

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



**April 27, 2026, 2:30 p.m.
Cultural Centre
2674 Dunsmuir Avenue**

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

Regrets: Councillor Neil Borecky

Staff Present: Michelle Mason, Chief Administrative Officer
Courtney Simpson, Director of Development and Bylaw Services
David Dougherty, Director of Engineering & Public Works
Annie Berard, Director of Corporate Services
Kevin McPhedran, Director of Community Services
Rachel Parker, Corporate Officer
Ryan Parton, Manager of Recreation and Culture
Chris Baker, Manager of Bylaw, Permits and Licencing
Mike Williamson, Fire Chief
Melissa Roeske, Legislative Services Coordinator

1. Call to Order

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 2:30 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 Committee of the Whole meeting, April 27, 2026

Moved by: Therrien

Seconded by: Ward

THAT the Committee approve the Agenda for the Committee of the Whole Meeting, April 27, 2026.

Carried Unanimously

3. Delegations

3.1 Comox Strathcona Waste Management, Draft Solid Waste Management Plan

Members discussed the implications of the landfill/transfer-station closures and where waste would be disposed from remote communities. Members discussed concerns about long-haul transport costs and the plan's resilience to rising fuel prices, which may affect tipping fees and contracts. Questions about the potential of diversion improvements, such as pre-screening and separate rates for sorted versus unsorted loads. It was noted there is upcoming work to update a host community agreement and to review risks, including fire risks.

4. Reports

4.1 Cumberland Events Society 2025 Community Services Partnership Agreement Presentation

The Cumberland Events Society reported a strong year in 2025, updated noting the Society has a working 17-member board. The 2025 event had good event attendance, and 2026 event has seen a 50% increase in sponsorship, with plans to add new offerings, while continued efforts to pursue grants and other revenue, such as stage rentals. The Society also flagged rising event costs and liability pressures, particularly insurance and parade requirements. Final discussion was on operational details like volunteer camping, waste/recycling plans, and the need to promote events earlier and address vendor cancellations.

4.2 Elevate the Arts Society 2025 Community Services Partnership Agreement Presentation

The Elevate the Arts Society outlined plans to improve the concert series experience, reviewed how balanced budgets are maintained through Market Day proceeds and fundraising. Much of the remaining funds are directed to community initiatives, including school and facility support and a winter solstice event with partners. Council members discussed supports for local businesses during events, such as Halloween, and logistics for large holiday programming.

4.3 Strategic Priorities, First Quarter Report, January to March 2026

Discussion took place on Q1 strategic priorities progress and key operational items and next steps, including communications hiring, insurance/claims issues for the Council Chamber and Firehall, park and cemetery project timelines, drought-related water restrictions and spray park hours, wildfire prevention/boating readiness, bylaw education-first enforcement approach, and cleaning up the outstanding action items list.

RCMP reported overall calls for service were unchanged from last year, with most calls related to traffic, suspicious activity, and minor property offences; fraud

increased, including online sextortion, while mischief decreased, and staffing vacancies continued to limit capacity.

4.4 Comox Valley RCMP Annual Policing Priorities

RCMP reported that community priorities across the Comox Valley focus on traffic and road safety, crime reduction, police visibility and engagement, youth issues, mental health, and strengthening Indigenous relations, with a goal of consistent service across the region.

Council members discussed key concerns include speeding and off-road vehicle enforcement, youth mischief and prevention, improved police–community relationships and resource needs for seasonal policing, while initiatives like positive ticketing, coffee with cops, and youth outreach aim to build trust and engagement.

5. Question Period

None

6. Closed Portion

Ward/Therrien

THAT Council close the meeting to the public at 4:58 p.m. pursuant to Section 90(1) of the *Community Charter* to consider:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(l) discussions with municipal officers and employees respecting municipal objectives, measures and progress reports for the purposes of preparing an annual report under section 98 [annual municipal report].

Carried

Councillor Therrien left the meeting at 4:46 prior at the start of the closed portion.

7. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Mayor

Certified Correct by Corporate Officer