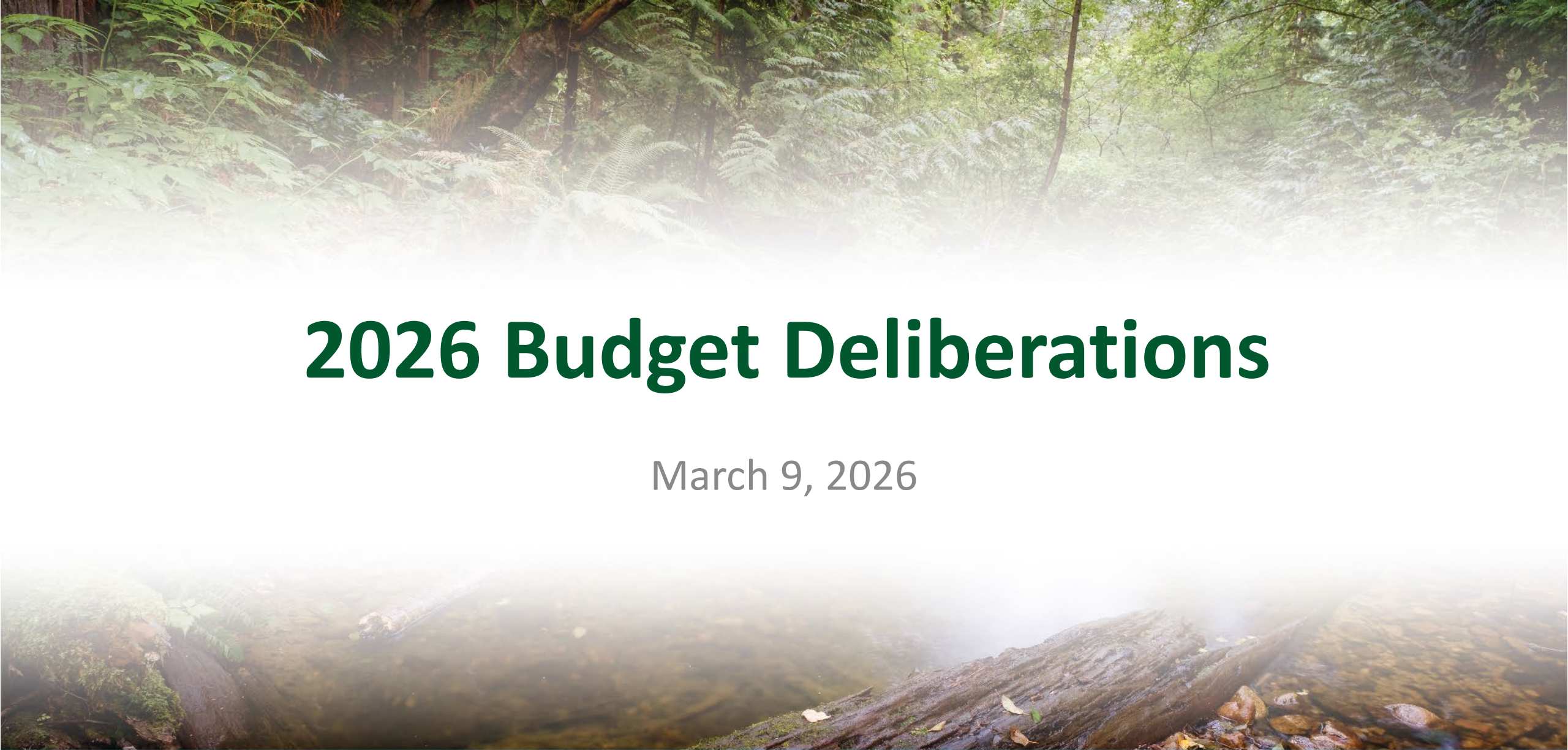


A misty forest scene with a stream and fallen logs. The image is a background for the title slide, showing a dense forest with a stream in the foreground. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding greenery. Several large, moss-covered logs are scattered along the stream bed. The air is thick with mist, creating a serene and somewhat ethereal atmosphere. The colors are predominantly greens and browns, with the mist adding a soft, white glow.

2026 Budget Deliberations

March 9, 2026

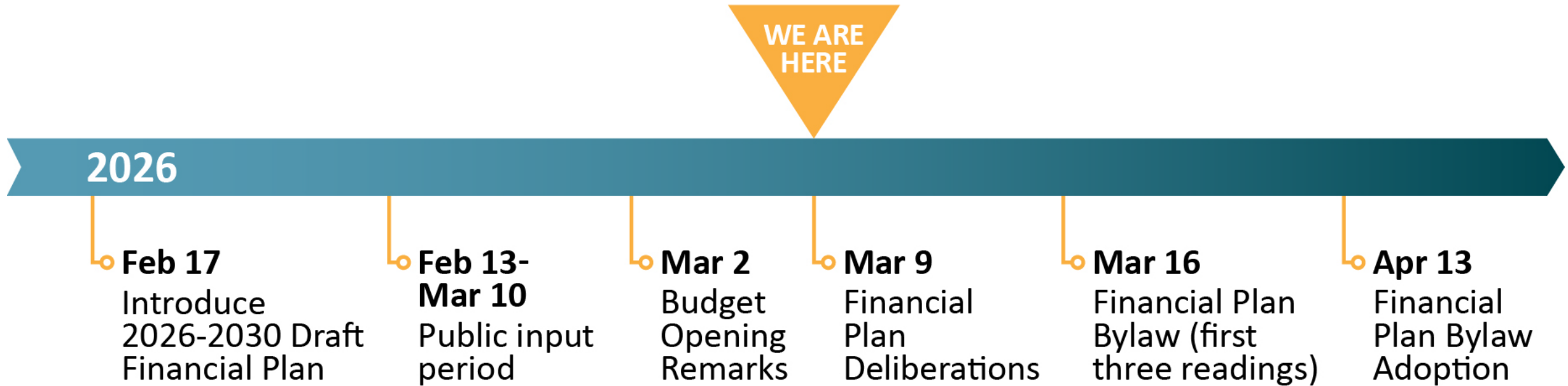
Outline

- Summary and timeline
- Supplemental information
- Public input
- Property tax outlook
- Financial health indicators
- Direction

Summary

- A balanced budget through modest service level reductions while increasing investment in infrastructure – to stay on current path, more reductions required over next five years
 - Staff will bring forward information this year to aid Council in decision-making regarding service level reductions
- New strategies and actions required to address the long-term fiscal imbalance, emphasizing innovation, value creation, fairness, and risk management
- In 2026 and 2027, the budget process will be improved to enhance transparency and understanding

Timeline



Supplemental Information Operating Budget

TABLE 1: 2026 Operating Budget Changes (thousands of dollars)

	A	B	C	D [A + B +C]	E
	Reductions	Additions	Transfers (in/out)	Net Ongoing Changes	One-Time Initiatives
Total	-5,009	2,165	81	-2,763	2,150

Public Input Summary

- Captured throughout budget process, and regular feedback channels
- Unique visits to budget webpage
825 (*452 last year*), inquiries received 29 (*149 last year*)

Top 3 themes:

- Tax Rates / Affordability
- Services Reductions vs. Investments
- General (Supportive)

Property Tax Outlook 2026 – 2030

	2025	2026	2027	2028-2030
Operations	8.0%	6.0%	4.1%	3.1%
Infrastructure deficit	1.0%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Starting point to maintain services	9.0%	7.5%	5.6%	4.6%
Adjustments to achieve mandate	-3.5%	-4.0%	-2.1%	-1.1%
Property Tax Increase	5.5%	3.5%	3.5%	3.5%

*More service reductions required to stay on current path for next five years,
new information is still coming in (impacts from senior government, etc.)*

Financial Health Indicators

- Maintain competitive tax rates to support economic development
- Manage municipal tax increases to protect affordability
- Preserve financial flexibility to manage capital demand and debt
- Ensure sustainable infrastructure funding to responsibly steward public assets
- Deliver on the community service vision by maximizing public value



Direction

1. THAT staff prepare the financial plan bylaw in line with the Draft Financial Plan that was introduced on February 17, 2026 (status quo, 3.5% property tax increase).

OR

2. Alternative direction is provided (changes and funding sources).

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