

Village of Hawarden - January 28, 2025, Regular council meeting Highlights

The minutes of the December 30, 2024, council meeting were approved and are available for review on our website at www.villageofhawarden.ca

Council has reviewed policy 3.1 Snow Removal and added clarification including Appendix A: Main Roads Snow Map as requested by a rate payer. The amended policy will be available online.

The administration bond and SUMAssure insurance renewal for 2025 has been presented to council.

The Outlook Veterinarian Clinic will hold a spring vaccination clinic in the Hawarden Centennial Hall on Saturday, March 29, 2025 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

The Arm River MLA has requested to attend a council meeting to introduce himself. Administration will advise of the Feb meeting date. Administration has requested that the MLA provide any relevant grant information to council during his visit. Friendly reminder that negative things that are posted on Facebook negatively affect our chances of obtaining funding through grants.

Council has reviewed and approved the 2025 Service Agreement provided by Loraas Disposal. The rates are increasing from \$110.00 per tip to \$121.00 per tip. Garbage rates will be reviewed at the Feb meeting.

A request for financials, minutes and the Zoning Bylaw was provided by a rate payer. Council advised that all information will be provided online once approved and available.

A ratepayer asked several questions regarding restructuring, taxation and committees. Council discussed the questions and directed administration to reply with the responses as discussed.

A ratepayer requested to volunteer with snow removal. Council advised that they currently have all the positions in the rotation filled. They will reach out for assistant as per policy 3.1 Snow Removal, should our situation change. Thank you for your interest. We appreciate our volunteers.

Council would like to thank the councilors in 2024 who waived their remuneration pay outs. Your generosity is overwhelming! Those you have opted to collect their payments will be paid out in Jan and Feb.

A ratepayer requested clarification on the snow removal policy which has been clarified and responded to. They also requested clarification on the Communication policy adopted Dec 30, 2024 which included a section on posting inquiries, questions or concerns that are addressed in a public meeting online. The response is as follows:

[Council may be posting questions, concerns, or inquiries that are on the agenda and discussed at the council meeting. This will allow all ratepayers access to the same information. This practice will also allow ratepayers to see where the majority of requests and communications originate from, a suggestion stemming from recent restructuring discussions. This information is considered public information.]

The administrator presented her report to council. The office will remain closed until the next meeting. Council has set a date of Feb 28 to have all outstanding tasks completed. We are still waiting on a part for the office computer. This will allow internet to the main computer in the office. You can call the administrator at (306) 331 – 8540 if you need assistance. Please be advised I do not respond to texts. Feel free to email me as well. Administration is having trouble with the answering machine at the office. A councilor has offered to assist next week.

The Jan water plant records were reviewed by council and the water report presented. Our EPO from WSA and our contract plant technician had a list of outstanding items to be tackled. These items include the water compliance reporting, new test bags, labels for tests, signage regarding the PBWA, displaying the permit in the plant and calibrating of the machine. All of these items have now been addressed.

Council reviewed the financial statement for December 2024. Council reapproved the December 30 payables in the amount of \$8481.18. Council approved the Jan 28 payables in the amount of \$15,065.46. These documents will be available online once everything has been transferred to the Munisoft program, reviewed and approved by council. Council approved correspondence regarding the SGI safety grant. We were not successful this application period. We shall try again in the future.

The next regular meeting of council will be Thursday, Feb 20@ 7:00 p.m. at the Hawarden Centennial Hall. February is already upon us. Next up spring! Have a wonderful month.

Kelly Dodd Administrator