

# Councillor Ron McLaughlin

WORKING TOGETHER - MUNICIPAL KNOWLEDGE - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

**June 30, 2026**

Good morning, Lions Bay.

I contacted you recently to make you aware of my web site [www.RonMcLaughlin.ca](http://www.RonMcLaughlin.ca) and, (in good faith,) to share information.

This generated many responses and you asked me to address several items of concern. Over the next short while I will cover those items one by one along with future questions posed. The information on the topic will be to the point and antiseptic, leaving you to draw your own conclusions. The first item is;

## Significant Legal Fees

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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Legal Fee Budget	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	80,000	40,000	60,000	60,000
Legal Fee Actual	13,422	24,625	29,119	30,889	167,057	113,942	186,352	63,857
<b>Difference</b>	21,578	10,375	5,881	4,111	(87,057)	(73,942)	(126,352)	(3,857)

- Confidentiality does not allow for the provision of specifics beyond totals.
- In December 2022 the current Council terminated CAO DeJong without cause. Legal fees attributed to this event and appearing in 2022 have notionally been placed in 2023 with other DeJong related fees.
- At the June 2, 2026 Council meeting, the accounts payable listing at March revealed legal fees of \$40,883. The Financial Officer advises that legal fees have exceeded the Budget for the year to the end of May 2026.
- Legal fees have exceeded budget materially during the past 4 years of this Administration. Also, annual legal expenses in the last 3 completed years (2023-2025) have exceeded the total of the previous Administration's 4 years in office.

My goal continues to be engaging with you, providing answers, and offering a website with factual information. I would value hearing from you.

If you would prefer not to receive future emails, please advise and I will ensure you are removed from future communications.

Sincerely,  
Ron McLaughlin  
**Councillor**