

Council Meeting Highlights
November 29, 2024
Regular meeting of council

Last night was the first meeting of the new 2024-2028 Village of Hawarden council. Former Deputy Mayor Dale Blenkinsop was sworn in as Mayor. Ray Chretien, Steve Dingman, Char Edwards and Lori Harrison were sworn in as your new Councillors. Lori Harrison was appointed Deputy Mayor. Everyone completed their public disclosure forms.

The minute of the October 17 regular meeting will be approved at the December regular meeting of council due to technical difficulties, as will the minutes from last night's meeting.

Delegate Heather Collier spoke to council regarding personal items she has left throughout the Village from her time as a Contracted Water Tester. Ms. Collier is to provide a list of dates and times she is available to collect her items so that this may be completed in the near future.

Council approved the Returning officers' statement of results from the 2024 General Election held on November 13, 2024. Those statements are available on our website at villageofhawarden.ca

Administrator Kelly Dodd presented her Administrator's report to council. In November the focus was of course on the election, pulling all of the titles for the properties in the Village to ensure accuracy and Tax Enforcement. Accounts in arrears will be the focus for the month of December. If you have an accounts in arrears please be prepared to make payment arrangements shortly after the proper correspondence has been received.

In December administration will focus on submission of all financials, Utility billing processing, and taxation.

Tony Suarez presented the Contracted Water Tester report to council. The October and November water records to date were acknowledged as presented to council. Tony reported that new signage is required at the plant for transparency purposes. New signage will be ordered. The permit to operate is up for renewal this month. Council has been provided with a draft permit for review. Council has requested a committee meeting with the appropriate parties for a more in-depth discussion regarding the water plant and operating requirements moving forward. The administrator will coordinate with the appropriate parties to meet in early January 2025. The postal strike is creating complications regarding sampling requirements, alternative cost-effective options are being pursued to ensure we meet our reporting obligations.

On-going internet issues are still a problem in the Village of Hawarden Office. StarLink will be piloted on a temporary basis to determine if this is a suitable solution for the office and the hall.

Council discussed their focuses and priorities for this term. Council acknowledged that there is a lot of ground that needs to be covered. The first goal is to get all of the financials completed and audited and to then collect on all outstanding accounts. Taxation and Water Billing is also high on the priority list. Revenue generation is the number one focus of the Village of Hawarden for December of 2025.

Council determined the best way to address some of the key issues within the Village is by breaking down items into committee focuses and having the committees meet on a regular basis between now and the next regular meeting. The committees will then report at the regular meeting to ensure transparency to all residents. The key focus for December is three part: Records accuracy and completion, revenue generation, and transparency. In order to ensure these targets are met there will be no in person office hours on Fridays until the new year. If you have an urgent matter please email harwarden@sasktel.net or call the administrator at (305) 331 – 8540. Please be advised that financials, water bills, taxes and receipts will be provided as soon as they are ready. The goal is within the month of December. No need to request these items. They are in progress now.

Council passed a motion to merge any existing cemetery accounts into one account separate from municipal operations that will still require municipal signers to operate.

The next regular meeting of council will be held Dec 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Hall.

Have a wonderful month Hawarden.

Stay Warm

Kelly Dodd Administrator, on behalf of Mayor and Council.