

Town of Hanley Open House

June 16th, 2025 | 7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Location: Hanley Community Centre

The open house was facilitated by Tim Duhamel, founder and president of Bloom Inc. The Town of Hanley had four out of the five Councillors present: Melissa Maddocks, Christina McCormick, Mitch Barber, Cindy Prosofsky, along with Deputy Mayor Giselle Hanson and Administrator Jessica Walker. Over 100 residents from Hanley and the surrounding area attended the event.

1. Code of Conduct Investigation

The first item addressed was a 2024 investigation into a breach of the code of ethics by a Councillor, following six formal complaints related to over-advocacy on behalf of the Agricultural Society. The investigation found the Councillor in breach of the code. The consequences included a written and public apology, mandatory governance and respect training, a recusal from any Agricultural Society matters, and a three-month probation overseen by the investigator. The Councillor has since completed all requirements with remorse and a positive outlook.

During the open house, most questions were answered by Councillor Mitch Barber, acting as the spokesperson. Residents requested access to the investigation report, but the matter was deferred for a future Council decision. Concerns were raised about why the Councillor was not removed from office and why the investigation was external. Both Councillor Barber and Tim Duhamel clarified that provincial legislation limits Council's ability to remove an elected official, as only criminal offenses would qualify. It was also emphasized that the complaints were too personal in nature to be addressed internally. Tim Duhamel also explained that the investigation concluded there was a breach of the code of ethics; however, it was not at a severity that would result in the suspension of an elected official. The recommended consequences were aligned with best practices for the issues that were uncovered.

2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Tim Duhamel provided an MOU framework to Council as part of his services, intended to clarify expectations between the Agricultural Society and the Town. This was seen as a tool to mend strained relations and support collaborative community development. However, the process was stalled due to an unwillingness to engage and communicate from the Agricultural Society.

During the Q&A, residents asked whether future Agricultural events would be permitted. Councillor Barber affirmed Council's desire to support many Ag-related events in the future. The rodeo, however, had become a significant liability risk due to absent communication. Lack of correspondence related to insurance, logistics, and safety concerns prompted the

Town Council to not approve the rodeo being held at the Ag grounds. The Town is hopeful about working with the RM of Rosedale to host successful Agricultural events going forward.

3. Usage of Fair Grounds

The final item focused on the Agricultural Grounds. A cease and desist order was issued by the Town due to liability concerns, communication breakdowns, and unwillingness to collaborate. The only items authorized for removal were those related to the rodeo infrastructure. Some items are currently under dispute.

Council has committed to replacing necessary infrastructure and upgrading the site, especially since many of the removed items were near the end of their life. In response to a question about public access to the list of authorized removed items, Councillor Barber confirmed that it would be made available at the Town Office.

The tone of the open house was respectful and forward-looking. It highlighted the shared desire to improve relationships and support community development through collaboration between the Town of Hanley, the RM of Rosedale, and the various volunteer committees that contribute to the local quality of life.