

TOWN OF DRUMMOND REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

JULY 21, 2026 - 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the July Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, O'Dell, and Speer; Clerk Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Pascoe. Town Attorney Dick was in attendance via Teams Meet.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Leeper informed the Council and those in attendance at the July 21st Drummond Town Council Meeting that the meeting is being recorded via Teams Meet to assist with transcribing of the Official Written Minutes, thus eliminating the lengthy amount of time it takes completing the monthly council minutes.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Calvin Wight; Winnie Lohof, representing American Red Cross; and Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

GUEST COMMENT:

American Red Cross

Winnie Lohof, Community Disaster Program Manager for Southwest Montana with the American Red Cross. Winnie's area of coverage includes Granite County.

Winnie stated we are in the middle of fire season and it's probably going to get worse. She elaborated, what can be generally expected from the American Red Cross, and what is currently in place within Granite County in terms of sheltering.

The disaster side of the American Red Cross, responds to everything from home fires to wild fires and mass casualty incidents. Further detailing, such natural disasters, wildfires, and floods. Anything that would displace people from their homes, or homes being severely damaged and not safe for them to return.

The American Red Cross is mandated by their federal charter to respond to such events as a train, plane crash, or any public transportation mass casualty incident.

You are able to call on behalf of your neighbor or yourself 1-800 Red Cross and will be routed to one of Winnie's colleagues at the National level who will then get that dispatched to Winnie and her team.

The American Red Cross never charges for any of their resources. They strive to provide people the resources they need to make their recovery a little bit easier. Oftentimes when people engage with the Red Cross, it is their first time.

For a home fire or anytype of natural disaster, they have mental health services from trained mental health professionals to spiritual care services. Including trained chaplains or leaders in faith communities.

The American Red Cross medical team are trained and licensed professionals whom can assist with replacement of medications and durable medical equipment, typically fairly quickly and ideally within 24-hours of their notification.

They can respond to a home fire up to two weeks post event.

The American Red Cross also has financial assistance and resources for those that meet the qualifications. An example of qualification for financial assistance would be a home fire, wild fire or natural disaster in general where the home is uninhabitable, major damage or destroyed. Utilizing FEMA's framework for damage assessment.

Should they not qualify for initial financial assistance, they would still have complete access to mental health services, health services, spiritual care and case management programs.

The American Red Cross is typically looking at the 24-48 hours post event, establishing what someone's initial needs are. Case management teams typically focus on the 72-hour to month post event what that client and household needs to be able to recuperate safely.

As terms of identified shelters within Granite County, Drummond has three, Philipsburg has one.

Drummond shelters are the Fire Hall, Community Hall, and the Drummond School. Then for Philipsburg, the Community Church has been designated as their shelter.

Should these shelters need evacuated, there are shelters in both Missoula and Butte. Should the community want to stay in the county. They would look at establishing closer locations as long as it is safe.

Granite County currently as no volunteers, to assist in these efforts; so volunteers, would be mobilized from other places leading to a two-hour response time, for a natural disaster that could indicate approximately a four-hour response time.

Finally, Winnie presented the American Red Cross preparedness training and equipment they are able to provide in Southwest Montana. Continuing, they have about 5 billion smoke alarms that could be placed in structures throughout Granite County free of charge up to a max of three per household. For those individuals deaf or hard of hearing they have shaker alarms and stroke light alarms.

They also provide wildfire assessments for outside the home, showing people where they can build defensive space. Also providing evacuation and 72-hour go bags resources should they need to evacuate quickly; providing classes for both kids and adults.

There is currently a program called "Sound the Alarm" where they utilize and pull volunteers to install as many smoke alarms in as many households as possible over the course a day or two.

Dallon Crilly, Hub International

Dallon was on the agenda for reviewing additional services to the Town, was not in attendance. However, no confirmation was made in his attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:

Provided to Council within packets.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES:

[May 19, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting](#), [June 16, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting](#) and [July 6, 2026 Special Town Council Meeting](#)

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the May 19th Regular Town Council Meeting minutes, June 16th Regular Town Council Meeting minutes and July 6th Special Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the May 19th Regular Town Council Meeting minutes, June 16th Regular Town Council Meeting minutes and July 6th Special Town Council Meeting minutes. 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		

CLAIMS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member O'Dell 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](#)

Sewer Certificate of Deposit #2 matured June 29, 2026, rolled-over at current APY.

Fiscal Year 2027 Donations

Fiscal Year 2027 Donations will include annual \$100 to Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority; and \$200 donation towards purchase of Granite County Sheriff's Office tactical gear.

Philipsburg Town Hall reached out to Drummond inquiring if the Town could assist with a donation towards the approximate \$5,000 cost to Granite Counties Sheriff's Office purchase of new tactical gear for the deputies.

Philipsburg is also contributing and a fund raiser will be held in Philipsburg for meeting the cost of this purchase.

Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Financial Services Agreement

Annual Financial Agreement is fully executed between Town of Drummond and Montana League of Cities and Towns for Fiscal Year 2027.

Fiscal Year 2027 Local Government Cooperative Agreement

Local Government Center now provides their services by purchased packages. Granite County, Town of Philipsburg and Town of Drummond will utilize the Jurisdictional Cooperative Package offered by MSU LGC; which provides a cost savings benefit to each jurisdiction and allows the jurisdictions to split and share services offered within the cooperative package.

Joint Session between Granite County, Philipsburg and Drummond is a perfect opportunity to utilize shared training opportunities.

Drummond Town Council was able to find the value in these training sessions at the Municipal Summit held in Drummond on June 1st. Mayor Leeper and Clerk-Treasurer Wight utilize the training opportunities presented by both MSU Local Government Services and Montana League Cities in Towns on a regular basis.

ACTION ITEM:

RESOLUTION 2026-4

A RESOLUTION OF THE Town of Drummond, Montana APPROVING A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) OF 3.0% FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-4 Council Member O'Dell made a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-4. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Waive Reading Resolution 2026-4	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		

Mayor Leeper placed on recorded she reached out individually via text to each Council Member receiving their authorization to provide the Town's employees with a 3% Cola Increase, which would be completed in open meeting by resolution.

Thus, saving time and funding for having to complete the task needed in completing retro pay back to July 1st.

Mayor Leeper asked the Council if there were any further questions or discussion, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-4 A RESOLUTION OF THE Town of Drummond, Montana APPROVING A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) OF 3.0% FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES.

Council Member McLure made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-4. Council Member Speer seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

RESOLUTION 2026-4 3% Cola Increase	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		

Resolution 2026-4 adopted and passed.

RESOLUTION 2026-5

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE THROUGH THE MONTANA STATE FUND PLACED THROUGH HUB INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN STATES LIMITED

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-5 Council Member McLure made a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-5. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Waive Reading Resolution 2026-5	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		

Mayor Leeper reminded the council that as of July 1, 2026 Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority (MMIA) will no longer be providing Workers' Compensation coverage. Town of Drummond has signed on Hub International-MSLA as the Town's brokerage company in securing workers' compensation quotation and coverage for the Town.

Mayor Leeper asked if the Council had read the resolution and if they had any further questions or discussion, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-5 A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE THROUGH THE MONTANA STATE FUND PLACED THROUGH HUB

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN STATES LIMITED. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-5. Council Member Speer seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

RESOLUTION 2026-5 Workers Compensation MT STATE FUND	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		

Resolution 2026-5 adopted and passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Planning Board

Currently the Planning Board is working on the Growth Policy; Drummond is included in Granite Counties Growth Policy.

Mayor Leeper provided post cards and flyers regarding the current survey, asking those in attendance to please participate in completion of this survey.

The last update to the Growth Policy was approximately 2015. Drummond was able to check off a lot of items which have been completed since that time.

Action Inc.

The next Action Inc meeting is this Thursday in Butte.

Mayor Leeper had gone before the Granite County Commission to provide Action Inc. 2-year plan for them to acknowledge receipt of. They don't necessarily have to agree with the plan, just acknowledge the plan was provided.

Chamber Farmer's Market

The individual previously associated with organizing the Chamber's Farmers Market is no longer on the chamber. Mayor Leeper reached out to that person regarding if they will be having a vendor or vendors. There is currently one vendor that comes on Wednesdays; however, they are no longer closing the street. They also returned the Town's road closure supplies.

July 7th Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority Meeting

Mayor Leeper, Council Person O'Dell and Charlene Bucca, who is Granite County's representative were in attendance at the July 7th BSPRA meeting held at the Drummond Library.

The main focus was that we get Drummond put on the early planning phase of what could be a potential stop in Drummond. Who knows what that will look like down the road. Council Member O'Dell asked some really good questions and we received a lot of good information. This is still in the planning stages, again it's for 2034, 2035, which is out there a way. Laying the ground work now helps the process down the road.

The data was interesting on how much less expensive it is to travel by train. In European countries they travel a lot by train, the United States is behind in travel by rail.

Mayor Leeper utilized this opportunity to network with the chair, Dave Stromeyer, as to their working relationship with BNSF. As sometimes it can be difficult to get BNSF to come to the table regarding different topics or even provide a timely response to questions.

Discussion led to noise control and possible alternate crossing arms which would provide better public safety measures.

June 1st Municipal Summit

Drummond Town Council members which were able to be in attendance did attend the June 1st Summit hosted by Drummond at the Valley Fire District Fire Hall where MMIA and MSU LGC presented the June Summit.

Those in attendance from Drummond were Mayor Leeper, Council Persons McLure, Clute and O'Dell, and Clerk-Treasurer Wight.

Summits are great opportunities to find out what is happening within local government across the state, to know if you are doing things right, or if we need to work on them a little bit; because none of us are perfect.

It's a time to see what other municipalities are experiencing and dealing with throughout the discussions. It was awesome to see that we are doing things right in Drummond.

MDT Montana Highway 1 Bridge

Chuck Johnson wrote a letter to MDT regarding the condition of the bridge pillars on Highway 1. By MDT own inspection two years ago indicated by their report the condition was poor.

That was two years ago. So, the deterioration of it, as you know is not good. They resurfaced it two years ago, but the concern is the pillars, the foundation of it.

Mayor Leeper and Jackie Bolster, Granite County DES Coordinator, plan to work together in writing letters directly to them and ask specifically what they are going to do.

These bridges are only inspected every two years and it is only going to get worse if they don't do anything with it.

ATTORNEY:

None

PARKS:

Fee Box

Discussion was had regarding what type of fee box would best be suitable at the park for camp collections, ensuring the envelopes and funds are not ruined inside.

The collection box needs an area they can pull the envelope from, then deposit the completed envelope and funds inside preventing damage and assuring security, yet be reasonable in cost.

Council Person Speer and Public Works Pascoe will work together in researching the fee box.

Community Farmer's Market

Will be held at the Drummond City Park Friday August 21st from 5PM to 7:30PM.

ROADS:

Loader repair, owned by Granite County cooperative use agreement.

The loader has been repaired and delivered back by the County. Mayor Leeper did text Commissioner Adler letting him know the Town would pay for parts or cost share in the repair, that the Town is willing to do our part in the repair of the loader.

Skid Steer

Drummond is currently researching options of obtaining a skid steer, either through purchase or rental.

Mayor Leeper reached out to Western States Cat which will provide a quote on a buyback program of equipment like a 259 model; request was made for a purchase quote and rental quote.

Public Works is in discussion with an individual they may have interest in renting a skid steer that already has a snow plow attachment on it.

A third avenue is getting a quote from Amy in Belgrade.

Granite County now has a mechanic; another option would have the mechanic look at the old Dodge snow plow truck to get it running.

FLOODPLAINS:

None

SEWER:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project

Engineer Koon provided handouts to the council and guests for review as he began his update to the current Wastewater Facility Project.

The berm that goes down the middle of the lagoon is completed, which is between cell three on the west end and cells one and two on the east end.

The size is complete and the liner has been installed in cell three; it has gone through the quality testing and everything has checked out. They did find a couple of leaks when tested which were fixed then retested and have since passed. Cell three is complete and wastewater is now being discharged to cell three.

Sludge from the entire lagoon has been removed, delivered, and placed on the application site. Application spread in the fall has farmed up pretty easy; however, application from the spring was a little more difficult, but they were able to work it out.

Engineer Koon proceeded to review the liner placement, showing the various liner samples and providing the laydown process of all the materials and liners.

Once it is in operation, it will go from cell to cell, setting in each cell for a certain amount of time, then gravity flow through the UV plant. It is all gravity, no pumps. In sense gravity flows the cells, UV treats it, then travels through the river.

The UV building is in place, structure is put together, stairs are in, HVAC, heating system is there, and will be working on the insulation. We are about a month out from having the UV system plugged in.

Currently they are working on the split between cells one and two, building the berm and installing the piping.

We are currently anticipating substantial completion by October 8th, per contract the initial estimation was November 30th.

The project is going really well; Engineer Koon elaborated, I think you got a really good contractor.

Lastly, Engineer Koon went over the contingency amounts remaining on the project and per the Town's request and Engineer's agreement the need of fencing around the lagoon. Council was in agreement to have quote provided for 6-foot barbed wire with three gates and alignment per discussion.

Next item within the contingency would be the road surrounding the lagoon in which Brad explained how and what route the access would be achieved.

Discussion then led to lift station bypass, and the viability of such; as Drummond's lines go from an 8-inch line by gravity into a 4-inch line that's a pressure line.

Further discussion led to how to overcome the current challenged at the lift station. Then utilize contingency funding to redo the panel/board to work properly.

Engineer Koon will take back the contingency discussion items, firm up some numbers and prepare the change orders to present to the funding agents.

Engineer Koon ended with; he felt good about the project. Clerk-Treasurer Wight is great on keeping all the financials and grant funding in order.

The project is ahead of schedule, the contractors have been great to work with, and give back to the community.

Well next to UV Building

Discussion was had regarding leaving the well for utilization in usable/non-potable water for spraying things off and cleaning. Potentially the Town could place a pump into the well with a frost free access handle.

Xylem Preventative Maintenance

Clerk-Treasurer Wight will reach out to Xylem to have the Lift Station placed on the preventive maintenance schedule before winter hits. They most likely will require the contract/preventive maintenance agreement prior to scheduling the maintenance service.

CITY COURT:

Justice of the Peace Contract Expiration December 2026

Judge Fratzke will be completed with her term December 2026 and plans to retire.

The Town will need to establish a new Justice of the Peace agreement with the incoming Judge.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Towing Service Procurement Discussion

Mayor Leeper questioned Attorney Dick if the Town could have an exclusive tow service contract with Granite Towing or if it would have to go out to bid.

Attorney Dick will look into the verbiage of such an agreement and should it require a bidding protocol.

Fishing Boat Access and Day Parking, Fee Discussion

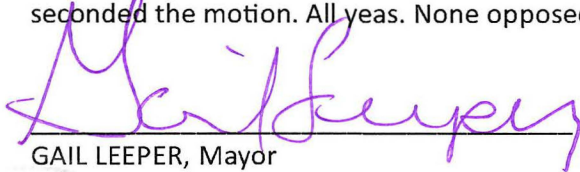
Discussion led to having a fishing boat access/day parking fee of \$5 per day.

The thought process is the Town wants to let the public use the river and have access to the river, and we are still doing that, but yet having some fee come in to help with the garbage, maintenance of the park roads and access point.

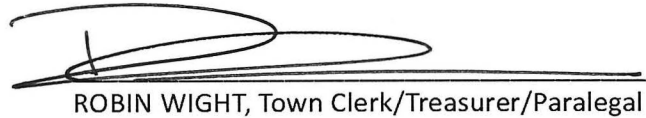
The council was in agreement, and will move forward establishing said fee by resolution if needed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member O'Dell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal