

COVID-19 Update: The Rural Community of Hanwell is following measures outlined by Public Health. Mask use and social distancing is still recommended but will be at the discretion of the individual. Meetings are open to the public. All Council meetings will be audio recorded for the public.

HANWELL
Rural Community
Regular Meeting of Council
July 19, 2023
Minutes

Attendance:

Mayor Dave Morrison, Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah, Councillor Holly Hyslop, Councillor Tim Fox, Councillor Debby Peck, Councillor Lee Crouse, Councillor Darren MacKenzie, Councillor Pat Septon, Clerk/Assistant Treasurer Sherri Johnston, Chief Murray Crouse, and 6 members of the public.

Absent: CAO/Treasurer Terri Parker

1. Calling to Order

Mayor Dave Morrison called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Councillor Debby Peck and **seconded by** Councillor Tim Fox approve the agenda with the following additions:

Add 17e -Update: Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Fredericton

Add 17f – Purchase of a zero-turn lawnmower

Unanimously Carried #01-07-2023

3. Adoption of Minutes:

a) **Moved by** Councillor Holly Hyslop and **seconded by** Councillor Darren MacKenzie to adopt the minutes of the June 15, 2023, Regular Meeting of Council.

Unanimously Carried #02-07-2023

b) **Moved by** Councillor Tim Fox and **seconded by** Councillor Debby Peck to adopt the minutes of the June 20, 2023, Special Meeting of Council.

Unanimously Carried #03-07-2023

4. Public Input/Inquiries (10 minutes max.)

3 members of the public spoke

D. Fortier wanted it noted for the record that he was there on behalf of himself and not on behalf of the Yoho Association.

5. Disclosures

6. Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Crouse

The month of June, the Upper Kingsclear Fire Department responded to 19 calls in Hanwell. There were 5 motor vehicle accidents, 2 rubbish fires, 2 fire/explosions, 4 fire alarms, 1 resuscitation call, 2 public hazard calls, (one power line down and one miscellaneous), 1 industrial accident and 2 public service assistance calls. Chief Crouse noted that they have had 220 calls to date representing 4072 man-hours. Chief Crouse also mentioned that due to the power surges on July 17, the computer at Station 1 is no longer working.

Moved by Councillor Darren MacKenzie seconded by Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah to receive the fire report for June 2023 as presented.

Unanimously Carried #04-07-2023

7. Presentations:

8. Permit Applications

a) There were 9 building permits for June 2023.

9. Proclamations

10. Petitions and Delegations

None

11. Business Arising:

a) Code of Conduct for Council

Preamble read by Councillor Darren MacKenzie:

Back in December of 2022, a finding was made by council that Councillor Septon was in violation of the Code of Conduct by-law 19 times (with some other potential violations dropped). At that time, he was issued sanctions, as was defined to do so via the Conflict and Complaint Resolution Policy and the by-law. Since that time he has not only ignored those sanctions, but has continued to violate the same by-law repeatedly. He has referred to our Code of Conduct by-law online as a "sham", so it appears that he has no intention of ever following it. As frustrated as council has been about this, we have generally stopped issuing violations of this, as it has been much of the same problem repeatedly, and, frustratingly, there aren't many things left that we can do about it. I hope other municipalities that may be hearing or reading this are paying attention.

Unfortunately, he has found a way to escalate things, once again. He has now started taking to doing podcasts, the most recent of which (for whatever reason) all the way out in Alberta.

A reasonable person would stop when multiple people are telling them that they are doing something wrong and re-evaluate what they are doing. But not in this case. And this is the thing that infuriates me the most. It's one thing to spread 'misinformation' about your council; but when things that you are saying have been explained to be incorrect, many times, its no longer just misinformation, it's outright lying. And this is something that can not be tolerated any longer.

Much like with the original decision and sanctions, there could be implied an apprehension of bias in this situation. This was also pointed out by the independent 3rd party reviewer, who studied the original decision, and the procedure that led to it. In that review, it was noted that although it could be implied that there has to be bias here, as the group both making the decision and imposing sanctions is also the group that are impacted by the person's actions. However, that same review also noted that this must happen, as the Code of Conduct by-law is self-enforcing, and Council is a self-governing body. This same situation applies in every municipality in the province, as they all have a self-enforcing Code of Conduct by-law, as it required by the provincial Local Governance Act. Also, in the interests of procedural fairness, I will ask of Councillor Septon the same thing that was asked of him in both November and December of 2022 (which he declined, in both cases), that he stay here long enough to give his side of the story on why he continues to do this, and why he continues to escalate it. However, I would like to note up-front that if he stays for the vote of the motion itself, I will be bringing forth a formal complaint for the rather obvious conflict of interest violation.

With the changes that were adopted recently to our Conflict and Complaint Resolution Policy (as recommended by an expert in the field), I imagine many people that are aware that this was on the agenda tonight are expecting me to motion for Councillor Septon to be declared unfit to govern and be dismissed. Well, as problematic as our current situation has become, I am STILL willing to give him another chance to make things right. Perhaps being away from his duties as a councillor for a while, with an opportunity to reflect on everything that has transpired, and maybe to re-evaluate this entire scenario from the beginning, hopefully this time at least trying to see council's side of it, will bring forth a different result. That said, I propose the following...

Moved by Councillor Darren MacKenzie and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah

WHEREAS Councillor Septon has still not completed his assigned sanctions from his previous Code of Conduct violations, as defined on December 6th, 2022, and

WHEREAS Councillor Septon shows no remorse for his previous and ongoing actions, and in fact still continues to escalate this situation online, and

WHEREAS these past and ongoing actions have created a completely toxic work environment within the municipal office, council and staff

I HEREBY DO MOTION for the following:

1. That councillor Septon by suspended from his duties as a councillor of the Rural Community of Hanwell, effective immediately, until the first day after the October regular session of Council. These duties include but are not limited to: sitting at the council table

during council sessions or committee meetings, moving or seconding motions, being involved in the discussion of motions, internal communications, participating in municipal events as a member of council, and requests to staff on behalf of council.

2. That Councillor Septon turn over his key to the municipal office to the clerk within the next 24 hours.
3. That Councillor Septon turn over his laptop to the clerk immediately.
4. That Councillor Septon return any additional property of the municipality that is still in his possession to the municipal office within the next 24 hours.
5. To authorize and direct the clerk to contact our IT administration team and have Councillor Septon logged out of any remote sessions of Outlook and Office 365, and to have Councillor Septon's Outlook and Office 365 accounts locked, as soon as possible.
6. That Councillor Septon not represent himself online in any capacity as a councillor, for the duration of his suspension.
7. That this suspension will be lifted if Councillor Septon comes in compliance with the original sanctions that were imposed on him on December 6th, 2022, and
8. That this suspension will be re-evaluated at the October regular meeting of council, to determine if it is to be extended, or if further action is warranted.

The following was read into the minutes by Councillor Septon:

I used to sit around at home and wonder how so many people can believe and follow President Trump. This Council has put me through a master class. I didn't start out this aggressive, I don't want to be doing this. I don't want to be defending myself. I truly don't. I hate everything about it. Those who know me know I am the guy who gets along. But I also know when to stand up for myself and my constituents. Some of you in this room may feel you would never support Trump; I would argue your voting record and actions would disprove that. It's merely a matter of circumstance. This council have put me through a master class on how to follow a messiah but ignore the facts.

I offered so many off ramps to date. But you guys are the ones who escalate and continue. I am merely and only defending myself and will continue to do so. Its as if 'The beatings will continue until your trust in us is restored' seems to be this Council's only philosophy. I told you from day one, a stick doesn't work on me. Continuing using the same method time after time is a tradition of this Council though.

To everyone in the room a reminder, all arguments and conversations should be recorded or in email as I have tried to only deal with Council in writing or when collectively together. I ask that if you have questions to RTIPPA the information, including full email threads. I stopped engaging council outside of emails for reasons such as tonight. It's inevitability was predictable. So whatever is said, should be easily provable either way.

Before I begin my rebuttal, noting when I am writing this, I am not sure what this code of conduct conversation tonight will be about, but note it was to deal with the escalating issue

regarding it. In an email Councillor Mackenzie made a statement that he is committed to working to get me fired (paraphrasing) on behalf of staff. I see conflicts of interests with both staff and Councillor MacKenzie bringing these motions and policy changes forward as I suspected, articulated and discussed there is something wrong. Of course, that could be the problem, me speaking.

Lets hear the email from the Mayor to all of Hanwell Council.

- Quote: "I would add that I believe that our Council is on the verge of being in a position where we will soon not be able to continue our functions of Council. This would be regrettable as I believe most members of Council truly do want what is best for the whole community of Hanwell. However, I am ready to approach the Minister of Local Government and Local Governance Reform to express my concerns as Mayor that our Council can no longer effectively operate due to the breakdown in trust within Council and that consideration should be given to either offering us support in the way of mediation to try to overcome the breakdown that has been developing over the last two years or offer some other means to assist us as a Council. The divisions among us are evident at every meeting and this is difficult for all of us and our staff."

Dated February 3, 2021. 5 Months before I was elected.

(then) Mayor Susan Cassidy

When I walked in as a Councillor 5 months after that email was written to Council I stated clearly, I can see the issues in everyone's eyes. The answer now as it is then, is simple, a first-year physiology student can identify the problems here. This Council, I am the bad guy, when I leave it will be the next person who wants to follow the rules, want answers, or isn't or kept out of secret internal conversations or heaven forbid want to talk to the public. The previous council many people in this very room were feeling like I am now, like others in this room are. Instead of learning and growing from that experience we repeat the cycle. This goes back through every Council we had. And if we are changing each council by 50% or greater and the same problems exist time after time, one has to start looking inwards. What is the commonalities between last council and this one. We need to stop weaponizing the code of conduct. We need to deal with facts. I have no issues with voting based on feelings, but they can't be presented as facts. The CAO puts her own personal views into everything and presents them as facts. Many times these facts are not facts, and if you challenge it, its always personal. The conversations for 2 years about DTI are top of mind and our role vs the assumed role presented by the CAO, completely contradicting the rules. Statements such as 'They don't know their file'.

Listen to this email thread from the CAO when I posted in September about the sidewalk after a few concerned parents and teachers reached out about people walking and photos of the Bike Racks at the School. I would like to note, I knew this would happen, that I would be

attacked and in fact the code of conduct against me was that I should not lie or knowingly make a false statement. But here is the thing, I knew no matter what I said, I would get threatened with harassment or a code of conduct again, so I listened to the audio and literally quoted the CAO, quoted the Mayor, quoted the deputy Mayor. How can it be false if I am literally quoting you? If logic stands to reason and I was found guilty of lying, and I quoted you, doesn't that mean those 3 people lied? You can hear the audio yourself. Why did I have the audio when no one else did? Because I needed to keep a record and scraped this for historical reference. It may have just been unlucky to some I had it. But you all heard the CAO over and over share the same statement I wrote, heard and recorded but people in this room opted to ignore the facts. Accepted the CAO's sworn statement to be true she never spoke to the principal and it was never a reason.

The CAO stated that she had nothing to do with the codes of conduct in November that it was you guys who brought those issues forward in November and she just had to investigate the issue independently. But how does that compare to this?

On Sep 11, 2022, at 9:14 PM, Terri Parker <tparker@hanwell.nb.ca> wrote: to Mayor Morrison and Deputy Mayor Jonah.

*I was going to give him one more chance but he is out of control.
I will have something for you and Deputy Mayor Jonah with his emails/comments/social media and how they have gone against the code of conduct.
Sherri compiled from July onwards but maybe we need to go back to the beginning of the transportation committee and give it all to an outside investigator as local government is not going to help.*

*That is a huge conflict of interest. Before someone states it was the Mayor or Deputy who brought up codes of conduct, I have the email thread. It was not. Again, the CAO misrepresented, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor chose to go along. First what I was I out of control of? Quoting our voting reason given publicly to the public. Second the CAO stated in November 2021 she had no part in this code of conduct, it was you Councillors who brought it forward, but clearly in September and prior it was she who was raising or researching concerns. So, when you **informally charged me**, the CAO went on to state (again documented) it wasn't her who brought the charges, that she investigated the codes of conducts you brought to her! You listen to Councillor Mackenzie's own words on when it is appropriate to use an informal complaint and it doesn't add up at all in this scenario! Staff kept a McCarthy style file on me 2-3 months, then executed it informally resulting in exceptionally formal consequences.*

Lets recap a few of the charges I have. I was charged with sharing the public portion of the public debate to the public the next day at 2pm. I was charged with sharing lies to the public, which was literally copied from the Mayor, Deputy Mayor's and CAO's own statements. You can hear the literal audio. The CAO goes on to swear she never said it, but you all heard it.

Several times. I was charged for talking to a citizen about his concerns about our solar panels, that I divulged secret information by - him telling me about his issue? I still can't square that one.

Code of Conduct By-Law & Policy:

It is in the Act, it is in the By-Law that we MUST BE TRANSPARENT IN ALL THINGS! But to this body that seems to be second to the whim of staff and leadership.

Sept 11 the code of conduct was drafted up. A McCarthy style file on me, a Councillor. But you expressed that it had to be informal because it just happened, that it just came to your attention. That is patently untrue!

I have to go to court tomorrow morning to get the very documents I requested to defend myself from November 2022. My RTIPPA was ignored, pushed off. Councillor MacKenzie stated all one has to do is ask. Well I asked, several times. All the money in the world to come at me, all the resources the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Councillor MacKenzie and staff can use to come at me, but no time to get me the documents that should have been handed to me immediately in my oversight role. August 17, 2022 I asked for a copy of the quote or invoice for the Solar Project so I could put a citizens concerns to rest. I asked several times thereafter. When did I get the invoice to review, a duly elected official for this constituent get to see it? 11 MONTHS LATER! 5 days ago, 6 days before I go to court to get it and only after I had to file an RTIPPA in my oversight role. And even then, I don't have nearly what I asked for. It really truly feels a deliberate act. It feels like a coverup by leadership and staff. This assault on me, carries on that feeling.

When that citizen filed a Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest complaint against Councillor MacKenzie, the CAO (the Investigator), the Mayor and Councillor MacKenzie all stated he had nothing to do with negotiations of the project, and he negotiated his long before. There are citizens and other people who have documented this, if I can't trust people in this room to reflect honestly about it. It was done separately was the statements made to all of us. I am reading documents that prove those statements to be false! Councillor MacKenzie it seems was negotiating his solar system as he was negotiating ours! As we sent in our application. Councillor MacKenzie sole sourced the project refusing the CAO's offer to consider another company. "we owed them". Who owed them? The taxpayer? Councillor MacKenzie? Councillor MacKenzie went on to state to the Mayor that "even if we paid \$10k more we owed them.." in July last year. I want to be clear, do not conflate any solar project of 2022 with anything prior. Comparing the 2 would be equivalent to getting quotes to build a shopping mall, and getting quotes to build a shed it requires different types of companies. Councillor MacKenzie knows this, and I have the audio of January 2022 when we put the motion forward to look for a grant where he himself clearly states it this has nothing to do with that project. This is different. So when the citizen asked who else did we get quotes from? Councillor MacKenzie and the CAO falsely stated that EPIC in New Maryland for

instance wasn't interested, and they asked. That is patently not true, even the CAO's own words to Councillor Mackenzie she recommended we get a quote which was summarily rebuffed by Councillor MacKenzie. Statements that prove to be not true! In the CAO's own words she asked if Councillor MacKenzie would consider another Solar company in New Maryland that maybe more local in case of issues. At the very least there is a conflict of interest. But to learn that a citizen went out to get 4 comparable quotes and all are \$50,000 to \$65,000 in the difference is disconcerting as a representative of Hanwell tasked to be fiscally responsible. To this day I still have no idea what the total project cost. I know what Clear Water charged us, but not the rest of the project despite asking several times. The Mayor, as I learned here in Council called up the citizen who shared his concerns with me and the Mayor gave him hell for talking to me! More concerned with protecting a Councillor than providing open and transparent answers. Then partaking in charging me with a code of conduct for that very action! Am I allowed to sole source a project I want done to my house for Council because I owe them? Something is inherently wrong.

To be clear, there may not be any quid pro quo here. There may not be anything wrong. But the sheer number of times mistruths were shared to me by staff and members of council doesn't bode well. But I get charged with a code of conduct because a citizen asked me about it. You all have earned a healthy scepticism from me. I feel you are running council as your personal club house, but we need to change, we need to speak and engage honestly to the public. We all don't but we can't keep charging people who wish too.

You keep coming at me, including tonight. When do you tire of it? It is as if defending myself is the worst crime of all to you. How dare I challenge the great authority of Council 3. But the sheer fact that 5 people on this council thinks it is ok to overturn an election of a democratically duly elected official shows the need for more oversight not less. Reasoned governing, not the stick. Shows the need for greater community involvement, not less. This overreach and power assumed by this Council but no other governments in Canada, arguably North America is disconcerting. It speaks to the very heart of my objections.

If this Government is bold enough to come at me, accuse me of doing misconduct, then this government should be bold enough to accept that I have an inherent right to I defend myself. I feel there were fraudulent and unethical steps taken against me to stop me from asking questions. There is no time to get me my information, but all the money and hours in the world to come at me as one would in a private club house, but with tax payor dollars. It feels your mission is to stop oversight into staff and operations above all else. If you believe with all your heart you are on the side of the right, then defend that position as I will defend mine. Any government who isn't open to their positions being challenged isn't a democratic government it is a dictatorship.

Many times, during this process you guys broke me. Many times, thanks to the community they propped me back up. You want me to stop defending myself? Stop attacking me. It doesn't get any simpler than that.

What I am trying to do is break the cycle of bad councils, because as I opened with, a first-year psychology student can answer the problems we have. Its easy. Staff stop injecting and tribalizing council. Council, watch the facts and refuse to be put in a tribalized scenario. Stop policing and weaponizing the code of conduct, speaking to the public or making an argument for or against something. Don't like my argument? Debate it, vote on it, move on as I do with your arguments. Remember we are rehashing all this again because these are the issues you have with me.

I ask that we motion I get to spend 8 hours with a lawyer. To present what I know to be true. The best part is, they can present to Council. Lets remove the filtered voice of the CAO and Mayor to legal, let them see my perspective. It can arguably save the taxpayers money in the long run. A lawsuit against this Council and some individuals is almost inevitable. At the very least Hanwell's legal team will have a better understanding on my point of view. Remember I didn't start this but you can rest assured I will defend myself and my reputation, such as it is after what you put me through. And for what, somebody's ego?

What do I ask? Take your preverbal foot off my throat. Stop attacking me for speaking in public with things I know to be true. In turn you will see me stop defending myself. Want to heal? We all had enough pain, enough punishment to go around, the punishment for all of us surely is enough. Rescind the motion of Dec 6, 2022. Share the information I need to do my job, regardless if you think I need it, let me decide what I need. Let Bill 45 rule the day going forward. Then try to be better to each other.

*Pat Septon
Councillor at Large
Hanwell*

Councillor Septon left chambers at 8:26 p.m.

Yes Votes: Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah, Councillor Tim Fox, Councillor Lee Crouse, Councillor Darren MacKenzie

No Votes: Councillor Holly Hyslop, Councillor Debby Peck

Motion Carried #05-07-2023

12. Correspondence:

Correspondence from Resident, re: Garbage Bylaw and Tender process

Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop seconded by Councillor Darren MacKenzie to receive the correspondence from a resident setting out his concerns with our current garbage collection and future tender for solid waste services.

Motion #06-07-2023

13. Meetings and Special Events:

a) **Mayor's Report**

Moved by Councillor Tim Fox and **seconded by** Councillor Holly Hyslop to receive the Mayor's report as presented.

Unanimously Carried #07-07-2023

14. Committee Reports:

a) **Age Friendly:** Committee not yet struck.

b) **Emergency Measures:**

Moved by Councillor Darren MacKenzie and **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah to receive the Emergency Measures report as presented.

Unanimously Carried #08-07-2023

c) **Environmental Stewardship:** Committee not yet struck

d) **Finance:** Meets as required.

e) **Governance and Policies:** Meets as required

f) **Infrastructure and Parks Management:** Committee not yet struck.

g) **Mactaquac Committee Liaison Committee:**

Moved by Councillor Darren MacKenzie **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah to receive the NB Power Community Liaison Committee report as presented.

Unanimously Carried #09-07-2023

h) **Rural Plan Committee:** Committee not yet struck

15. CAO/Treasurer's Report:

No report was provided this month.

16. Old or Unfinished Business

a) Little Recreation Building – no update

b) Rural Plan Progress Report

17. New Business

- a) Streetlight on corner of Nature Park Drive and Route 640
Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop **seconded by** Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah to authorize and direct the Clerk to contact NB Power and request to have a streetlight, with a minimum of 6000 lumens, installed at the corner of Route 640 (Hanwell Road) and Nature Park Drive.
Unanimously Carried #10-07-2023
- b) Committee Nominations
Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop **seconded by** Councillor Darren MacKenzie to accept the chairs and vice-chairs as presented:
I move to accept the chairs and vice-chairs for the following committees as presented:
Age Friendly: Chair, Councillor Hyslop; Vice-Chair, Councillor Peck
Environmental Stewardship - Chair, Councillor Peck; Vice-Chair, Vacant
Governance - Chair, Councillor MacKenzie; Vice-Chair, Councillor Fox
Rural Plan Review - Chair, Deputy Mayor Jonah; Vice-Chair, Councillor Fox
Unanimously Carried #11-07-2023
- c) Capital Region Service Commission (CRSC) – presenting at council.
Moved by Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah **seconded by** Councillor Darren MacKenzie that after meeting with CRSC (Capital Region Service Commission) that we only require their attendance at the monthly council meeting when felt necessary by either council or the Commission and otherwise we will continue to receive their monthly written reports.
Yes Votes: Deputy Mayor Susan Jonah, Councillor Tim Fox, Councillor Lee Crouse, Councillor Darren MacKenzie
No Votes: Councillor Holly Hyslop, Councillor Debby Peck
Motion Carried #12-07-2023
- d) Permit Application – Valley View Estates Subdivision appeal

The following was read into the minutes by Councillor Debby Peck:

The spokesperson for residents of Valley View Estates Subdivision, who has prepared an appeal about the decision of PRAC related to operation of a sawmill in the neighbourhood, has shared the following with Councillor Debby Peck who volunteered to read it at the July 12, 2023, Management meeting.

When preparing for this appeal, I requested a copy of the actual motion that was passed and was told that only the original planning officer's recommendations were passed and not the Addendum that was issued by the CRSC. This addendum had certain terms and conditions that were prepared after consultation with the Hanwell council and residents concerns. These Addendum conditions should be included as part of the approved application. As stated in the Addendum letter on page two, "These terms and conditions will be added to the previous

terms and conditions that were included in the report for this application”.

Whereas this meeting was held on zoom, it was very hard to know what was passed and what wasn't. Therefore, the appeal is to have this permit be amended to include the addendum terms and conditions as was originally intended. Perhaps the mover and seconder did not know that these additional terms were not included, as there was little or no discussion on them.

Also, to my knowledge, none of the residents who had submitted comments received the final passed resolution, which would have been good for them and good public relations. The 10-calendar day limit (in this case including a long weekend as part of those ten days) for appeal is very tight guidelines when you do not even have the final resolution provided.

e) Update: Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Fredericton

The following was read into the minutes by Councillor Holly Hyslop:

As most of you know, I Chair the City Recreation Advisory Committee. Council had asked if I could find out if there was any update on the Recreation Users Agreement and how newly incorporated areas were being addressed. This affects our two new wards---Ward 5 and Ward 6 as the majority of those areas are not included in the agreement.

I had a Teams meeting with Bobby Despres the Recreation Manager for the City of Fredericton and Meredith Cooper who is a project manager for municipal reform with the City of Fredericton.

As it stands right now, the Recreation Users Agreement has not changed. Areas wishing to opt in must have a plebiscite at the next by-election. The one year waiting period is also still being enforced as nothing has changed. It was hoped that LG would be providing clarification on how to address the newly incorporated areas but so far, that has not happened. Until they do nothing has changed. Given that the by-election will be held Oct. 23rd, Hanwell should be prepared with a certified plebiscite and also to host an open house. The certified plebiscite question must be given to Elections NB by August 31st which is only 6 weeks away. As it stands right now, if the vote was to opt in, the area would not be able to take advantage of the rate until Jan. 2025. As for whether the plebiscite can only be done for a portion of the LG, I cannot find an answer for that. Elections NB said it would fall under the LG Act, however, it is not clear in the act if it can be done for just a portion of the rural community. LG would need to clarify that. The recreation users agreement would need to be changed if it is the will of Council to add Wards 5 and 6 to the recreation users agreement without a plebiscite. LG would need to determine the process. Since time is of the essence, I believe Hanwell should be prepared with a certified plebiscite for the Oct by-election. It may not be necessary if LG makes changes to the agreement but that currently is an unknown. In my opinion, Council should also send a letter to the new Minister of LG addressing the concerns.

Moved by Councillor Debby Peck **seconded by** Councillor Holly Hyslop that Hanwell Rural Community Council prepare a plebiscite question, that fits all requirements of Elections NB, to be appropriately certified and submitted to Elections NB by August 31, 2023, so that

residents of Wards 5 and 6 can indicate their opinion about being added to the current Recreation Agreement with the city of Fredericton.

Unanimously Carried #13-07-2023

f) Purchase of a zero-turn lawnmower

Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop **seconded by** Councillor Darren MacKenzie to authorize and direct the clerk to purchase a zero-turn lawn mower up to a maximum of \$15,000.00 plus HST out of the Capital Reserve.

Unanimously Carried #14-07-2023

18. Upcoming Activities:

- a) Youth Summer Drop In's – Wednesdays from 9-12 (by registration only)
- b) Hanwell Sizzling Summer Social – July 29, rain date Jul 30
- c) Summer Social – TBD date in August

19. Closed Session:

20. Date, Time, and Location of next meeting

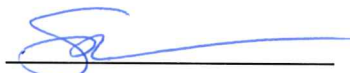
Regular Council Meeting, August 16, 2023 @ 7:00 pm
Council Chambers

21. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Holly Hyslop and **seconded by** Councillor Darren MacKenzie to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

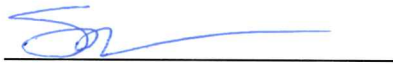
Unanimously Carried #15-07-2023

Respectfully submitted by,



Sherri Johnston
Clerk/Assistant Treasurer

Certified Correct,



Sherri Johnston
Clerk/Assistant Treasurer



Dave Morrison
Mayor

