

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
FEBRUARY REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

02/20/2024

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gail Leeper called the February Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, Powell and Stuart; Town Attorney McGill; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington.

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

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: None

GUEST COMMENT: None

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

MINUTES: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the January Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the January Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member McLure 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.

- Check was received from First Security Bank; closing out Sewer Investment Certificate of Deposit held with First Security Bank, which matured on February 12, 2024. This First Security Bank Investment check, is to be deposited with Citizen's Alliance Bank; opening a new Sewer Investment Certificate of Deposit Account.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Resolution 2024-1 Local Government Review**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-1 Local Government Review. Council Member Powell made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-1 Local Government Review. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and Decision of Resolution 2024-1 was made, in regards to the Local Government Review. Noting, Local Government Reviews are a formality that occur every 10 years; by a vote of the people, deciding whether or not they chose to have a review conducted.

Local Government Review Resolution 2024-1; is to be received by Granite County Court

House, by March 11, 2024.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 Local Government Review. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-1 Local Government Review. Council Member Powell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Resolution 2024-2 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-2 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship Application. Council Member Powell made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-2 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship Application. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and Decision of Resolution 2024-2 was made, in regards to applying for the 2024 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship. Discussion led to the Town's limited financial reserves needed for educational training, and the benefits of continuing education. The Town has utilized educational resources with the hiring of Montana League Consulting Services, in completion of FY2023 AFR (Annual Financial Review); and Clerk-Treasurer Wight attended educational training during MT League October 2023 Conference.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship Application. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-2 Montana Municipal Clerks, Treasurers & Financial Officers Association Scholarship Application. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Triple Tree Engineering Drummond Water PER**

- **Tabled during February Town Council Meeting, waiting to receive additional information.**

Triple Tree Engineering is looking into MCEP Funding for the required matching funds of the Drummond Water PER, to alleviate the cost to the Town.

- **Lund Exchange Agreement**

- Attorney McGill drew up the draft Exchange Agreement; for placement of the sludge from the Waste Water Facility Upgrade.

Mayor Leeper had a discussion with the Land Owner (Lund) regarding the additional acres needed for the sludge placement, after he spoke with Engineer Koon.

Mayor Leeper was able to communicate to the Land Owner, the Federal Government is requiring the sludge to be placed over a larger area, than originally was discussed with him. Informing him, the Town Attorney is drafting a proposed agreement to compensate them \$10,000.00 to place the sludge on their land.

Mayor Leeper let the Land Owner know, Engineer Koon would be contacting him again; to sign the Exchange Agreement, then the Exchange Agreement would be fully executed within a Town Council Meeting.

Council discussed, verbiage and terms of the agreement.

Engineer Koon will meet with the Lund's, regarding the layout and the slope of sludge placement; discussing at that time the Exchange Agreement, and if they (Lund's) are agreeable to the terms of the proposed agreement.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Raise Grant – 2023 Drummond and Granite County were apart of applying for the five million dollar Raise Grant; which is a study for the trail from Superior to Butte. Last year many Counties applied for these grant funds, Butte awarded these grant revenues. This year Town of Drummond will not be in competition with Butte for these grant funds.

Amanda Cooley, Planner from Deer Lodge, is heading this application. She presented this to Granite County Commissioners for an Interlocal Agreement, last year \$1,000.00 was requested from Granite County towards this study.

Mayor Leeper went before the Commissioners with Amanda Cooley, again this year; which was approved.

This Raise Grant could fund something as simple as: trails from Drummond to Deer Lodge; or Drummond getting sidewalks further down our streets; or Drummond getting a trail out to our park.

The Commissioners did end up agreeing to the Interlocal Agreement and the \$1,000.00, for 2024.

The study will consist of people going out and talking to the private land owners; the Commissioners concern was they felt the land owners wouldn't want a trail on their private property. This is why Amanda set up to have an interlocal agreement; if the land owner's objected; then it could be set up to go along a county road, since there is already an easement there.

Granite County will be the hardest County to pass a trail through from the west side over; the study is a cost of five million dollars.

This will be a long process with discussions, public meetings and designs.

Rock Creek Bridge – This was not on the agenda, as Mayor Leeper was unsure if she would be able to attend the meeting in Clinton today.

There was discussion in Clinton today, of bridge going up to Rock Creek to be closed while being repaired; since it goes over BNSF railroad and the Clark Fork River.

Mayor Leeper brought information back for the Council Member's to review.

They are going to try really hard not to close the bridge entirely while being repaired, rather keep one lane open one way.

Their concern is the river rock, the water flow of Clark Fork River and the safety of the pillars.

The original plan was to close the bridge entirely during repair; redirecting traffic the back way through Philipsburg; which is not an option.

Mayor Leeper spoke with the Engineer, Mike Day, with Missoula County WGN Engineer Firm. This project is at least a year out; just for permitting alone and all the entities they will have to work with.

ATTORNEY: None

PARKS: None

ROADS:

- **Pot Holes** – Discussion was made regarding speaking with Granite County Roads Department, Paul Alt, in acquiring patch; and gathering a plan for pot hole repair when weather permits.
- **Northwestern Energy** – Northwestern Energy has been digging holes throughout the Town for gas installation. Public Works Director Harrington was instructed, document with photos; to ensure repair is completed by Northwestern Energy, when they are finished with those projects.
- **Drummond Sander Claim** – Claim has been turned in and has been paid by insurance.
- **Drummond School** – Mayor Leeper has spoken with Drummond School Superintendent, regarding Christmas decorations on Front Street. It was set up in September/October 2023, for the students to set up and take down the Christmas decorations.

Mayor Leeper and Public Works Director Harrington have been communicating with the FFA teacher for over a month; regarding removing the Christmas decorations, with no results.

Mayor Leeper has instructed Public Works Director Harrington, not to remove the Christmas decorations. That the school needs to follow through with the students removing those decorations, as they photographed their efforts in placing the decorations; they now need to follow through in completing their agreement.

Mayor Leeper did reference the lighting bill, ensuring waiting for the students to complete their job was not at a cost to the Town; The lighting bill was actually less this month than last.

FLOODPLAINS:

- **Ice Build Up** – Discussion was made regarding watching for ice build up and verifying water ways are running well.

- **Private Bridges** – Discussion was made regarding privately owned bridges going over water ways and the legalities to the property owner of those bridges, should they break and cause an obstruction in the water flow. Photos to be taken and further discussed with Town Attorney.

SEWER:

- **Sewer Rate** – Dan Semmens, Bond Council on the Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade, is currently reviewing the sewer rate formula and sewer fees. Fees will increase; being adjusted to the cost of the project to the Town.
- **Triple Tree Engineer** – Engineer Koon said, 65% of the total plans are completed; berms will be the same; he will need to meet with Council Member Clute, Public Works Director Harrington and Mayor Leeper regarding UV placement by weir, to make sure will be able to walk around it; he will be providing liner samples once they arrive; the Town will not need to place pumps as the project will be gravity fed, which will be a cost savings. Engineer Koon will be present at March Town Council Meeting.
- **Waste Water Funding Conference Call** – February 28, 2024.
- **Department of Revenue** – Need to discuss fees received; half-moon shape property, by the Rodeo Grounds. Mayor Leeper will go the Granite County Court House to look for the Deed of the half-moon shape property; also, will follow up with Department of Revenue.

CITY COURT:

- **Internet Login** – Clerk-Treasurer Wight will place the new Wi-Fi password on the Justice of the Peace computer.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- 2-year extension was signed for the Fish, Parks and Wildlife Fishing Boat Access Agreement.

Next Town Council Meeting scheduled Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas ~~None~~ opposed, Mayor Leeper concurred.

Gail Leeper, Mayor

Robin Wight, Town Clerk-Treasurer