

**Municipality of North Cowichan  
Committee of the Whole  
MINUTES**

**October 7, 2025, 5:00 p.m.**

**Municipal Hall - Council Chambers & Electronically**

Members Present    Mayor Rob Douglas  
                          Councillor Mike Caljouw  
                          Councillor Bruce Findlay  
                          Councillor Becky Hogg  
                          Councillor Chris Istace  
                          Councillor Christopher Justice  
                          Councillor Tek Manhas

Staff Present        Ted Swabey, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)  
                          Bill Corsan, General Manager, Corporate Services and Community Relations  
                          George Farkas, General Manager, Planning, Development and Community Services  
                          Amanda Young, Director, Planning and Building  
                          Andrea Hainrich, Deputy Corporate Officer  
                          Barb Floden, Manager, Communications and Public Engagement  
                          Clay Reitsma, Director, Engineering  
                          Dave Preikshot, Senior Environmental Specialist  
                          David Conway, Director, Subdivision and Environmental Services  
                          John Horn, Director, Social Planning and Protective Services  
                          Marla Laycock, Director, People and Culture  
                          Shaun Mason, Manager, Parks and Forestry  
                          Tricia Mayea, Corporate Officer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

There being a quorum present, the Chair called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the agenda be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**3.1 Minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting for adoption**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the minutes of the meeting held September 9, 2025 be adopted, as circulated.

CARRIED

**4. PUBLIC INPUT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Council received public input from 4 members of the public regarding agenda items 5.1, and 5.2.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

**5.1 Update on Quamichan Lake Water Quality and Aerator Trial**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council directs staff to:

- 1. conduct aerator trials as described in the report of the Senior Environmental Specialist, dated October 7, 2025, and report back to Council upon completion of the trials with an assessment of results and advise on the efficacy of full-scale aerator installation, and,
  - 2. seek support from the Cowichan Valley Regional District under the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program to fund in whole or in part the Quamichan Lake Aerator trials.
- CARRIED

**5.2 Community Wellness Plan**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council directs staff to return with a report outlining two sites for village style housing. (Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)  
CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole directs staff to work with the City of Duncan and CVRD to identify a location for a year-round 24/7 shelter. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council directs staff to prepare an advocacy package for Council to deliver to senior levels of government. CARRIED

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that Council directs staff to prepare a report on potential locations for overnight sheltering within municipal parks. (Opposed: Findlay, Manhas)  
CARRIED

Council recessed at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:41 p.m.

**5.3 Safer Community Plan**

IT WAS MOVED AND SECONDED:

THAT Council extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m. CARRIED

Council asked staff to return with more information on:

Addictions

- 1. Advocate for provincially funded treatment beds
- 2. Post treatment residential living (public and private sector)
- 3. Site for a substance use treatment facility (public and private sector)

Untreated Mental Illness

- 1. Advocate for provincial mental health programs
- 2. Institute Car 40 Program (Council has passed a motion for more information on this).
- 3. Advocate province for an involuntary care facility

Open Substance Use

1. Bylaw review for open substance use
2. Advocate federal crown counsel for more prosecution for illicit substance use

Property and Personal Crime

1. Continued deployment of RCMP to corridor

Sidewalk Encampments

1. Continue with existing bylaw and clean team presence
2. Encampment dismantling
4. Sanctioned and managed space (24/7 Shelter)  
+ Consider bylaw tickets for prolific offenders

Lack of police and bylaw officers

1. Continue with existing staffing resources
2. Consider adding 2 more bylaw officers

Lack of Appropriate Housing

1. See recommendations from Wellness Plan

Public Urination

1. Continue with current clean team response
2. Provide additional resources to support power washing
3. Prepare a report on portable toilets at high traffic sites.

Noise

1. Covered through above actions

Personal Safety

1. Continue with current RCMP/bylaw response.

Voice for Impacted People

1. Continue with existing bylaw and police response
2. Create a safety and solutions advisory group for residents and businesses to engage in dialogue

**6. QUESTION PERIOD**

Council received 1 question from the public regarding agenda items.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

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Certified by Corporate Officer

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Signed by Mayor