

**The Corporation of the Village of Cumberland  
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes**

**November 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m.  
Cultural Centre, 2674 Dunsmuir Avenue**



Council Present: Mayor Vickey Brown  
Councillor Neil Borecky  
Councillor Sean Sullivan  
Councillor Troy Therrien  
Councillor Nick Ward

Staff Present: Michelle Mason, Chief Administrative Officer  
Annie Bérard-Ball, Director of Corporate Services  
Kevin McPhedran, Director of Community Services  
Courtney Simpson, Director of Development and Bylaw Services  
Rachel Parker, Corporate Officer  
Stephane Dionne, Deputy Fire Chief  
Jason Wallace, Manager of Municipal Projects  
Joel Clarkston, Engineering Technologist

---

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and recognized the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation and offered gratitude for the care and stewardship of this land since time immemorial.

**2. Agenda**

2.1 Agenda for Village Hall Meeting, November 17, 2025

**Therrien**

THAT Council approve the agenda for the Village Hall Meeting, November 17, 2025.

**Carried**

**3. Proposed 2026 - 2030 Financial Plan**

(a) Introduction from Mayor Vickey Brown

Welcome everyone and thank you for joining us to learn more about the village of Cumberland's proposed Financial Plan. I want to begin by acknowledging that we gather tonight on the unceded, traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation. I'd also like to recognize the work of Council and staff in preparing this plan. Together we work hard to deliver the services our community relies on, and the time and care that went into this budget reflects that commitment.

As you know, a budget is more than tax and utility rates — it is the financial tool that brings our strategic plan to life. Our 2023–27 plan sets out a vision of Cumberland as a unique and thriving community with an exceptional quality of life. It centres values of respect, inclusion, collaboration and leadership, commits us to meaningful reconciliation, socio-economic diversity, arts, culture and recreation, responsible service delivery, and economically sustainable community planning.

Tonight’s proposed Financial Plan reflects how we put our vision into action and responds to the pressures we face: very old, old and aging infrastructure, rising costs for core services, rapid population growth, climate impacts and extreme weather, housing needs, and the broader economic uncertainty affecting us all. Our goal, as always, is to maintain or improve service levels, invest in asset renewal, strengthen reserves for long-term stability, and keep tax increases as reasonable as possible.

We also know that any increase in taxes or utilities is difficult. Annie will speak to the numbers, but I want to highlight one reality: in Cumberland, a 1% tax increase generates only \$48,000 — not enough to fund a full-time position or build even a short block of sidewalk. That is why provincial and federal grants, a strong reserve system and an engaged community are essential.

I also want to note an important decision Council has made. For the last 10 years, all new growth taxes have gone into our policing reserve, preparing us for the upcoming transition when our population reaches 5,000 and we transition from paying 30% of the cost of policing to 70% of that cost. This year like last, we have reduced that contribution so that some of that growth revenue can support operations, helping maintain service capacity and ease the tax burden. We remain confident that the reserve will still be sufficient to cushion the transition after the next census.

And so I have to take a moment to thank the people who make this lifestyle we all enjoy possible: I am so grateful for our dedicated staff (in all departments), and our many community partners; volunteers who power the many events that connect us, our entrepreneurs and business owners, our artists, social profit organizations, and service providers. You increase what this Village offers exponentially so you are all part of building a resilient, thriving community — it takes a Village, and we have that because of you.

Before turning things over, I want to acknowledge our Chief Administrative Officer who stepped in to build this plan while the Director and Chief Financial Officer, was on leave.

With that, I’ll turn the floor over to the Director of Corporate Services for the presentation of the detailed financial plan. Thank you.

(b) Presentation from Annie Bérard-Ball, Director Corporate Services

Ms. Bérard-Ball reviewed the financial plan development process and methodology, the proposed 2026 property tax increase of 3.94%, which would bring in an additional \$192,290 in tax revenue for municipal purposes. It was noted that since 2016, residential growth taxes have been contributed to reserve to fund policing costs expected to significantly increase for 2027. The proposed 2026 budget includes a one-time reduction from the policing reserve to be reallocated to the General Stabilization Financial Reserve and to be used to fund various 2026 initiatives, similar to what has been approved and done for 2025.

Total revenues for utility user fees for solid waste, water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer services are proposed to increase by 3.8% and frontage taxes by 9.6% in 2026. The results in an estimated 4.9% increase or \$77.43 increase for an average single family household for operating and capital costs of utilities.

The combined change to an average single family household for 2026 is an estimated 6.2% increase, or \$309 increase, including municipal taxes, utility fees, frontage and parcel taxes and taxes collected for other authorities estimated to increase by 7%.

Ms. Bérard-Ball reviewed staff changes for incremental increases to part time/season staff positions as well as annual contributions to reserves funds that help fund operating and capital projects for utilities, policing, and asset renewal.

Feedback on the proposed financial plan was welcome at the Village Hall meeting and until end of day on November 18, 2025 to the Village office.

**3. Question and Comment Period**

A question was received on protection of Perseverance Creek.

**4. Adjournment of the Village Hall meeting to the Open House portion.**

The meeting was adjourned for the open house at 7:25 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

Certified Correct by Corporate Officer