Gabriola: OCP and LUB Review, Major Project (Year 4 of 5)

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

6.1.8.3.3 Gambier: OCP and LUB Amendments Implementation Project - Final Phase

6.1.8.3.4 Hornby: Comprehensive OCP and LUB Review Project

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

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- 6.1.8.3.5 Lasqueti: OCP Review, Major Project (Year 1 of 3)
- 6.1.8.3.6 Salt Spring: Major Amendment to OCP and LUB
- 6.1.8.3.7 Planning Services: Projects Feasibility Assessment - Briefing

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

6.1.8.4 Operational Projects

- 6.1.8.4.1 TC Onboarding Training - Business Case
- 6.1.8.4.2 Trustee Laptops - Business Case
- 6.1.8.4.3 Accessibility Plan Development - Business Case

6.1.8.5 Staffing Requests

- 6.1.8.5.1 Manager of Indigenous Relations - New
- 6.1.8.5.2 Communications and Engagement Lead - New
- 6.1.8.5.3 Temporary Senior Policy Advisor 1.0FTE - Extension
- 6.1.8.5.4 Permanent ITC Indigenous Relations Advisor 0.5 FTE - New
- 6.1.8.5.5 Temporary Species at Risk Coordinator - Extension
- 6.1.8.5.6 GIS Co-op Student (Level 1) 0.3FTE
- 6.1.8.5.7 Planning Services Co-op Student 0.3FTE

6.1.8.6 Other Funding Request Reports

- 6.1.8.6.1 ITC Board Budget Request - Briefing

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

- 6.1.8.6.2 EC Budget Request - Briefing

6.1.9 Operating Budgets Increase Justifications

- 6.1.9.1 TC Dedicated Chair Travel Budget Justification Form
- 6.1.9.2 EC Operating Increases Justification Form – UBCM/AVICC
- 6.1.9.3 TAS Operating Budget Increase Justification Form
- 6.1.9.4 FES Operating Increases Justification Form
- 6.1.9.5 Information Services Operating Increase Justification Form

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

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6.1.9.6 Planning Services Operating Budget Training Increase Justification Form

6.1.9.7 Planning Services Operating Budget Contractor Increase Justification Form

6.1.9.8 ITC Land Securement and Conservation Planning Increase Justification

6.1.9.9 ITC Protected Areas Management Operations and Planning Increase Justification

Updated since Trust Council's December review.

6.1.10 Unfunded Requests

6.1.10.1 Secretariat Services - Business Case

Funding for this work removed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.2 Climate Education Program - Business Case

Funding for this work removed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.3 Salt Spring: Watershed Protection Plan 2022-2032 Coordination (SSIWPA)

Funding for this work removed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.4 Salt Spring: Groundwater Sustainability (Well-Monitoring)

Funding for this work removed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.5 Trust Area Resilience Assessment Initiative - Briefing

Funding for this work removed by Financial Planning Committee. Removal endorsed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.6 Electronic Document Management Solution - Business Case

Funding for this work removed by Financial Planning Committee. Removal endorsed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.7 Galiano: Targeted OCP Review Project

Funding for this work removed by Financial Planning Committee. Removal endorsed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.8 Registered Professional Biologist 1.0FTE - Make Permanent

Funding for this staff position removed by Trust Council.

6.1.10.9 Permanent GIS Analyst 1.0FTE - New

Funding for this staff position removed by Trust Council.

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6.2 Financial Plan Bylaw - Request for Decision

Trustee Maude left the meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Trustee Stamford left the meeting at 5:41 p.m.

Director Mobbs noted the five-year Financial Plan Bylaw related to the budget for fiscal 2026/27 is not legislatively required but is a good practice to provide insights into future projections for revenues and spending and it is sent to the Minister for information.

TC-COW-2026-018

It was **MOVED** by Trustee Peterson, and **SECONDED** by Trustee Yates, that Committee of the Whole forward the draft Financial Plan Bylaw 204 materials to Trust Council for approval.

CARRIED

7. **NEW BUSINESS** - None

8. **CLOSED MEETING** - None

9. **RISE AND REPORT** - None

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next Islands Trust Council Committee of the Whole meeting will take place electronically on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Laura Patrick, Chair

Certified Correct:

Lisa Millard, Meeting Administrator/Recorder

Minutes are not official until adopted at a subsequent meeting.