

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

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

**MAY 20, 2025 - 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, and O'Dell; Town Attorney McGill; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance during the Public Meeting.

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Calvin Wight; Cyleigh Langton, representing Golden Opportunity 4-H; Brooke Covington; Engineer Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering; and Luke Ulatowski, representing The Philipsburg Mail.

**GUEST COMMENT:** Cyleigh Langton, representing Golden Opportunity 4-H Group, presented to the Drummond Town Council; Golden Opportunity's interest in improvements to the Drummond City Park/Campground volleyball court, sand pit, swing and playground through Blackfoot Communication Grant opportunity and Golden Opportunity 4-H volunteer efforts.

The proposed time frame for these improvements would be Summer 2025; with an approximate volunteer group of eight individuals.

The Council were unanimous in approval of the group's proposal; with Mayor Leeper, inviting Cyleigh to come back to present before the council the groups plan when finalized.

Cyleigh will follow up with Mayor Leeper, once she has more information.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**MINUTES:**

**April 15, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting**

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

**CLAIMS:**

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

**INVESTMENTS:** Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

**FINANCIALS:** Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

## **Sewer 4-Mo Certificate of Deposit Matures May 27, 2025**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to close the 4-mo matured Certificate of Deposit, then re-open a new Certificate of Deposit with the accrued Interest. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve closing the 4-mo matured Certificate of Deposit, then re-open new Certificate of Deposit with the accrued interest. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #RRG-23-0758 AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION'S (DNRC) AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT (PER) GRANT FUNDING.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-5 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-5. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-5 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #RRG-23-0758 AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION'S (DNRC) AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT (PER) GRANT FUNDING, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-5 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT #RRG-23-0758 AMENDMENT BETWEEN MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION'S (DNRC) AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT (PER) GRANT FUNDING. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2025-5. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2025-1 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL PRIOR ORDINANCES ADOPTING FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCES; ADOPT UPDATED FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS TO CONFORM TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL FLOODPLAIN INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

Attorney McGill provided clarification regarding repeal of prior ordinances, adopting Floodplain Ordinances; and creation of Ordinance 2025-1. As documentation of referenced original ordinance was not found. After, First and Second Readings are complete; there is a thirty-day waiting period, then adoption of Ordinance 2025-1 will be by Resolution.

Discussion led to procedural review of ordinance readings and adoption amongst the Drummond Town Council; prior to the first reading of Ordinance 2025-1.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to ORDINANCE 2025-1 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL PRIOR ORDINANCES ADOPTING FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCES; ADOPT UPDATED FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS TO CONFORM TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE



NATIONAL FLOODPLAIN INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper read ORDINANCE 2025-1 in its entirety; followed by, asking for a motion to approve the First Reading of ORDINANCE 2025-1 AN ORDINANCE TO REPEAL PRIOR ORDINANCES ADOPTING FLOODPLAIN ORDINANCES; ADOPT UPDATED FLOODPLAIN REGULATIONS TO CONFORM TO REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL FLOODPLAIN INSURANCE PROGRAM; AND PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE. Council Member McLure made motion to approve First Reading of ORDINANCE 2025-1. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Second reading of Ordinance 2025-1 is scheduled for June 17, 2025.

**MCEP CONTRACT #MT-MCEP-CG-25-037**

Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Coal Endowment Program Contract #MT-MCEP-CG-037; was prepared and presented by the Department of Commerce for the Drummond Wastewater Infrastructure Upgrade Project.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions after the Council's review of the Department of Commerce Contract #MT-MCEP-CG-037, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Coal Endowment Program Contract #MT-MCEP-CG-037. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Montana Department of Commerce, Montana Coal Endowment Program Contract #MT-MCEP-CG-037. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

A Resolution for Contract #MT-MCEP-CG-25-037 will be on the June 17, 2025 agenda.

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Discussion amongst Engineer Koon, Attorney McGill, Mayor Leeper and the Drummond Town Council as to the requested revised TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT task order document.

USDA Rural Development requires use of their document template agreement for grants issued through USDA Rural Development Program to meet funding requirements, Triple Tree Engineering utilized USDA Rural Development template and verbiage within this revised Project Engineering Services Agreement, which will replace prior Engineering Service Agreement for the Wastewater Project.

Attorney McGill interjected this is a federal requirement, should specific topics need to be changed the agreement can be amended.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussion regarding TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT task order document, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT. Council Member McLure made motion to approve TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM

IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

A Resolution repealing prior Wastewater Engineer Agreement; and approving TOWN OF DRUMMOND WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT ENGINEERING AGREEMENT, REVISED PER USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT will be on the June 17, 2025 agenda.

Engineer Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering, followed action item discussion; providing an update on the pre-bid construction meeting held at Drummond Town Hall, with at least 25 individuals present showing interest in the Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project.

Triple Tree Engineering extended the BID turn in date to May 29, 2025, at 1:00pm; allowing time to respond to additional questions presented by contractors, and for the addendums to be created. Allowing all contractors resources to the same information. To date there have been two addendums released, with a third to soon follow.

Answering all questions presented by contractors is part of the bid process.

Mayor Leeper followed Engineers Koon's comments; in relation to the pre-bid meeting and the importance of security and safety of those contractors accessing the lagoon site for pre-bid observation.

Mayor Leeper reemphasizing, all contractors are to direct questions through the proper chain of command.

Contractors are to maintain strict DEQ compliance for any and all testing requested at the lagoon; including no discharge July to September as documented in the Town's permit.

Engineer Koon reiterated during the project there will be a Resident Project Representative (RPR) on site during construction.

Mayor Leeper added; though Drummond is a small town, this is Drummond's final phase of the sewer project and not our first rodeo.

Discussion led into the bid protocol: accepting sealed bids, opening, reading, acknowledging and recording the bid figures on score worksheets. This discussion Included acknowledging bid price, ensuring addendums have been acknowledged by contractors and contractor bid bond is included within contractor bid submissions. The apparent low bidder will be acknowledged; bids will be taken back to Triple Tree Engineering to verify math and check references; followed by a written recommendation to the Town.

Discussion clarified, Public Notification and Notice of Bid Date.



Attorney McGill and Attorney Dick will work closely with Engineer Koon on the Contractor Contract to have ready for the Town's Notice of Award.

This project has spending cut off requirements on the ARPA Grant Funds; which require those funds to be expended by December 31, 2025. An option discussed, in meeting that criteria; is to purchase the lagoon liner and have it held at the manufacture's facility, until such time as needed for the project. Which, would alleviate some of the pressure on the contractor. Per the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Funding Call; an alternative sludge placement location on the designated placement land owner property may be needed, due to recent seeding on the selected property. This alternate location, had previously been selected and discussed; however, DEQ requirements will stipulate the need additional testing and CATEX publication.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

### **Headwaters RCD**

Headwaters is working with one business in Drummond.

### **Commissioner Meeting Delinquent Tax Discussion**

The Commissioner Meeting Discussion went well and was a great start to opening the discussion of delinquent taxes within Granite County, including Town of Drummond.

There was proposed discussion, by the County Treasurer, of writing off delinquent taxes prior to 2018; however, the Granite County Commissioners would have final authority on this decision.

All entities in Granite County need every dime, in tax revenue.

Mayor Leeper will follow up with Granite County; the Town of Drummond was encouraged to come back before the Commissioners, in continuing the opened discussion of delinquent taxes.

### **Conference Report**

Local Government Services May Institute was very informative of new legislation passed. Mayor Leeper expanded on the recent house bill addressing law enforcement; as most Towns throughout Montana, the entirety of Entitlement monies awarded to those communities goes to pay law enforcement contracts.

No one wants to see law enforcement receive less funding, as they are essential to our communities; our hope is the County could kick in more to assist meeting these needs, taking some of the burden off of the Towns.

### **Action Inc.**

Action Inc meets this coming Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>; where there will be a summary report provided on help received within Granite County.

**Joint Session**

Town of Drummond will be hosting the next Joint Session between Town of Philipsburg, Town of Drummond and Granite County. It would be beneficial for law enforcement to attend joint session as well.

**ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Dick and Mayor Leeper spoke earlier today; we anticipate having the attorney contract ready, in hopes to be under contract June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Attorney McGill will remain on retainer; a short engagement for counsel, ensuring a smooth transition.

There will be a Special Town Council Meeting to discuss, approve and appoint Attorney Dick.

Attorney McGill and Attorney Dick will work together on the Contractor Contract; utilizing USDA specific contract verbiage required for their contracts.

Attorney McGill added, Attorney Dick as experience with large contracts.

**PARKS:****In Memory Bench**

Type of bench; material, cost, deterioration and ability to secure the bench was discussed. The council reached agreement; approval was granted to order the bench next week.

**Robert Dillon Tree Service**

Quote was received by Robert Dillon Tree Service of \$2,800; to take down and remove damaged tree. The Council were in agreement this was a reasonable fee; approving to move forward with the tree removal.

**ROADS:****Potholes**

Potholes are an ongoing process, Public Works has several spots on the list to be completed, more patch is coming to complete remaining potholes.

Area by Keith Kolbeck's Broad property; we will reach out to the County to inquire utilization of the County's machine to assist with filling this large pothole.

The Town no longer utilizes the old Steam Roller, as it is too dangerous.

**Stop Sign**

Stop sign located between Fic's and Cenex, continues to be ran over. Discussion led to use of jersey rail, stenciling stop in replacement of the signage, or placement of a break-a-way stop sign placed in the existing spot of the current stop sign.

This area causes much confusion to drivers; as the appearance is that of a large parking lot, rather than an actual street.

Council Member O'Dell will reach out to Drummond's contact with the State Department of Transportation; looking at several options: stenciling, abatement and jersey rail placement.

### **Clean-Up/Arbor Day**

Drummond School kids will be conducting their annual clean-up; Town of Drummond will supply trash bags and Drummond Public Health will supply gloves in this clean-up effort.

Groups will be formed in K-8<sup>th</sup> Grade and High School; with the High School aged children focusing on higher traffic areas.

### **Repair Road**

When land owners remove asphalt for sewer line hook-up; they are responsible to repair road when completed.

In relation to road construction; property construction is required to receive a construction permit from the Town; these permits are turned into the County and Maps for proper recording.

## **FLOODPLAINS:**

### **Weed Control**

Council Member McLure will follow-up with Glen and Deb Kolbeck regarding utilizing livestock for weed control.

## **SEWER:**

### **Generator**

Sewer generator received annual service; the life pump was going out, which was replaced. The other pump is working well. We are no longer receiving alarms.

Electrician placed back in auto mode.

### **Sewer Lines**

Great Divide have been flushing out the sewer lines, approximately two loads every other day; cleaning out every manhole.



Public Works cleans the Sewer screen daily. Previous problematic area is now moving properly. Three loads of water have the ability to clear the lines; in cases it does not, the camera can be run through the line.

Manholes that need work cause sand build up at the lift station; cleaning out the lines is an annual maintenance in being proactive.

### **Park City**

It was reported, there was an incident in Park City, Montana; a public works employee drowned in Park City's sewer lagoon.

Department of Labor has instructed Safety Inspectors to inspect Montana Sewer Lagoons to ensure workplace safety.

A suggestion was made to utilize life jackets at the lagoon site; and best practice would not to have public works at the lagoon by himself.

Council discussion led to utilizing throw away rings or ropes installed at each corner of the lagoon; ensuring a safety mechanism is in place; and include a buddy system to ensure one person is not independently working at the lagoon site. Council Person Clute will accompany Public Works Director Harrington when at the lagoon, as a precautionary safety measure.

**CITY COURT:** None

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Philipsburg Sewer Project**

Due to the issues with the Philipsburg Sewer Project; it is imperative Town of Drummond require after job completed warranty within the construction contract, for Drummond's Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project. Warranty must be within the Contract.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **Open Council Seat:**

Council Seat over Parks has been vacant for months; there has been no interest within the Township, of citizens willing to come forth and fill the vacant Council Seat.

#### **Municipal Elections:**

Filing date as changed from June 16<sup>th</sup> to June 11<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Leeper, Council Member Clute and Council Member O'Dell will be filing to run.

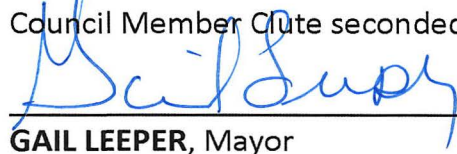
#### **Fireworks:**

Attorney McGill and Mayor Leeper are working on verbiage to address Fourth of July Fireworks.



**Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, June 17, 2025.**

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

  
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**GAIL LEEPER**, Mayor

  
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**ROBIN WIGHT**, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal