

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

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

JULY 7, 2025 – 6:30PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the July Special Town Council Meeting to order at 6:30PM. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, and O'Dell; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Town Attorney Timothy M. Dick. Public Works Director Harrington were absent.

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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Calvin Wight

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION ITEMS:

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – AWARD CONTRACT

Mayor Leeper opened the discussion on the proposed WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – AWARD CONTRACT; acknowledging and informing the council, that contractor bids came in substantially higher than originally anticipated. Resulting in the need to secure additional grant funding and an additional required loan.

Mayor Leeper expanded the Town has no choice; as Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is mandating the Town upgrade to maintain compliance with the Town's permit. This project has been twenty-years in the making, starting in 2005.

Current project ratio is 81.56% Grant | Forgiveness and 18.14% Loan(s); equaling a cost increase to the Town of \$2.50 per day/per sewer unit rate.

The Town of Drummond has rarely increased sewer rates; noting increases in 2005 and 2017. The Town must increase rates for current Operations and Maintenance; as well as, future operation and maintenance needs of the project

Mayor Leeper also noted, USDA/RD requirements of receiving their approval; prior to establishing any additional loan(s) within the sewer fund, while under loan contract with them.

Mayor Leeper, the Drummond Town Council, and Clerk/Treasurer Wight discussed bids received and Triple Tree Engineering's recommendation.

Next steps were discussed at length. Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to the WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT – AWARD CONTRACT. Council Member O'Dell addressed Mayor Leeper, requesting clarification as to warranty verbiage within the contractor agreement. Mayor Leeper will defer to Engineer Koon, ensuring the project warranty is addressed.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve awarding the Drummond Waste Water Facility Upgrade project to Jackson Contractor Group in the amount of \$7,843,557.00 (Base Bid) | \$462,284.00 (Deductive Alternate). Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve awarding the Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project to Jackson Contractor Group, out of Missoula, in the amount stated above. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper further stated, requesting it be in the minutes; "If it had not been for Robin being the Clerk at this time doing our books, I can honestly say that I don't think we would have gotten this extra money from USDA. The amount of time and effort that she has put into this."

Council Member McLure added, "She has done a lot of good work, ever since she started."

Council Member O'Dell further noting, "almost an intuitiveness to it."

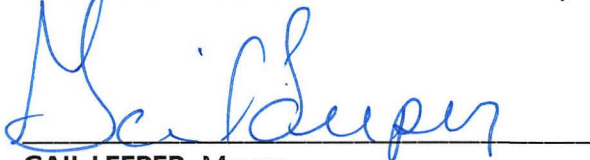
The Mayor and Council were extremely appreciative of the time and effort Clerk/Treasurer Wight places in her role with the Town.

SEWER CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Sewer Certificate of Deposit is set to mature July 3, 2025.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to close the sewer certificate of deposit, then re-open with accumulated interest equaling \$80,737.93 into a new certificate of deposit at a higher annual percentage rate. Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve close the sewer certificate of deposit, then re-open with accumulated interest into a new certificate of deposit at a higher annual percentage rate. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Clute made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55pm. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal