



Garbage Collection Concerns on Social Media

Good afternoon Residents,

We would like to address some of the concerns on social media regarding the tender for garbage collection in Hanwell commencing February 2021.

As a municipality (town, village, rural community, LSD) we are required to follow the regulations set forth in the *Local Governance Act* as per the *Procurement Act* which states ***“Bid Evaluations and Tender Award Bids must be evaluated on the basis of the criteria specified in the tender documents. If no other criteria are specified, price will be the primary consideration. Generally, a tender is awarded to the lowest priced compliant bid or to the highest scoring compliant proposal (in the case of RFPs). A compliant bid is one that meets all mandatory conditions and specifications in the tender.”***

The tender for Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Services (garbage collection) was advertised from October 5th to the tender opening on October 28th. The tender was the exact tender as before with the following terms and conditions:

- #2- The contractor agrees, that once each and every week during the term of this Agreement, to collect, remove, and carry away from each and every household including seasonal dwelling within the rural community of Hanwell (map attached), all **properly bagged and boxed** household garbage and refuse acceptable to the landfill site including waste which has been disposed and/or scattered as a result of foraging animals or other means (vandals, vehicles, transferring garbage from one vehicle to another, etc....)
- #3- The Contractor agrees to also provide at its expense the collection of nine (9) large items per household each year for appliances, furniture, and other large typical household goods.
- #4- The scheduled garbage collection shall be on the same day of each and every week. The Contractor agrees to provide 30 days notice and obtain municipal approval before any changes are made to this schedule. The Contractor also agrees to notify its customers, at its own expense, of any change to regular collection and for the special collections referred to in section 3 of these Terms and Conditions.
- #14- The Contractor agrees to maintain its equipment in a mechanically sound condition and that if a stake truck is used, it agrees not to permit the refuse to project above the height of the sideboards by more than 0.5 m.

On October 28th the tenders were opened with 3 bids meeting all mandatory conditions and specifications as detailed in the tender as follows:

Fero Waste & Recycling Inc. with a bid of 25% increase to the prior contract
Glidden Waste Management from Campbellton.
Brewester Marine Inc (BMI) with the lowest bid and also a local resident.

At the Special Meeting of Council on October 28th Brewester Marine Inc (BMI) was awarded the contract by motion #33-10-2020

Closed Session:

Matter pursuant to S. 68(1)(c) of the *Local Governance Act (information that could cause financial loss or gain to a person or the local government or could jeopardize negotiations leading to an agreement or contract)*

Moved by Councillor Darren MacKenzie and **seconded by** Councillor Holly Hyslop to go into closed session.

Unanimously Carried #29-10-2020

Meeting went into Closed Session at 7:10pm

Moved by Deputy Mayor Dave Morrison and **seconded by** Councillor Dan Fortier to resume to open session.

Unanimously Carried #30-10-2020

Meeting resumed at 7:20pm

Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop and **seconded by** Councillor Dan Fortier

To accept the Solid Waste Collection Agreement from Brewester Marine Inc. for the period of February 1, 2021 to January 31, 2022 in the amount of \$149,500 + HST with an option to extend the term of the contract by up to two (2) periods of one (1) year under the same terms and conditions, except that an allowance may be negotiated for rising fuel price and an increase in the number of households. The rural community of Hanwell may exercise this option at any time by sending a notice to the Contractor at least thirty (30) days before the Contract expiry date.

Unanimously Carried #33-10-2020

The Clerk has confirmed with Fero, Solid Waste Collection Commission, and Local Government to answer many of the questions that were asked on social media.

Q- So, we can't put loose items in the bin anymore?

A- This was and remains a violation of the contract, all garbage, refuse was/is to be properly bagged or boxed. There should have never been loose items in your garbage and the provider should not have collected it.

Q- So, garbage is over two days now?

A- Garbage was always collected over two days- Tuesday and Wednesdays. Some residents from Milky Way Drive (not including Milky Way) towards Yoho Lake/Harvey area will change to Wednesday so that there would be a closer number of houses collected per day. Before there were approximately 1300 houses collected on one day and 500 the next. By dividing the area more evenly by population, it will be more efficient for the collection.

Q- Where do ashes go now?

A- Ashes should never go in the garbage as this is a safety concern to the collector as well as those at the landfill. The Hanwell Solid Waste Collection and Disposal By-Law 07-2015, section 7 states "***Ashes, grass clippings, incombustible material, and street rubbish shall not be placed for collection but shall be disposed of by the owner at his/her expense.***"

** It was confirmed from the Fredericton Regional Solid Waste Commission that they do accept ashes at the landfill, it is a \$5.00 vehicle charge, the employees at the scales will send you to the right direction, a brightly yellow metal container just inside the facility. Please use caution transporting them in case some embers still have life.

Q- Was Council aware that BMI didn't have lifts?

A- Yes, they were aware that BMI's trucks were not equipped with lifts. BMI guaranteed this would not be an issue and does not foresee any problems. Lifts were not a requirement of this tender or any previous tenders.

**The Clerk confirmed with Local Government that there are many communities that do not have mechanical lift trucks. In the past we have also confirmed that not all of the Fero trucks (garbage and/or recycling) have mechanical lift arms either.

Q- Leaving bags at the end of the driveway would attract animals.

A- You will continue to use your dolly, garbage cans, bins, etc. Animals may be more attracted to those homes that are putting refuse in the bins loosely.

There were also some concerns that we will explain:

For those residents that are concerned with the environment and the impact this will have by using additional bags, there are bio-degradable bags that can be purchased, and waste should have been properly bagged as it is a violation of our by-law and Fero's contract.

Items that are typically placed in the bins loose, are these items that can be recycled? Fero will continue to have the contract for recycling in Hanwell for 2021 and we encourage you to recycle any such items.

There were a few concerns regarding the number of bags that would have to be used. Many families use one large garbage bag compared to 6 or 7 small disposable bags (kitchen catchers, store plastic bags etc.)

One other concern that we would like to address was a couple of comments about council wanting to reduce the cost of the garbage pick-up so they could buy a new tractor and a truck and if this was an attempt to keep our taxes down, it's not enough, taxes will never go down.

1. We are required by law to accept the lowest bid on a tender if the specifications are met, which they were.
2. Many residents do not have dollies in the community.
3. With the pandemic and the economy in the today's situation Council and the Clerk worked diligently trying to keep taxes the same when property taxes for 2021 were actually lowered this year, so accepting a bid that was 25% higher than their current bid could not be justified even if we were permitted to accept the highest bid.
4. The difference in contracts would have been a one (1) cent increase on your property tax.
5. A question was raised on social media as to whether accepting the lower bid was done in order to save money for other purchases. As previously stated, we are bound by the *Procurement Act* to accept the lowest bid on a tender, and accepting the bid has no bearing on any acquisitions (for equipment, as an example) for the rural community. As a community grows, so do their needs.

Under section 21 of the contract, it states *“if the Contractor fails or neglects to collect garbage or to remove and carry away the same as required by this Agreement to the satisfaction of the rural community of Hanwell, or is in breach of any other provisions hereof, the rural community of Hanwell reserves the right to cancel this Agreement and re-tender or re-award the contract immediately and deliver to the contractor by mail to the contractor by certified post or courier addressed to its last known postal address, notice that the Agreement cease and expire.”*

One of the most important and concerning comment(s) that we read was from residents asking how there could be more citizen engagement in the community? This has been an ongoing priority for Council and Staff:

- We try to engage residents with surveys; electronically or by paper and receive a very small percentage of responses.
- We ask for volunteers to organize events, assist with events, or sit on committees, however there are usually the same 4 or 5 residents who volunteer.
- We post our agendas for the monthly council meetings on the website at least 48 hrs before the meeting, public is permitted to attend however due to COVID-19 you must notify the office for screening purposes and attendance/social distancing requirements.
- We also ask for volunteers routinely in our Hanwell Herald.
- The website is current, and under Special Announcements and the calendar you will find information and updates.
- The Clerk and staff are available Mon-Friday 8-4pm to answer any questions.

We urge each of you to work with BMI in accordance with The Hanwell Solid Waste Collection and Disposal By-Law 07-2015 and give this local company a chance before assuming the worst. The contractor has a family history of Solid Waste Collection and has been doing this from a very young age with his dad in another community.

If you have further questions please contact our Clerk, Terri Parker at clerk@hanwell.nb.ca or myself at SCassidy@hanwell.nb.ca.

As the pandemic continues and the number of cases in our province increases, I encourage you to reach out to your neighbors around you and our seniors to make sure they are safe.

Sincerely,

Susan Cassidy
Hanwell Mayor.