



Town of Hanley
P.O. Box 270,
Hanley, SK S0G 2E0
Phone (306)544-2223
Fax (306)544-2261
townahanley@sasktel.net
www.hanley.ca

Town of Hanley – Town Forum Question and Answer Summary

Date of Open House: June 16, 2025

Location: Hanley Community Centre

Facilitator: Tim Duhamel, President, Bloom Centre for Municipal Education

Introduction

The Town of Hanley held a public forum on June 16, 2025, to address important matters concerning the community, including the outcome of a Code of Ethics investigation, the relationship with the Agricultural Society, and the use of the Agricultural Grounds. The session was well-attended by over 100 residents, and the tone of the evening was constructive, respectful, and forward-looking.

This document summarizes the questions posed during the forum, along with Council's responses and clarifications. The intent is to ensure continued transparency, strengthen community trust, and provide ongoing clarity.

Appendix A: First Round of Questions & Responses

Request for Investigation Report

- The report is property of Council. Approximately 50% of municipalities release full reports, 30% do not release them, and 20% provide summaries. The investigator recommended that Hanley Council not release the full report due to the personal nature of some complaints, but did recommend providing a summary and high-level public details.
- Numerous press releases and information sessions have addressed the key findings.
- If needed, a controlled review of the report in Council Chambers may be permitted by Council resolution.



Town of Hanley
P.O. Box 270,
Hanley, SK S0G 2E0
Phone (306)544-2223
Fax (306)544-2261
townahanley@sasktel.net
www.hanley.ca

Why was the Councillor not removed from Council?

- Under The Municipalities Act (Saskatchewan), an elected official cannot be removed unless they meet strict criteria (e.g., criminal conviction, bankruptcy, absence from meetings, conflict of interest ruling by a court).
- The Council cannot remove a Councillor due to a code of conduct breach alone.
- The investigator concluded that though the councillor did breach the code of ethics, the breach did not reach the level of severity where a suspension would be warranted.

What authority does Council have to impose sanctions?

- Per the Town of Hanley Code of Ethics Bylaw, Council may impose:
 - - Formal reprimand or censure
 - - Mandatory training
 - - Committee removal
 - - Public apology
 - - Suspension from Council/Committee participation (max 3 months)
- These measures were implemented following best practices.

Could the investigation have been handled internally?

- Council reviewed this and decided, due to the complexity and volume of complaints (six in total), to retain an independent third-party investigator with municipal expertise.
- Bloom CME recommended a formal external investigation, which was approved.

Were any Councillors recused?

- Yes. One Councillor was recused due to a family relationship.

Was the public involved in the investigation?

- Witnesses were invited to participate. Complainants and the respondent were interviewed.

Where did the money come from for the investigation?

- The cost was funded through surplus funds and reserves set aside for emergent/unforeseen events.



Town of Hanley
P.O. Box 270,
Hanley, SK S0G 2E0
Phone (306)544-2223
Fax (306)544-2261
townahanley@sasktel.net
www.hanley.ca

How much did the investigation cost?

- \$25,000, which is below the average for similar municipal investigations (typically \$20,000–\$75,000).
- The investigator also provided additional services at no cost, including MOU development.

Was one of the complainants a Councillor?

- Yes, one elected official was a complainant.

Appendix B: Second Round of Questions & Responses

Did the Ag Society receive the MOU?

- The MOU was sent to multiple contacts. While one recipient was a personal email, several follow-up messages were sent to the correct organizational addresses.
- There was no response from the Ag Society to requests for negotiation.

What is the Ag Society?

- A not-for-profit organization with a mission to provide agricultural events and support in the community.

What are the Ag Grounds called?

- Commonly referred to as the Hanley Agricultural Grounds.

Is the Ag Society only about the rodeo?

- This question is best answered by the Ag Society themselves.

Will Ag events still be allowed?

- Yes. Council welcomes Ag events and plans to revitalize the grounds for broader community use. A permitting and MOU process will be developed.

Has the Ag Society provided financial statements?

- Yes, but the documentation lacked detail and professionalism. Council requested improved reporting, which has not been submitted.

Is the Ag Society a non-profit?

- Agricultural societies are typically not-for-profit, but the Town recommends verifying legal status directly with the organization.



Town of Hanley
**P.O. Box 270,
Hanley, SK S0G 2E0
Phone (306)544-2223
Fax (306)544-2261
townahanley@sasktel.net
www.hanley.ca**

Why isn't there an application/permit process?

- The Town is developing a new system including:
 - - Permit applications
 - - Damage deposits
 - - MOUs and standard procedures

Does every event need an MOU?

- No. MOUs are for structured, ongoing partnerships. One-off events may only require a permit.

Who will run Ag fairs if the Ag Society only does the rodeo?

- Council is exploring options, including new committees and partnerships with the RM.

Appendix D: Supporting Documents

- Town of Hanley Code of Ethics Bylaw 2/21 (See attached)
- Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Town and Agricultural Society (See attached)
- Press Release – Investigation Update, September 10, 2024
- Press Release – CAO Transition, September 18, 2024

For further information, please contact:

Town of Hanley Administration Office

P.O. Box 270, Hanley, SK S0G 2E0

Phone: (306) 544-2223

Email: townahanley@sasktel.net

Website: www.hanley.ca

Prepared by:

Tim Duhamel

President, Bloom Centre for Municipal Education