

Councillor Ron McLaughlin

WORKING TOGETHER - MUNICIPAL KNOWLEDGE - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Good morning Lions Bay,

Over the last six weeks I have been contacting Villagers with the purpose of making you aware of my web page www.RonMcLaughlin.ca, sharing information, and providing a conduit to contact me.

My outreach with the community continues to generate interest, questions and good dialogue. You asked me to address several items of concern to you. Recently I wrote about **“Significant Legal Fees”** and detailed how in each of this Council’s 3 completed years in office (2023-2025) annual legal expenses exceeded the total of the previous Administrations 4 years in office. I last wrote about **“Significant Audit fees.”** A similar theme here. Irregularities during the 2022 audit caused by the current Council resulted in the cost of the 2022 audit equivalent to the combined audit fees of the four previous years of the previous Administration. Both topics raise questions about a lack of “Significant” expenditure control and governance issues. If you missed them, the information is on my web page and clicking on ‘*Inform Yourself*,’ and then to the *Information Release* header and you will find them.

Topics I advise you on, will be to the point and neutral, leaving you to draw your own conclusions. The next item for you to review is the **“Significant Labour Cost Increases”** over the past four years.

2019-2022 Total Labour Costs (\$ millions)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
Amount	\$1.365	\$1.650	\$1.777	\$1.913 – \$0.195 (PDJ & PR) = \$1.718

- CAO Peter DeJong (PDJ) was terminated without cause in Dec/22. His one-time severance related costs have been deleted for comparative purposes. In Jan/23 CFO Pamela Rooke (PR) resigned. Her accrued holiday pay, reported in 2022 is also backed out for comparative purposes.
- Net of the termination and resignation costs you will observe 2022 Total Labour costs were less than 2021.

of Office Staff Paid over \$75,000 (\$ millions)

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
# Staff / Total	3 / \$0.333	4 / \$0.434	5 / \$0.513	5 / \$0.721 – \$0.195 (PDJ & PR) = \$0.526

- In 2020 the Accounting Officer’s compensation exceeded \$75K for the first time. In 2021 the Municipal Coordinator position was created adding to the staff # and compensation.

Councillor Ron McLaughlin

WORKING TOGETHER - MUNICIPAL KNOWLEDGE - FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

2023-2026 Total Staff Labour Costs (\$ millions)

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
Amount	\$1.760	\$2.030	\$2.213	\$2.204

- 2023 reflects very significant public works and staff resignations without immediate replacements. Even with this situation in place Labour Costs exceeded 2022 (net of PDJ and PR adjustments.)
- Total Labour Costs have increased from 2022 to the 2026 Budget by a significant \$486,000.

of Office Staff Paid over \$75,000 (\$ millions)

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
# Staff / Total	5 / \$0.507	5 / \$0.619	6 / \$0.715	6 / \$0.697

- 2023 reflects staff turnover until positions were filled.
- 2024 indicates full staffing for the year with each hire (per the SOFI) earning more than their predecessor.
- In 2024 a Bylaw Officer was hired part way through the year but did not earn >\$75,000.
- The 2026 budget reflects all personnel in place for the year

My goal continues to be to engage with you, answer your questions, and provide a web site that easily allows you to access Village information. I would value hearing from you.

Since I began corresponding to you the number of recipients to my messages has grown. This is because you have contacted me or someone you know has provided me with your particulars. If you would prefer not to receive future emails, please advise and I will ensure that you are removed from future communications.

Sincerely,
Ron McLaughlin
Councillor