



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, June 23rd, 2026

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

REGRETS: Councillor Lorna Vomacka
(with prior approval)

STAFF: John Thomas, Chief Administrative Officer
Ronnie Gill, Director of Finance
Jas Sandhu, Superintendent, Public Works and Engineering Services
Dalton Smith, Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre
Roni-Lee Roach, Executive Secretary

PUBLIC: 2

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Mayor McGonigle spoke on the recently held Lake Days and the successful event over the weekend due to the organizing committee and volunteers. He extended his thanks to those that helped out with the Town's steak dinner with 282 tickets returned.

He acknowledged that Mr. John Thomas joined the Town nearly one year ago as the Chief Administrative Officer. Mayor McGonigle also thanked staff, public works and Council and stated that we should be proud of what we have accomplished in the last year.

Mayor McGonigle offered his congratulations to the outgoing royalty ambassadors that represented us in 2025 and wished good luck to the ambassadors crowned during Lake Days weekend.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

- July 1st - Canada Day event.

3. AGENDA

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

CARRIED.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No. R.0103/26
Agenda

- (a)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That the minutes of the Regular meeting of Council held on May 26th, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0104/26
Regular Council Meeting
Minutes

- (b)** Moved: Councillor Sandhu
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
That the minutes of the Advisory Planning Commission meeting held on May 21st, 2026, be treated as information.

CARRIED.

No. R.0105/26
Advisory Planning
Commission Meeting
Minutes



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No. R.0106/26
Committee of the
Whole Meeting Minutes

- (c) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That the minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 9th, 2026, be adopted.

CARRIED.

No. R.0107/26
Actionable Resolutions –
June 9th, 2026

6. **BUSINESS ARISING AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (a) Moved: Councillor Frisby
Seconded: Councillor Austin
That Council adopt the actionable resolutions from the June 9th, 2026, Committee of the Whole as presented:

1—Correspondence(s)

That the following correspondence items be received and filed:

- (a) Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) Strategic Priorities 2026-203; and
- (b) IGES Local Government Communique – FIFA World Cup 2026.

2— UBCM Meeting Requests

That Council identify the following advocacy priorities for the 2026 UBCM Convention:

Ministry of Health

- primary care facility in Lake Cowichan or vicinity;
- advocate for practitioners for the community.

Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing

- status of sewer lagoon;
- acquisition of property - former AB Greenwell school.

Ministry of Education

- construction of new school for K to 7 students.

And direct staff to submit meeting requests with the Premier and applicable Provincial Ministers prior to the June 24th, 2026 deadline.

2— UBCM Meeting Requests

That Council identify the following advocacy priorities for the 2026 UBCM Convention:

- Health Care Infrastructure;
- Housing;
- AB Greenwell;
- Education.

And direct staff to submit meeting requests with the Premier and applicable Provincial Ministers prior to the June 24th, 2026 deadline.

3— Building Permit Summary

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

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 \$10,117.70 for April, 2026.

5—Fire Department Incident Report

That staff report be received; and

That Council approve the Lake Cowichan Fire Department's Incident Report in the amount of \$12,347.80 for May, 2026.

6—Sanitary Sewer Modelling

That Council authorizes the completion of a comprehensive sanitary sewer modelling project;



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That Council direct staff to prepare and bring forward an amendment to the 2026-2030 Financial Plan to include the sanitary sewer modelling project as a priority capital initiative in 2026 in the amount of \$125,000; and

That the project be funded from the Community Works Fund Reserve; and

That Council authorize staff to award a contract up to \$125,000 for this project.

7—Seasonal Paid Parking Strategy

That Council defer consideration of the Parking Management Pilot Project; and

That staff be direct to undertake additional parking consultation, refine the implementation plan and report back to Council with revised recommendations and financial projections with input sought from the Advisory Planning Commission.

CARRIED.

7. DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS

None.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

No. R.0108/26
Correspondence Items –
Received and Filed

Moved: Councillor Austin

Seconded: Councillor Frisby

That the following correspondences be received and filed:

(a) LCRB Liquor Policy – Bulletin 26-03;

(b) Ministry of Forests – Wildfire prevention and the role of local government bylaws;

(c) Request for Proclamation – Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.

CARRIED.

9. COUNCIL AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee of the
Whole

(a) The Committee of the Whole meeting held on June 9th, 2026 was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Cowichan Lake
Recreation Commission

(b) Councillor Sandu reported that the next meeting would be held in July.

Vancouver Island
Regional Library

(c) No report was available on the Regional Library Board.

Advisory Planning
Commission

(d) Councillor Sandhu that the next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for September 24th, 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 would be meeting on June 24th, 2026.

Community Outreach
Team

(g) Councillor Austin provided her report on her attendance at the recent Community Outreach meeting which she forwarded to members of Council.

The next meeting will be held on September 17th, 2026.

Our Cowichan

(h) Councillor Austin reported that the next meeting would be held on July 9th, 2026.



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Cowichan Watershed Board	(i)	Councillor Sandhu reported that the next meeting would be held on June 29 th , 2026.
Ohtaki Twinning	(j)	Councillor Austin shared the fundraising efforts currently underway by the 2027 delegates planning to travel to Ohtaki Japan.
	10.	<u>OTHER REPORTS</u> Mayor McGonigle acknowledged Dalton Smith, Manager, Cowichan Lake Education Centre and that this would be his last Council meeting prior to his retirement. Mayor McGonigle thanked Mr. Smith for his many years of service at the Education Centre, Lakeview and Info Centre and all the input he has provided to the Town of Lake Cowichan.
	11.	<u>STAFF REPORTS</u>
No. R.0109/26 Election Official Remuneration Policy	(a)	Moved: Councillor Sandhu Seconded: Councillor Frisby That Council approve the Election Official Remuneration Policy as presented. CARRIED.
No. R.0110/26 2025 Statement of Financial Information	(b)	Moved: Councillor Sandhu Seconded: Councillor Frisby That Council approve the 2025 Statement of Financial Information as presented. CARRIED.
	12.	<u>BYLAWS</u>
No. R.0111/26 Election and Assent Voting No. 1133-2026	(a)	Moved: Councillor Frisby Seconded: Councillor Austin That the “Town of Lake Cowichan Election and Assent Voting Bylaw No. 1133-2026” be adopted. CARRIED.
	13.	<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>
No. R.0112/26 Letter to School District No. 79	(a)	Moved: Mayor McGonigle Seconded: Councillor Austin That Council send a letter to the Cowichan Valley School District No. 79 requesting that the Town of Lake Cowichan to be placed as the number one capital priority for a new primary school within the confines of the municipality as students reside in numerous portables to accommodate student numbers. CARRIED.
No. R.0113/26 Elect Respect	(b)	Moved: Mayor McGonigle Seconded: Councillor Sandhu That the Town of Lake Cowichan supports the <i>Elect Respect</i> pledge and commits to: • Treat others with respect in all spaces—public, private, and online, • Reject and call out harassment, abuse, and personal attacks, • Focus debate on ideas and policies, not personal attacks, • Help build a supportive culture where people of all backgrounds feel safe to run for and hold office, • Call on relevant authorities to ensure the protection of elected officials who face abuse or threats, and • Model integrity and respect by holding one another to the highest standards of conduct.



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THAT the Town of Lake Cowichan, calls on elected officials, organizations, and community members to support the *Elect Respect* campaign and sign the online pledge at <https://electrespect.ca/>; and

THAT a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, Union of BC Municipalities, and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

CARRIED.

No. R.0114/26
Regional Water
Restrictions

- (c) Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Mayor McGonigle
That Council approve the Town of Lake Cowichan to Stage 3 Water Restrictions as of July 1st, 2026.

Mayor McGonigle and Councillor Austin in Favour
Councillors Sandhu and Frisby Opposed
FAILED.

- (d) Councillor Austin reported on the events planned at Central Park in Lake Cowichan for July 1st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm to celebrate Canada Day.

14. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor McGonigle reported on his recent attendance at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Edmonton, Alberta as follows:

FCM 2026 - Marked the **125th anniversary** of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

- Brought together more than 1,500–3,000 municipal leaders, including mayors, councillors, federal representatives, and industry partners from across Canada.

Theme - “Building the Future Together”

- Focused on how municipalities can collaborate with provincial and federal governments to address major national challenges.
- Emphasized housing development, infrastructure renewal, economic growth, community resilience, and sustainable local development.

Key Topics Discussed

- Housing affordability and supply
- Municipal infrastructure investment
- Trade and economic competitiveness
- Community safety
- Climate resilience and sustainability
- Support for rural, northern, and Indigenous communities
- Municipal innovation and capacity building through workshops, panels, and study tours.

Notable Speakers

The conference featured federal ministers and political leaders, including:

- Dominic LeBlanc
- Gregor Robertson
- Eleanor Olszewski
- Scott Aitchison
- Elizabeth May
- Avi Lewis

Main Outcomes and Messages

- Municipal governments emphasized that they are central to delivering housing, infrastructure, and economic growth.
- Stronger intergovernmental partnerships were highlighted as essential to meeting community needs.



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- Incoming FCM President Tim Tierney stressed a results-oriented approach to helping municipalities address Canada's current challenges.

Bottom Line

FCM 2026 was primarily a forum for Canadian municipal leaders to share best practices, discuss solutions to housing and infrastructure pressures, strengthen partnerships with other levels of government, and celebrate 125 years of municipal leadership under the banner **"Building the Future Together."**

The Mayor provided his quarterly Mayor's Report for June 2026 as follows:

Over the past few months, Council has continued to focus on the issues that matter most to our residents: responsible financial management, infrastructure renewal, public safety, housing, economic development, and protecting the quality of life that makes Lake Cowichan such a desirable place to live.

As communities across British Columbia continue to face rising costs, increasing service demands, and infrastructure pressures, municipalities are being asked to do more with limited resources. Despite these challenges, Council remains committed to ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly while continuing to invest in the services and infrastructure our residents rely upon every day.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in helping make this year's Lake Days celebrations a success, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

The arrival of summer brings both opportunities and challenges for Lake Cowichan. Our community welcomes thousands of visitors who contribute significantly to the local economy and support our businesses. At the same time, increased visitation places additional demands on municipal services, public safety resources, parks, waterfront areas, and infrastructure. Council continues to work closely with staff, community organizations, and regional partners to balance economic opportunity with responsible stewardship of our community assets.

Housing affordability and availability remain important issues throughout Vancouver Island and across the province. While municipalities cannot solve this challenge alone, Council continues to support policies and initiatives that encourage appropriate housing development while preserving the character and livability of our community.

Council also continues to advocate strongly with senior levels of government for infrastructure funding and support. Whether it is transportation improvements, water and sewer infrastructure, recreation facilities, or climate resilience initiatives, communities such as Lake Cowichan require reliable partnerships to meet both current and future needs.

Recent public discourse has also highlighted the importance of respectful civic engagement. Healthy debate and differing opinions are essential components of democracy. However, productive community conversations must be grounded in facts, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to the well-being of our town. Council remains committed to transparency, accountability, and maintaining public confidence in local government institutions.

I would like to recognize the outstanding work of Town staff, our volunteer firefighters, emergency responders, public works crews, local organizations, and the many volunteers who contribute countless hours to strengthening our community. Their dedication often goes unnoticed but plays a critical



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role in making Lake Cowichan the welcoming and resilient community we are proud to call home.

As we look ahead to the summer months, Council remains focused on moving important projects forward, advocating for our residents, and ensuring Lake Cowichan continues to be a community where families, businesses, and visitors can thrive.

15. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Frisby requested that the following Notices of Motion to the next Committee of the Whole meeting for July 14th, 2026:

- a) Short Term Rentals;
- b) Fern Road Opening.

16. QUESTION PERIOD

None.

17. IN CAMERA

No. R.0115/26
Retire to In-Camera

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
That the Council close the meeting to the public to deal with matters which falls under s. 90(1) (c) and (d) of the Community Charter. (5:38 pm).
CARRIED.

18. ADJOURNMENT

No. R.0116/26
Adjournment

Moved: Councillor Austin
Seconded: Councillor Frisby
That Council arise and report when appropriate and adjourn the meeting (7:20pm).
CARRIED.

Certified correct _____ *Original Signed* _____.

Confirmed on the 28th day of July, 2026

Original Signed
Mayor