

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND**  
**REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832

**JULY 15, 2025 - 7:00PM**

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**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 and O'Dell; Town Attorney Tim Dick; and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight.

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

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Mia White, Representing USDA campaign "don't move firewood"; Calvin Wight; Megan Lacy and Kodi Baily.

**GUEST COMMENT:** Mia White, representing USDA campaign "don't move firewood" presented to the Drummond Town Council, the importance of not moving firewood as "forests are threatened by non-native insects and diseases that a kill large numbers of trees." Mia continued, by providing samples of insects known to be invading Montana and surrounding area forests. She went on in her presentation, to list preventative measures which can be taken to limit the spread of non-native insects and diseases.

Council Member O'Dell questioned Mia, as to what the program does for existing insects destroying forests in our surrounding areas; at which, her current studies only relate to the non-native insects, not those currently within our geographical area.

Mia left information regarding the "don't move firewood" campaign and posters to be distributed as needed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**MINUTES:**

June 17, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

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

June 25, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the June 25<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve the June 25<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

July 7, 2025 Special Town Council Meeting

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the July 7<sup>th</sup> Special Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the July 7<sup>th</sup> Special 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 O'Dell 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.

Letter received from Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, request for annual donation. BSPRA is requesting annual donation to support transit public railway from one side of Montana to the other on the BNSF abandoned rail line. This donation is not for the MRL abandoned link between Drummond and Philipsburg.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the \$100.00 annual donation to BSPRA. Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve a \$100.00 donation to BSPRA. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement Council Member Clute made motion to waive the reading of USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and review of USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion for authority to sign USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member Clute made motion granting Mayor Leeper authority to sign USDA/RD Water and Wastewater Grant Agreement for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan A**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-8 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-8. Council Member Clute 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 2025-8 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan A \$500,000.00, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-8 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan A \$500,000.00. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-8. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan B**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-9 Council Member McLure made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-9. Council Member Clute 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 2025-9 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan B \$452,000.00 which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-9 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACT USDA Loan B \$452,000.00. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-9. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFICATION | INTENT TO INCREASE SEWER RATES**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-10 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-10. Council Member Clute 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 2025-10 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFICATION | INTENT TO INCREASE SEWER RATES. Clarification was made of the monthly rate increasing from \$24.36 to \$75.00; Bond Council and USDA are in agreement, the Town can prorate the first three months at \$24.35mo (for easier calculation), then increase to \$75.00mo for the remaining 9 months.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-10 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CERTIFICATION | INTENT TO INCREASE SEWER RATES. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2025-10. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Auditor Agreement, Susan Nicasia, CPA, LLC**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-11 Council Member McLure made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-11. Council Member Clute 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 2025-11 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Auditor Agreement, Susan Nicasia, CPA, LLC; which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-11 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 and FISCAL YEAR 2026 AUDITOR AGREEMENT, Susan Nicasia, CPA, LLC. Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve Resolution 2025-11. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING ORDINANCE 2025-1 FLOODPLAIN ADOPTION.**

Mayor Leeper **TABLED** Resolution 2025-12. As required by DNRC; Public Hearing No. 1 Regulations and Public Hearing No. 2 Maps will be legally noticed, by publication in the Philipsburg Mail on July 24 and 31, 2025. Public Hearings are scheduled for August 5, 2025 starting at 10:30am, followed by Special Town Council Meeting regarding Resolution 2025-12 Discussion and Decision on adopting Floodplain Ordinance 2025-1.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-13 A RESOLUTION CANCELLING TOWN OF DRUMMOND 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-13 Council Member Clute made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-13. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper acknowledged no persons had submitted documents to run in the 2025 election, as verified by Granite County Clerk and Recorder, Sarah Graham. Therefore, the Town is not required to have an election. Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-13 A RESOLUTION CANCELLING TOWN OF DRUMMOND 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION; which there were not.

Election Seats being cancelled:

Mayor, Gail Leeper  
Council Person, Earl Clute  
Council Person, Mike O'Dell

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-13 A RESOLUTION CANCELLING TOWN OF DRUMMOND 2025 MUNICIPAL ELECTION. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-13. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**ENGAGEMENT LETTER** Special Attorney Services Agreement, Jana McGill.

As requested by the Drummond Town Council, prior to contracting with newly contracted Town Attorney Timothy Dick; Attorney McGill would stay on retainer for a smooth transition with the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project on an "as needed" basis.

Attorney McGill presented, this engagement agreement before the Council for discussion and approval; which was provided within Council Packets for review.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Attorney Special Services Agreement. Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Attorney Special Services Agreement. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards Attorney McGill's Special Services Agreement; which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion for authority to sign Attorney McGill's Special Services Agreement. Council Member McLure made motion granting Mayor Leeper authority to sign Attorney McGill's Special Services Agreement. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE) AND INTENT TO PROCEED.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE). Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of

AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE). Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and review of AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE) for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE) for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion for authority to sign JACKSON CONTRACTING GROUP AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE) for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member O'Dell made motion granting Mayor Leeper authority to sign AGREEMENT BETWEEN OWNER AND CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT (STIPULATED PRICE) for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

*Followed by*

Mayor Leeper read Jackson Contracting Group Intent to Proceed. After questions and discussion concluded; Mayor Leeper asked for a motion for authority to sign JACKSON CONTRACTING GROUP INTENT TO PROCEED for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member O'Dell made motion granting Mayor Leeper authority to sign JACKSON CONTRACTING GROUP INTENT TO PROCEED for Drummond Wastewater Treatment Facility. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Closing remarks regarding the contractor agreement; Mayor Leeper reiterated the importance of all communication for this project going through the proper chain of command. Contractors must utilize the RPR Resident Project Representative provided by Triple Tree Engineering, not Town Elected Officials or employees for communication purposes.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

### **Joint Session June 19, 2025 Report**

The Town of Philipsburg, The Town of Drummond and the Granite County Commissioners' meet semi-annually to discuss areas of overlapping jurisdiction in the community to better meet the needs of the constituents.

Key takeaways from June's Joint Session Meeting were Sheriff Dunkerson's retirement; with Under-Sheriff Ricco stepping up in the Sheriff position for the remaining term. Mayor Leeper plans to revisit the Town's Interlocal Law Enforcement Agreement with newly appointed Sheriff.

Almost the entirety of Town of Drummond's Entitlement payment from the State of Montana goes towards paying the Law Enforcement Contract.

The Town plans to go before the County Commissioners to request PILT funds for cash relief in this, as PILT funds are designated for safety.

### **Delinquent Taxes**

The Granite County Treasurer and Granite County Clerk and Recorder need to work in unison regarding properly recognizing and recording delinquent taxes in Granite County, per MCA law. Granite County did confirm at the Joint Session meeting they would not forgive personal property delinquent taxes; proof must be provided, prior to any property tax forgiveness.

Every month the Town of Drummond will be publicly posting Drummond Township delinquent taxes on the Town's website and social media. Mayor Leeper advised, the Drummond Town Council and employees not to respond to comments on social media.

Delinquent taxes should be first in time, 1<sup>st</sup> in right when liens are placed on those properties. Those delinquent taxes stay with property of record.

#### **ATTORNEY:**

Attorney Dick made clarification, as to items the attorney may place on the agenda. Mayor Leeper noted, the Attorney section on the agenda is set aside for topics he would like added to the agenda to communicate those requests to the Clerk.

#### **PARKS:**

##### **Stuart Family Reunion**

The Stuart family was very grateful with Council Member Carla Stuarts' memorial bench and bushes placed at the City Park in her honor. The Stuart Family Reunion and Carla Stuarts' Celebration of Life was a wonderful event attended by many.

##### **Fish Wildlife and Parks Fishing Access**

Mayor Leeper reminded the Town Council the extension of the FWP Fishing Access agreement expires in February; and to be review those documents for future meetings.

##### **Public Works**

Public Works is on vacation this week; Mayor Leeper and Council Member Clute will fill in as needed, to assist with his duties.

#### **ROADS:**

##### **Pot Holes**

There are still numerous areas needing attention for patch.

##### **Road Safety**

North Main residential parking has become a hazard and needs to be dealt with. It was proposed a letter be sent to landowners reminding of street size; 60-foot width, with 30 feet each side from the middle. This area is driving access only, not parking.

Discussion led to restriping street lines, also notifying property owners of the safety violation, siting the Town Nuisance Ordinance.

**FLOODPLAINS:**

Council Member McLure will reach out to livestock owner; following up on weed control at the dike.

**SEWER:**

**Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade**

USDA held an unannounced inspection at the Town’s sewer lagoon; they were surprised to witness how low the lagoon currently is. The Town emphasized, to Ryan with USDA, school currently is not in session, and the extreme heat is causing evaporation. The lagoon has dropped approximately 40-feet, which is actually a benefit for the project.

There has been no discharge, and the weeds located at the bottom of the lagoon is consuming the lagoon’s moisture and substance.

**CITY COURT:**

**Firework Fine**

Law Enforcement cited one firework nuisance, prior to the Fourth; Judge Fratzke provided the Clerk with a copy of the citation with a \$50.00 fine, payable to the Town of Drummond.

Should the citation be disputed, Judge Fratzke will be available via a zoom meeting to discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Open Council Seat**

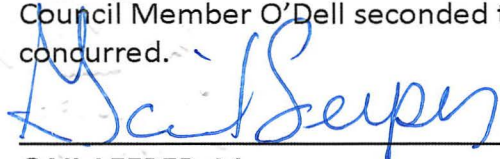
Town Council Seat over Parks is currently unfilled.

**Next Town Council Meeting:**

**Special Floodplains Town Council Meeting; Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

**Regular Town Council Meeting; Tuesday, August 19, 2025.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Clute made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Council Member O’Dell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



**GAIL LEEPER, Mayor**



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