



**CORPORATION OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT**
Minutes - Draft
Committee of the Whole

Municipal Hall
1229 Esquimalt Road
Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3P1

Monday, November 10, 2025

6:00 PM

Esquimalt Council Chambers

Present 7 - Mayor Barbara Desjardins

Councillor Ken Armour

Councillor Andrea Boardman

Councillor Meagan Brame

Councillor Duncan Cavens

Councillor Jacob Helliwell

Councillor Tim Morrison

Staff:

Joel Clary, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

Ian Irvine, Director of Financial Services and Information
Technology

Judy Kitts, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Sarah Holloway, Manager of Corporate Services/Deputy
Corporate Officer

Victoria McKean, Committee Coordinator/Recording
Secretary

Other:

Fiona Wilson, Chief Constable, VicPD

Jamie McRae, Deputy Chief Constable, VicPD

Donna Phillips, Director of Financial Services, VicPD

Cheryl Major, Director of Strategic Communications and
Community Engagement, VicPD

Angela Van Erd, President, Victoria City Police Union

Elizabeth Cull, Chair, Finance Committee, Victoria and
Esquimalt Police Board

Holly Courtright, Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board

Tim Kituri, Victoria and Esquimalt Police Board

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Cavens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Councillor Armour acknowledged that the Township conducts its business on the traditional territory of the lək'wəŋən-speaking peoples and works to be increasingly mindful of its commitment to more inclusive governance with our neighbours. We are committed to building stronger working relationships with both the Songhees and Xwsepsem First Nations.

Chair Cavens acknowledged that tomorrow is Remembrance Day and November 8th was Indigenous Veterans Day and reflected on the sacrifices made by our country's veterans on our behalf.

1) [25-397](#) National Veterans' Week Speakers Program

A video presentation was played to mark Veterans Week and Remembrance Day.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

1) [25-419](#) Late Correspondence

Item 6.1 - Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Program

- Project Handout, received at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 10, 2025

Item 6.2 - Victoria Police Department 2026 Provisional Budget

- Kat Glasspoole, received November 7, 2025

- Budget Presentation, received at the Committee of the Whole meeting on November 10, 2025

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Mayor Desjardins: That the items received at the beginning of the November 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole meeting be accepted. Carried Unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Councillor Morrison, seconded by Councillor Brame: The agenda be approved with the inclusion of the late items. Carried Unanimously.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1) [25-411](#) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 20, 2025

Moved by Councillor Boardman, seconded by Mayor Desjardins That the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole meeting held on October 20, 2025 be adopted as circulated. Carried Unanimously.

5. PUBLIC INPUT ON ITEM 6

There was no public input.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

Presentations

1) [25-413](#) Habitat for Humanity - Affordable Homeownership Program

Carmen Rempel, Chief Executive Officer, and Krista Bekkema, Director of

Finance and Governance Relations, Habitat for Humanity, presented a PowerPoint on the Affordable Homeownership Program and responded to questions from Committee of the Whole.

2) [25-412](#) Victoria Police Department 2026 Provisional Budget

Chief Constable Fiona Wilson, Victoria Police Department, presented a PowerPoint on the Victoria Police Department's 2026 Provisional Budget.

Committee of the Whole comments included the following:

- Concern was expressed about supplemental budget items totaling \$1 million, primarily for new police officers;
- More information on increased crashes, including where they are occurring and data from 2018/2019, was requested;
- An analysis of wage increases, including cost drivers, is of interest;
- Frustration with the current policing approach and preference for a regional policing model was expressed;
- Information regarding how efficiencies and success will be measured was requested;
- A more detailed budget discussion with the Board and VicPD with the opportunity to provide feedback for Board consideration was requested;
- Incident reports from the Late Night Task Force specific to Esquimalt was requested;
- It was expressed that bylaw enforcement assistance after hours and on weekends is needed and that there is currently limited VicPD presence in Esquimalt during those times;
- It was recognized that while non-discretionary costs are outside their control, discretionary costs - especially supplemental items for new officers - are significant. The need for 8 additional officers was questioned given independent reports indicating over staffing of the Esquimalt Division and concern was expressed about the ability to justify these costs;
- More information on collisions and bylaw issues was requested and desire for VicPD to consider expanded bylaw support after hours was expressed;
- Appreciation of the acknowledgment of challenges and differences between Esquimalt and Victoria, and openness to exploring new approaches was expressed;
- There is a desire to find a path forward and improve the policing relationship and balance VicPD requests with taxpayer impacts.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no public comment.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councillor Brame, seconded by Councillor Helliwell: That the meeting be adjourned at 7:49 PM. Carried Unanimously.

MAYOR BARBARA DESJARDINS
THIS 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2025

SARAH HOLLOWAY,
DEPUTY CORPORATE OFFICER
CERTIFIED CORRECT