

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

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

March 18, 2025 - 7:00PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Gail Leeper called the March 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:** Luke Ulatowski, with The Philipsburg Mail; Calvin Wight; and Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**MINUTES:**

**February 18, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting**

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

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

**Sewer Investment Certificate:**

The Town of Drummond continues the process of closing out Certificate of Deposit accounts, at the end on each term agreement. Then re-opening with funds of initial deposit and accumulated interest; to ensure the Town receives the best possible APY to benefit the citizens.

The last 4-Month Term Sewer Certificate of Deposit, net the Town \$1,276.15 in interest revenue.

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

**Bank Fees:**

Financial Institution sent letter giving notification the Judicial Account will be receiving a non-active account fee, as no transactions have been completed in the previous year. To prevent

financial institution from assessing non-active account fee, it was discussed to complete an online transaction moving a minimal amount from Judicial Account into Cash Operating Account; then within a week complete a second online transaction returning that amount from the Cash Operating into the Judicial Account.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to complete the online transaction transferring funds from Judicial Account into Cash Operating Account, then returning those funds in a second transaction. Council Member McLure made motion to approve online transaction transferring funds (\$20.00) from Judicial Account into Cash Operating Account, then returning those funds (\$20.00) in a second transaction within one week. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

#### **Delinquent Taxes:**

Delinquent tax letters will be prepared to be signed by the Town Council during the April 15, 2025 Drummond Town Council Meeting.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025-1 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT LUND AND SHERILEE LUND, 100 LANNEN ROAD, HALL MT 59837, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE LUNDS, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION STAGING AREA DURING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-1 Council Member McLure made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-1. 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 2025-1 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT LUND AND SHERILEE LUND, 100 LANNEN ROAD, HALL MT 59837, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE LUNDS, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION STAGING AREA DURING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-1 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT LUND AND SHERILEE LUND, 100 LANNEN ROAD, HALL MT 59837, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS THE LUNDS, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION STAGING AREA DURING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-1. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

#### **FEMA NEW HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of FEMA's New Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member McLure made motion to approve FEMA's New Hazard Mitigation Plan. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2 A TOWN OF DRUMMOND RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEW HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN WITH ADDENDUM AA.**

After review of Resolution 2025-2; Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-2 A TOWN OF DRUMMOND RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEW HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN WITH ADDENDUM AA.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-2 A TOWN OF DRUMMOND RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEW HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN WITH ADDENDUM AA. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-2. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**DRUMMOND WATER PER SLIPA CONTRACT**

Contract prepared and received from Montana Department of Commerce for the SLIPA Infrastructure Grant.

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Drummond Water Infrastructure SLIPA Contract.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Drummond Water Infrastructure SLIPA Contract. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Drummond Water SLIPA Contract Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Resolution will be drafted after contract fully executed.

**WWTF UPGRADE USDA/RD AGREEMENT**

Information not received, by time of Town Council Meeting. Table item until receive information from USDA/RD.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- **Executive Session:** Mayor Leeper was able to attend the Wednesday Session; which, the Elected Officials interacted in a Mock Council Meeting. This was a working opportunity to interact and learn from other City and Town's Elected Official's throughout Montana; learning techniques used by others in conducting public meetings, those that worked and did not work.

Key points taken away from this training session were: everyone runs meetings differently; however, must be consistent with MCA laws. Yet, is important to allow free speech; it should not be a time of personal attack on individuals. Public Meetings should be a time to educate



and inform from items listed on the properly noticed Agenda.

- **MRL Rail Line Proposed Abandonment:** Granite County Commissioner meeting on March 11, 2025; MRL provided a brief commentary regarding the proposed abandonment of the rail line. There were forty plus people in attendance; many landowners along the rail line opposing the construction of a public trail on the abandoned line.

Linda Bouck, Granite County Planning, did a great job explaining the Granite County Planning Board criteria of new growth within Granite County vs areas of designated agriculture land. Ms. Bouck also posed great reasoning in relation, to how to properly contain hazardous material once disturbed.

Further discussion, led to the remaining bridges on the rail line; and who would take responsibility of them.

The proposed rail line abandonment is on MRL owned rail line; between Drummond and Philipsburg.

Overall, it was a good meeting, and well attended; each attendee was given the opportunity to speak and express their comments pertaining to MRL's proposed abandonment of the line.

- **Headwaters Report:** Mayor Leeper was unable to attend the Headwaters Meeting, due to a schedule conflict with the Sewer Funding Conference Call; however, she provided the Headwaters Report for those who wished to review it.
- **Drummond Chamber:** Megan Lacy attended the Drummond Chamber Meeting; Megan will be heading the Riverfront (Farmers) Market in Drummond this Summer, June 1 through end of August. Megan plans to attend the next Drummond Town Council Meeting to provide an update.
- **Fireworks:** Mayor Leeper reached out to Jim Bradley, with Montana Municipal Interlocal Authority, and is waiting to hear back.

We will plan to revisit this item; as a resolution or ordinance, will need to be constructed as soon as possible.

- **LEPC:** Clerk/Treasurer Wight attended the LEPC Meeting in Mayor Leeper and Public Work's absence; providing an update on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade, snowplow maintenance repair and fireworks discussions.

Additional concerns, noted in the meeting were: drought and anticipated fires; public safety resulting from the active railroad; medical building improvements, with plumbed oxygen, at Granite Medical; and upcoming Health Fair at the Drummond and Philipsburg Schools, with Hall joining Drummond for this event.

**ATTORNEY:** None

#### **PARKS:**

- **DNRC Tree Planting Grant:** Drummond was awarded 2025 Tree Planting Grant.

It was noted: a tree at the City Park closest to the west side of the round-a-bout needs removed.

- **Park Violation:** Discussion presented to the concern Drummond may face, with the City Park/Campground this year; alerting all to watch for possible red flags and to stay vigilant.

In an effort to avoid the possibility of urban camping at the campground; discussion was addressed of possibly shortening the posted five-night maximum stay, to either three or four nights maximum.

Secondly, it has been brought to the Council's attention an individual is leaving dried corn pile on the boat access ramp; it has been removed. Noting: this is not the first incident.

Feeding and leaving food for animals at the campground is a violation. Discussion led for the need of additional cameras placed at the campground.

- **In Memory Bench:** The Town of Drummond is looking into purchasing a *in-memory-of* bench for Council Member Carla Stuart to placed at the campground.

## **ROADS:**

- **MDOT Speed Study:** Montana Department of Transportation will be conducting a speed study on I-90 as requested by Granite County, MDOT reached out to the Town of Drummond requesting the study also include mile markers 148-155.

Discussion continued, as to the reasoning of the speed study. After discussion closed; Mayor Leeper asked if the Council had any other comments or questions, in which they did not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of MDOT's requested extension to Granite County Speed Study on I-90 to include MM 148-155. Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve MDOT's requested extension to Granite County Speed Study on I-90 to include MM 148-155 Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Blackfoot:** Mayor Leeper and the Town Council discussed the need to have an in-person meeting with Blackfoot Engineer regarding Drummond Roads and Alleyway conditions resulting from the current Blackfoot Fiber Optic Project.

Alleyways have been left in conditions that are resulting in vehicles getting stuck; it was noted that Granite Disposal experienced getting stuck on a route normally utilized to collect solid waste.

Council Member O'Dell was instructed to reach out to have Blackfoot, having them come out and see the condition of the roads.

Public Works Director Harrington has begun placing cones in areas to alert caution.

Discussion led to the need of Blackfoot having their crews, when filling damaged alleyways from the Fiber Optic Construction to utilize packer trucks, ensuring the areas are properly packed when repaired.

## **FLOODPLAINS:**

- **Floodplain Mapping Ordinance:** DNRC provided update on timeframe of required ordinance update and implementation; deadline for implementation is August 19, 2025.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Attorney McGill drafting required Ordinance to update regulations. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Attorney McGill Drafting required Ordinance to update regulations. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

## SEWER:

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade:** Engineer Koon presented an update on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade. The project's complete funding package is in place; the Town is currently moving forward in securing contracts and meeting requirements.

The current budget cost of the Wastewater Treatment Facility Project is 8.35 million; 83% of that amount (\$6,925,501.21) the Town has secured grants and forgiveness, the remaining 17% (\$1,418,498.79) the Town will secure in loans.

Sewer rates are expected to increase to meet current sewer operations and maintenance, and projected secured loans for the third and final phase of the sewer project; which began in 2005.

The Town is currently waiting on project bid numbers to hold Public Hearings for the proposed increase. As soon as those numbers are in, the Town will begin the process to schedule, notice and hold Public Hearings.

Discussion led to the final requirements needing to be still met; once, all funding agents have given their authorization Legal Notices will be placed in the Local Newspaper; which will lead into the pre-bid meeting, bidding process, submission of bids, awarding of the construction contract, with currently anticipated construction to begin mid-June 2025.

Attorney McGill is currently drafting the Title Site Opinion for the funding agents.

There is anticipated to be a Special Town Council Meeting; once, USDA/RD numbers and paper work are received by Drummond.

- **Security Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade:** There will be additional security and check in measures put in place at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. **As posted: there is No Trespassing or Unauthorized Access to the Wastewater Treatment Facility.**
- **Lift Station:** Lift station has been experiencing high water alarms. Pump was pulled by Xylem; it was tested and is working properly. Palmer Electric will be upgrading the switch. Possibly looking into new floats.

Public Works Director Harrington and Council Member Clute are both monitoring alarm status.



Discussion led to placement of monitoring cameras for lift station.

Public Works Director Harrington was instructed to get additional Service Quotes for the Lift Station Maintenance.

It is noted: there is a current issue with improper disposal of paper goods, grease and needles. These violations will be re-visited at future Town Council Meetings.

**CITY COURT:** None

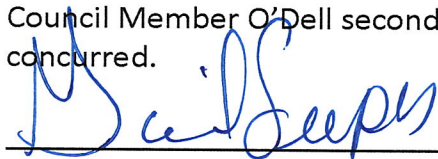
**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

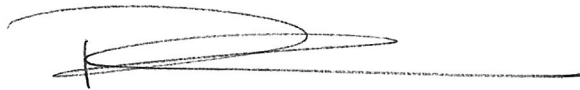
- **Open Council Seat (Parks):** Council Seat over Parks has been vacant for 5-months; there has been no interest within the Township, of citizens willing to come forth and fill the vacant Council Seat.

**Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, April 15, 2025.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



**GAIL LEEPER**, Mayor



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