

**DISTRICT OF NORTH VANCOUVER
COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

Minutes of the Council Workshop for the District of North Vancouver held at 5:01 p.m. on Monday, November 17, 2025 in the Committee Room of the District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, British Columbia.

Present: Acting Mayor Catherine Pope
Councillor Jordan Back
Councillor Betty Forbes
Councillor Jim Hanson
Councillor Herman Mah
Councillor Lisa Muri

Absent: Mayor Mike Little

Staff: David Stuart, Chief Administrative Officer
Nicola Chevallier, General Manager – Engineering Public Works
Rick Danyluk, General Manager – Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Caroline Jackson, General Manager – Climate Action and Parks
Dan Milburn, General Manager – Planning, Properties and Permits
Saira Walker, General Manager – Corporate Services
Sean Rooney, Manager –Utilities
Rhonda Schell, Deputy Corporate Officer
Michael Toland, Manager – Engineering Operations
Kaitlin Hebron, Confidential Council Clerk
Amanda Day, Administration Clerk

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1. November 17, 2025 Council Workshop Agenda

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Councillor HANSON

THAT the agenda for the November 17, 2025 Council Workshop is adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Nil

3. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL OR STAFF

3.1. 2026 Utility Rates Workshop

File No.

Rick Danyluk, General Manager, Finance and Chief Financial Officer, noted the purpose of this workshop is to update Council on the status of the utility rate study and the direction rates are expected to take. Mr. Danyluk stated staff will review the study's findings on the revenue needed to meet the projected cost of delivering utility services such as water, sewer, drainage and solid waste. Mr. Danyluk highlighted several major initiatives that could help limit long-term rate increases, including shifting to bi-weekly garbage collection, implementing measures to reduce wet weather inflow and infiltration in response to Metro Vancouver's wet weather pricing, and introducing water metering. Mr. Danyluk noted staff are seeking Council's guidance and direction on advancing the proposed 2026 utility rates for adoption in December and determining which initiatives should be incorporated into the Financial Plan.

Council discussion ensued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Commented on the use of reserve funds;
- Commented on rate stabilization;
- Addressed annual projected utility needs for the District;
- Discussed the watermain replacement project;
- Raised concerns about uncertainty regarding when North Shore Wastewater Treatment Plant (NSWWTP) costs will peak;
- Commented on debt servicing expenses; and,
- Noted the issue of having a single sewage area at Metro Vancouver.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that this plan relies on using reserve funds to stabilize impacts from NSWWTP cost overruns.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the Rate Stabilization Program was brought into effect after 2015.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the primary use for reserve funds is to help pay for infrastructure.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District uses a rate stabilization approach to manage fluctuations in costs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Metro Vancouver's charges directly influence the District's overall utility expenses.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that approximately \$4 million per year is allocated to help offset the NSWWTTP costs.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District expects to begin contributing back to its reserves starting in 2030.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District's watermain replacement program, including the asbestos cement pipe component, is underway.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the program is scheduled for completion in 2035, with approximately 5km of pipe replaced each year.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that there is no accelerated replacement program in place, however, in the future staff intend to redirect resources to become more proactive in managing sewer infrastructure.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that work is currently focused on culverts as part of the culvert replacement program and the District is continuing to upgrade and improve storm infrastructure.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the rate stabilization tool will continue to be used after 2030 as its effects are expected to provide steady, predictable stabilization, however, the District does not yet have all the necessary information for long-term forecasting.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that funding for capital needs is largely being drawn from reserve funds.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that there is both a legal limit and a self-imposed limit for debt-servicing levels. Staff noted the District's legal limit is 25% of ongoing revenue, and the District has adopted a more conservative self-imposed limit of 5%.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that as specified in the bylaw, they are designated for NSWWTTP-related sewerage renewal, upgrades, and rate stabilization.

Nicola Chevallier, General Manager, Engineering Public Works, discussed the proposal to shift garbage collection to a bi-weekly schedule while keeping organics collection on a weekly basis.

Council discussion continued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Commented on core services including garbage collection and snow removal;
- Expressed concern some residents may perceive changes as a reduction in services;
- Suggested implementation should be gradual to ensure a smooth transition;

- Queried if there could be service level increases during the holiday season;
- Commented on a large item pick-up service;
- Requested consideration be given to families that generate more waste for various reasons;
- Queried the potential impact on District employees;
- Requested clarification on where cost savings would come from;
- Stated community education remains important in a bear aware context;
- Expressed concerns relating to garbage trucks on snow and ice;
- Noted missed collections can occur because of adverse road conditions;
- Commented on consultant fees; and,
- Suggested a communications program will encourage increased recycling.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the estimated dollar savings for residents is approximately \$425,000.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that providing a large item pick-up service would be entirely separate from current waste services and is estimated to cost roughly \$1 million.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the proposed changes would not affect staffing levels or the number of trucks.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that on weeks with statutory holidays, collection days would be shifted by one day.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that savings come primarily from reduced mileage and a reduced number of trips to the transfer station.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that from November through March, six garbage trucks are in service and from March to the end of November, seven garbage trucks are in service.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the District does not collect loose garbage bags due to manual handling risks associated with their weight.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that residents can rent an additional organics cart beyond the two-cart maximum for approximately \$40-\$50 more per year.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that approximately 30% of households currently have two organics carts.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that common issues with carts involve wheels, locks and lids, typically damaged by either wildlife or during the collection process.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that they are looking into changes to the types of locks on the carts.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that waste composition studies show that approximately 60% of what is discarded is not actually garbage.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that a large portion consists of food waste and recyclable materials and a smaller portion includes items that should not be in the garbage at all.

Nicola Chevallier, General Manager, Engineering Public Works, discussed measures to limit rainwater into the sewer system that will reduce District's sewer charges, mitigate associated risks and enhance system resilience.

Council discussion continued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Referred to an inflow and infiltration study conducted in Lynn Valley eight years ago;
- Expressed interest in reviewing the results, current status and future plans;
- Stated balance must be maintained while continuing to provide core services;
- Noted it is important to understand the implications for the residents;
- Noted climate considerations such as including more frequent atmospheric rivers and increased rainfall must be factored in;
- Expressed concerns regarding the costs of enforcing certain measures;
- Stated a clearer understanding is needed of the potential costs to the average homeowner; and,
- Suggested the identification of neighbourhoods at the highest risk is required.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the atmospheric rivers in 2021 and 2024 highlighted that the issue affects the entire District.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that this initiative is focused on cost avoidance and as issues arise, addressing them can be a significant expense. Staff noted efforts include minimizing rainwater infiltration into the sanitary sewer system.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that rainwater infiltration in effect converts the sanitary system into a storm sewer during a major rain event, which is something the sanitary system is not designed for.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that Metro Vancouver uses wet weather pricing, and the District will be more significantly impacted due to its high levels of rainfall.

Nicola Chevallier, General Manager, Engineering Public Works, provided an overview of the implementation of universal water metering in the District.

Council discussion continued and the following comments and concerns were noted:

- Expressed general support for an incremental approach;
- Queried when the incremental approach will have a meaningful impact;
- Stated it is logical to implement water meters for new construction projects;
- Expressed interest in seeing a plan returned sooner rather than later outlining the path to universal water metering;
- Queried where the savings will come from; and,
- Requested additional information in order to fully understand the approach.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that under the incremental approach, approximately 100 service connections are installed per year.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that estimates indicate that at least 8% of water used in North Vancouver could be recoverable through better leak detection made possible by water metering.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that a proposed amendment will be brought forward this year to the *Waterworks Regulation Bylaw* to establish the requirement for water metering.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that the next step is to conduct a utility rates study to confirm rates for both single-family and multi-family homes.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that approximately 1% of the population accounts for 8% of water usage.

In response to a question from Council, staff advised that there is a significant difference in consumption between low-use and high-use homes.

MOVED by Councillor BACK

SECONDED by Acting Mayor POPE

THAT the 2026 Utility Rates be brought back to Council on December 1, 2025 for approval.

CARRIED

4. PUBLIC INPUT:

Nil

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Acting Mayor POPE

SECONDED by Councillor MURI

THAT the November 17, 2025 Council Workshop is adjourned.

CARRIED
(6:59 p.m.)

Mayor

Corporate Officer

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