



Office of the Town Manager  
Christopher E. Martino

**Warrenton Town Council**  
Carter Nevill, Mayor  
Roy Francis, Ward 1  
William Semple, Ward 2  
Larry Kovalik, Ward 3  
Michele O'Halloran, Ward 4  
Eric Gagnon, Ward 5  
Paul Mooney, At Large  
David McGuire, At Large

# STAFF REPORT

<b>Council Meeting Date:</b>	March 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2026.
<b>Agenda Title:</b>	Warrenton Commission on Open and Transparent Government Update
<b>Requested Action:</b>	Receive the information from the Commission
<b>Department / Agency Lead:</b>	Commission on Open and Transparent Government.
<b>Staff Lead:</b>	William Semple, Commission Chair, Vice Mayor.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

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The Warrenton Commission on open and transparent Government met on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Town Council had directed the Commission to return with information on how they intend to proceed with their investigations. This item will be updated as a result of the Meeting of the Commission.

## **BACKGROUND**

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The Commission was originally established on January 14, 2025, to enhance public awareness of development applications and review specific projects, including the Amazon Web Services data center (SUP 22-03), the Warrenton Village project, and the Arrington Voluntary Settlement Agreement. Operations were paused on November 12, 2025, following the resignation of the former Town Attorney, Mr. Chap Petersen.

At the February 10, 2026, Regular Town Council meeting, a motion initiated by Councilwoman O'Halloran and seconded by Mr. Francis was passed to officially reinstate the Commission.

## **DETAILS OF THE MOTION**

The reactivation of the Commission includes several specific charges:

- **Reactivation:** Formally reinstating the body so members can resume meetings and conduct business.
- **Legal Collaboration:** Authorizing the Commission to work alongside the new Town Attorney and staff to re-establish the "rules of engagement".
- **New Resolution:** Charging the Commission with developing a reformed authorizing resolution for Town Council adoption in March 2026.
- **Funding:** Determining the allocation of the remaining funds following the resignation of the previous independent special counsel.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Receive the information from the Commission.

**Service Level/Collaborative Impact**

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The Transparency Commission requires input and collaboration across multiple departments of the Town of Warrenton.

**Policy Direction/Warrenton Plan 2040**

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Transparency is at the core of all aspects of Warrenton Plan 2040.

**Fiscal Impact**

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The Commission is currently addressing the management of the remainder of previously allocated funds.

**Legal Impact**

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The Commission is operating under the guidance of the Town Attorney.

**ATTACHMENTS**

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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.