



2205 Otter Point Road, Sooke, British Columbia, Canada V9Z 1J2

Phone: (250) 642-1634  
email: info@sooke.ca

Fax: (250) 642-0541  
website: www.sooke.ca

---

## News Release

---

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE PRESENTS DISTRICT OF SOOKE 2010-2014 FINANCIAL PLAN**

#### **Sooke, BC - April 1, 2010**

On March 23<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> the Finance Committee for the District of Sooke reviewed in detail the proposed 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan. Based on the proposed financial plan, the Finance Committee will be recommending to the Committee of the Whole on April 6<sup>th</sup> a 4.81% increase in property taxes for the municipal portion of the tax bill.

This 4.81% includes a 1.74% increase in the transfer to the Capital Program. Currently 11.7% of municipal property taxes are transferred to the Capital Fund which is only 3.3% lower than the 15% target. It is this capital transfer that enables the District to provide the amenities (sidewalks, boardwalks, street lighting, park improvements, etc.) that the residents have been requesting.

In 2009 the District of Sooke is experienced a slowdown in development activity that translated into a drop in licenses and permitting revenue but in 2010 the District is anticipating a recovery in development activities in line with historical levels. In order to compensate for the increase in development activity the proposed 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan includes the hiring of a Building Official ( a position not replaced during the slowdown in 2009) and a new Firefighter.

The proposed 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan includes funding for the following operational highlights:

- Hiring of a new Building Official and Firefighter
- \$10,000 increase in the funding to the Sooke Community Association for operation of the Sooke Community Hall;
- \$35,000 for a Zoning Bylaw review after final adoption of the Official Community Plan, 2010;
- \$5,000 for Emergency Social Services;
- \$13,441 increase in the volunteer Firefighter training budget;
- \$8,000 for an affordable housing strategy;

- \$5,000 towards a Wildfire Interface Management Plan; and
- \$20,000 for the Sooke Region Tourism Association.

The proposed 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan includes funding for the following capital highlights:

- \$765,000 to purchase the 13.8 acre Sooke River Road property across the road from the Fred Milne fields;
- \$50,000 for a new Command Vehicle for the fire department (50% funded by the provincial JEPP program);
- \$150,000 in 2010 for the design of the Phillips Rd to Charters connector, and \$2.98 million for construction in 2011;
- \$1,005,000 for construction of the Public Boat Launch using a \$605,000 infrastructure grant, \$200,000 contribution by Prestige hotel and \$200,000 from the District of Sooke;
- \$280,000 to reimburse the General Fund for the purchase of the Public Boat Launch in 2009

In addition to these capital projects in 2010, the proposed Financial Plan included funding over the 5 five period for construction of a new main street (tentatively called Waterview Street) in the Town Centre between HWY#14 and the Sooke Basin, a Church Rd to Otter Point Rd. connector road to Grant Rd., a Galloping Goose connection over the Sooke River and a possible boardwalk extension.

“The District of Sooke remains focused on providing meaningful amenities that can be enjoyed by the all residents of Sooke” said Mayor Janet Evans, Chair of the Finance Committee, “The projects listed above can be accomplished within the 4.81% municipal tax increase without any borrowing. It is estimated the municipal property tax increase will cost the average residential property owner \$47 in additional property taxes in 2010.”

Residents wishing to provide input on the 2010 – 2014 Financial Plan can attend the Committee of the Whole meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> or a Public Input Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers. Public Input can also be dropped off at City Hall. Copies of the financial plan are available on the District website at [www.sooke.ca](http://www.sooke.ca) or copies can be picked up at Municipal Hall.

For more information, contact:

Mayor Janet Evans or  
Dave Devana, Director of Finance  
District of Sooke  
tel: (250) 642-1634  
fax: (250) 642-0541