

TOWN OF DRUMMOND REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832

MAY 19, 2026 - 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the May Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, O'Dell and Speer, and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight. Attorney Tim Dick was absent, and Public Works position is currently vacant.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Jo Radtke; Sarah Villa and Jason Villa, representing Granite Towing; Heather Ray and Collin Ray.

GUEST COMMENT:

Jo Radtke, regarding light pole.

Miss Jo Radtke first apologized for the water problem last month that prevented her from attending the April Town Council Meeting. She continued the light pole at the end of town is set off the main road as compared to the other streetlights within Drummond. They are planning to place a drive through window on the building and are requesting the light pole be removed. As it sets at the building, right where the exit window would be. Miss Radtke continued, my guess there's a few options that you have regarding the lighting district, but I'm not sure what it consists of. My first option would be to move and eliminate the pole, and I personally would be willing to help. Maybe get some grants for lighting on the south side. I feel like lights on the south side, for east bound traffic, and then also for the park, would be beneficial for everybody.

Mayor Leeper emailed Paul Babb regarding moving the light pole. He called back today stating, it's up to the town to apply for the move and pay for it, then be reimbursed by the landowner. The time frame to have that completed is uncertain.

We would need to ensure the surrounding properties were notified. Miss Radtke, visited with Christian Pfendler, who lives next door or will soon. He would prefer the light pole gone. It interferes with the ability to maneuver his equipment; when he brings the equipment out, it has been a nuisance.

The new owner of the trailer park said it doesn't impact that property because the trailer park lighting is adequate. So, he agreed to eliminate it.

Mayor Leeper interjected, I didn't realize you wanted to remove it. I'm not sure how that works. I will contact Paul Babb if we can, because it is a district, and I'm not sure how it works.

Discussion continued again, how the light pole is already offset off the road and how moving the light pole to the south side of the street would be beneficial in lighting Drummond East End Park on the south side of the road.

Miss Radtke expressed she was not willing to pay for moving the light pole to the south side of the street but was willing to assist in seeking grant funding for it.

Mayor Leeper added, which ever decision is made regarding the light pole the Town would have to pay for it. Continuing when the discussion first was presented Paul Babb stated the engineer would have to ensure the light was shining on the road correctly. But I think that's one of the big things: It's far from the road. See, I just don't know how that works as a district.

We will need to see what we can do, since we've never had to do this before. Mayor Leeper will follow up with Miss Radtke after she reaches out to Paul Babb.

Granite Towing, Tow Service Proposal.

Sarah Villa presented to the Drummond Town Council a proposal for the Town to contract with Granite Towing. Draft contract proposals were distributed to the Council; Miss. Villa proceeded to review the contract stating the first page is only service points and the next page contains the contract.

The primary points are very impressive and important. So, basically if you need anything towed, you call Granite Towing, not personally, but the city or anybody representing the city. Such as, any person parking in a no-parking zone would be towed.

The contract is written as three-year term with a one-month termination clause. If the contract's terms are not met, or pause could occur. Any reason either party wants out of the contract; the 30-day out clause protects both parties.

The agreement of having a tow service in place would streamline parking violations, disabled vehicles in areas they are not to be parked, reduce to calls to law enforcement, reduce the mandatory three-day wait period after the vehicle is tagged for violation. Establish clear emergency vehicle passage on congested streets and allies where vehicles are encroached on the Town right-a-way. Provide the ability to tow vehicles at the campground for non-payment, violating 3-night maximum stay or abandoned vehicles and/or recreation units.

Granite Towing has software to document, geocode and time stamp violations, for proof of required tow. Will provide MCA signage specific to location and need, as part of the contract.

The Town expanded, with the new camp tickets they will be more effective in regulating campers and recording those in violation.

The entirety of the council was in agreement this is something to move forward on, the Tow Service Agreement will be forwarded to the Town Attorney for review and input.

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Law Enforcement Report was provided to Drummond Town Council, for the May Town Council Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES

April 21, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

Clarification and correction noted under Floodplain, Council Member McLure requested correction in official minutes as follows: placement of plate in the spring completed by landowner, removal of plate in the fall is completed by Drummond Public Works. Expanding, "usually, I leave it up to the landowners if they irrigate or not, and then they can put the plate in. However, I think it's up to our Public Works to make sure it's pulled for the weather in the fall to prevent any blockage or freezing." Minutes had been incorrectly recorded of the placement and removal duties of the plate.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the April Regular Town Council Meeting minutes with noted corrections. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the April Regular Town Council Meeting minutes with noted corrections. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE MINUTES	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer	Yea		

JACKSON PAY APPLICATION #8

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Jackson Pay Application #8. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve Jackson Pay Application #8. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

JACKSON PAY APPLICATION #8	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer	Yea		

CLAIMS

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer	Yea		

INVESTMENTS: Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

Sewer Certificate of Deposit set to mature May 7, 2026, will roll over at current APY.

ACTION ITEMS:

Reference Roads and New Business.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Golf Ball Drop – April Minutes

I need to make a correction, with the kids and the golf ball drop; it's not school sanctioned.

There was somebody in the community who brought the statement to the attention of the Superintendent that I said, "school golf." The Superintendent asked me for clarification. I said, "my bad, I do it the same way with the baseball schedule, I will say the school kids." I said, "that I'll be better on it." For the minutes, "please put that I know there is not a high school golf team sanctioned with the Drummond Public Schools."

Career Day April 22, 2026, hosted by Philipsburg

Robin and I went up to Phillipsburg for Career Day. It was fun with the kids. We brought pop and candy, so that was a big hit. We asked practical questions, like who's your mayor? Who can tell us where the water goes when you take a shower? Robin had brought a copy of the sewer project information, and what she provided to the funding agents. As well as the Town budget. We asked the kids about their plans for college and work; we used the opportunity of any field working with numbers pertaining to their future career, explaining how numbers apply within the work of the Town. Career Day was a well-received event.

Local Government Services Institute, May 3-7, 2026

At the conference, permissive funds were discussed, noting they need to be done every year, or you need to start over. They also talked about bylaws and what resolutions are. The biggest thing for me was interviewing correctly, not having all the council do it. I always learn something there every time I attend.

Joint Session May 13, 2026, hosted by Philipsburg.

Philipsburg hosted May 13, 2026, Joint Session, at Philipsburg Town Hall.

The county did not have a meeting this week because they're doing their FIRC inspection for the dam. Currently they don't know if they were going to hire someone to fill the road and bridge superintendent position, or if they will have people at each end of the county acting as foremen. Joint Sessions are always good communication.

Municipal Summit June 1, 2026, hosted by Drummond.

Municipal Summit will be held at the fire station, scheduled from 9 to 4. I'll try to get you an agenda of what they're talking about before the summit.

Beautification Project Update, 163 E. Front Street.

Beautification project, they started sandblasting.

Earl arranged with Jackson Contractors to collect the big manhole ring and place where the others are located.

Mayor Leeper expanded, "I just want to thank everyone who's been helping and volunteering during this time between public works, this has been helpful and educational for all of us, we will keep it up." Seasonal help will start June 1st. He's been volunteering along with Council Members and others.

Wagon Wheel Update

Mayor Leeper attended the commissioners' meeting; the owner had seven days to clean up and test the water for impurities. The owner had said that the well had gone dry; there was still plenty of water. The tenants put

the first pump in, and it wasn't big enough, so they are putting a second pump in. The power is currently in the tenant's name.

I asked Blaine about it, and I will call tomorrow to see where they're at with the water test. I asked Blaine to request them to please not flush everything all at once.

The tenants had to set traps out for rats, and I know they did catch one more, which is not surprising. That's what we talked about regarding the garbage.

Mayor Leeper continued, I'm not happy about the fact that the county allowed them to dump all that garbage which was down there for 6 cents a pound. I could see it one time, but when I asked Ashley Todd how long that was going to be, the County gets to make that determination. It's up to their discretion.

Discussion continued, I mean that it's not really that cool. Anyone, instead of paying overages at 22 cents a pound, should also get to pay \$0,06. We all pay taxes. That's not right at all. If you wish, call the Treasurer's office and speak to Scott or Ashley about that.

I think it is one thing to help people out. There are still five or six people who live down there now. When you buy a property, you know that's part of it. The commissioners are going to have a headache, and yet they can make that determination.

The landowner was in jail for violation of his probation. The sheriff's office went to talk to him yesterday. He won't answer his door to the people who are renting from him. The power is turned on, but they don't have any potable water and the rats on top of this.

Mayor Leeper continued, "I don't want to see those people out of shelter either, but it's not only affecting them."

Chad Lanes County Sanitarian was at the commissioners' meeting when we talked about this. Tenants were in the foyer; I told them you need a lawyer. You won't get your money back. Chad said, "you need to get a lawyer" and obviously they won't have the funding to do that. I asked, is there someone they can contact or provide them with a name, I am pretty sure he did. I said, "please do that for these people."

I don't know if it's a conflict with the County Attorney. I think it could be bad and think that he could help them. I don't know if they asked for the County Attorney's help in that manner. We have directed and directed these tenants to him.

That's where we're at with it now, I will update you tomorrow when I find out something more.

ATTORNEY: None

Tim had a schedule conflict and is in Kalispell.

PARKS:

Dog Waste Station

The group that helps with baseball asked if they could put up a dog waste station, because we are also having them do the cleanup to use a baseball field. Well, they seem concerned about how much dog poop is out there. They wrote to me and said, hey, I have funding for a dog waste station. Do you care? I'll put it up. I said, no, we appreciate your volunteer efforts to do that.

Park Water

When we get the water running there will be a lot of broken sprinkler heads to repair, next year should be easier after we go forward with hiring a public works person.

Camp Collection Envelopes

Council Member Speer stated, "I'm pretty excited about this. I love that they're so bright." Referring to the color choice of the new camp collection envelopes. Mayor Leeper expanded, well, it was funny; when Robin said there's pink ones, and I said, "Okay, let's do pink." So, great; the bright color especially helps Law Enforcement, they can spot ticket vouchers easily. It's a great idea.

Mayor Leeper has been emptying the garbage at the park, collecting the camp money envelopes and taking care of whatever else needs done.

Council Member O'Dell thanked Mayor Leeper for all she is doing in assisting while the public works position is vacant.

ROADS:

Broad Street Road Repair

We have received two estimates for Broad Street Road Repair, Timber Works bid \$2,870.00 and Great Divide Excavation bid \$2,500.00. Council Member O'Dell stated, He will pass his recommendation to go with a Great Divide.

Discussion continued as to the service Great Divide already provides. We need to also support him. That will go a long way moving forward, as he is very capable. He has expanded his business because he can't find anybody to do septic tanks, he's going to do them himself. He has hired three other people to do the digging and other tasks. He will still be doing the septic work and washing sewer lines, all these additional services are under his supervision.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve hiring of Great Divide Excavation for work on Broad Street. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve hiring Great Divide Excavation for work on Broad Street. Council Member Speer seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Broad Street Repair – Great Divide Excavation	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer	Yea		

Clerk Treasurer Wight will contact Great Divide to schedule Broad Street work.

Tree Pruning

Trees were cut back across from Swede's, that is now completed.

Sink Hole:

Mike Hill contacted Mayor Leeper to let her know there was another hole located at the second jack leg fence down at Rick White's. Asking, isn't that your sewer? Council Member Clute and O'Dell will investigate this area to determine the area of concern on Front Street.

Mayor Leeper added we're probably going to have to talk with the state if this area is on Front Street. Council Member Clute added, our sewer line should be 4 feet out from that location.

Discussion led to contacting Brandon with the State should this location be determined to be on state right away.

FLOODPLAINS: None

SEWER:

Lift Station

Great Divide is continuing to flush the sewer lines. Focusing behind the Wagon Wheel, most of you know that a rat was pulled out of the sewer right there, along with a whole bunch of toilet paper.

Great Divide should be down tomorrow. I think we're just going to keep working through town. Whenever he has gray water, it's all gray water. He's going to put it down there, so we're just pushing it all the way to the lift station, then he'll do the lift station they'll have a cell open in the lagoon for placement.

Council Member Clute added with Great Divide flushing lines—flushing has been a lifesaver for us. We need to remember that the quote from Nash used to be \$10,000 a year, now \$10,000 semi-annual. Great Divide will give us gray water. I call him whatever I need, and he helps. That really helps him. You know, there might be something left in his truck, but it's not going to cause any harm.

Mayor Leeper added, Marty had been flushing that line down at our end. We were sitting there, looking in the manhole when suddenly, this white stuff came down the line. I wonder what that is. I can tell you exactly what it is. The kids are washing their paintbrushes at the school. They do this all the time.

Council Member Clute interjected, that's another thing that the mayor, Robin and I were discussing. Next year, we'll be more prepared. We're going to make a spreadsheet with manhole numbers on it. Marty will have one in his truck for tracking purposes of manholes flushed.

Marty is also providing porta potties for the town at no charge, which his guy comes and cleans it every week. That has been worth it, alone. Mayor Leeper suggested providing Great Divide with a donation receipt.

Individuals have been caught dumping into the Town's sewer line at the far east end of town off the interstate and because it could become a problem we may have to tack that manhole. So, nobody can get into it to dump. Then the Town can crank them off when needed. There is no water coming into that one because no one has been living in the house.

Moter homes have also been caught dumping into the lines on Front and A Street, by Swede's Bar.

This brings up another point, Earl continued. I was talking to the Jackson guys, and he talked to Brad. They are cutting that bank down so much; I don't know if we'll be able to get a truck around the lagoon one of the guys was showing me; I'm going to ask him for a walk-through on Thursday.

After the meeting he said, "Well, I don't know if you'd be able to get even your little truck out there." Council Member Clute asked, "What about the UV lights, they have to pack all that out by hand?" Continuing, I said "We can't have that." I want to look at this before I talk to Brad.

We need to ensure Great Divide and our new public works guy have access to the lagoon. If he must change anything, take those UV bulbs out there, etc.

One of the project managers said, "I don't think that's possible." Earl added, this is something I want to look at. I just wanted to keep you guys informed.

Caterpillar is coming out to do our regular maintenance tomorrow. Our generator is paid off, which is good news.

The Lift station control board needs to be done: A big thing I need to talk to Brad about is a bypass. I've talked to Brad about it and kept getting pushed off. But if something happens, there is no way to get that water to the lagoon. Other places have a bypass.

Mayor Leeper added the thing that Brad had told me when I was talking to him about the wish list for out there is within the next month or so, they're going to know how much contingency money is going to be left. If we don't use it, then you must send it back. Well, we need to get this fixed. These lift station issues are contingency issues; including the control board at lift station, and the controller for that. The board and generator should be compatible. They should be the same.

We had alarms out there, 1:30 in the morning, wet wipes stuck. There's no throw switch to reverse the pump, Earl spent till 3 in the morning out there rewiring the pump to reverse it then wire it back up. It's a necessity to have a bypass. I don't have the reasons why they designed it that way, if the pumps fail, we have nothing—it comes into town.

Council Member O'Dell had discussion with Clerk-Treasurer Wight referencing handout to post on items not to flush. Discussion with the Council of non-flushable items and items of concern Medicines, medical supplies, medical wipes, facial wipes, baby wipes and other things.

If we could ask the community not to flush these items, they may not even realize that these items create a problem. Especially since many are supposed to be biodegradable.

Discussion led to the need for a freestanding box to dispose of medications possibly located at Public Health.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Works New Hire Discussion and Decision

First, we have three very good applicants for a small town. The interview committee unanimously came to recommend to the full council that Paul Pascoe be hired as our Public Works Director. Unless there is any further discussion or issue, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the hire of Paul Pascoe, applicant interview number 3, to fill the Public Works position. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve the hire of Paul Pascoe, applicant

interview number 3, to fill the Public Works position. Council Member Speer seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Approve Hire of Paul Pascoe for Public Works Director Position	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer	Yea		

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water per Gallon Charge

Discussion was had amongst the council regarding water usage at the Town's water tower. For whatever reason a sensor or something hasn't been right since they put it in, and they were supposed to come back and fix it. The guy came out, and we've told them repeatedly, but it's not fixed. You shouldn't have to prime the pump all the time.

Further discussion explained, I just hit manual and waited. It should shut off. If you hit manual, then go to auto it should be fine. After letting it run for a while, then go to auto.

Clarification was made regarding whom the Town allows to purchase water such as the Railroad and the in-kind agreement with the State for street sweeping, along with the per gallon water increase from \$0.05 to \$0.07 with a six-month reevaluation, which was by motion at April's Town Council Meeting.

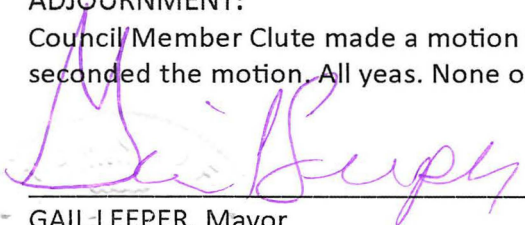
Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

Mayor Leeper will not attend the June Council Meeting and requested Council President McLure to conduct the meeting, as she will be in Tennessee.

We're at budgeting time, coming close to the end of the fiscal year. Budgeting is a yearly process with engagement all year. Mayor Leeper added, "I do believe that we are in a better place. You know what I mean? I think because of Robin, ending the fiscal year in a better position in the general fund; sewer fund is what it is."

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Clute made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL-LEEPER, Mayor

ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal