

**TOWN OF DRUMMOND**

**PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING**

**House Bill 355 – Infrastructure Funds**

**03/19/2024**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Gail Leeper called the House Bill 355 Infrastructure Funds Public Comment and Hearing to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, Powell and Stuart; Town Attorney McGill; and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight. Public Works Director Harrington was absent, due to attending Rural Water Institute.

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

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Nadene Wadsworth and Hannah Shultz, representing DNRC; Engineer Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering; and Bernadetta Wangler, Drummond Citizen.

Mayor Leeper read House Bill 355- Infrastructure Funds priority list aloud for the Town Council and public in attendance, at this public meeting.

1. Repair Fire Suppression Water Line.
2. Street Maintenance and Improvements within Township.
3. Repair and Update Sidewalks.
4. Park and Recreation Road Maintenance.
5. Town Hall Building Improvement.
6. Add Radar Speed Sign.

Mayor Leeper opened House Bill 355 Infrastructure Funds Public Comment and Hearing for discussion.

There was no public comment offered by those in attendance.

Mayor Leeper, closed the Public Comment and Hearing for House Bill 355 Infrastructure Funds, moving forward into the March 2024 Town Council Meeting.

Followed by Regularly Scheduled Town Council Meeting; 7:04 PM.

**MARCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**03/19/2024**

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:** Nadene Wadsworth and Hannah Shultz, representing DNRC; Engineer Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering; and Bernadetta Wangler, Drummond Citizen.

**GUEST COMMENT:** Nadene Wadsworth and Hannah Shultz, representing DNRC, discussed with Drummond Town Council the feedback from October 2023 Flood Mapping Open House; stating there was great feedback, citizens were impressed and were able to get all their questions answered. There

Town of Drummond

HB355 Public Comment and Hearing

Followed by Regular Town Council Meeting

March 19, 2024

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were no follow up questions within the municipality of Drummond.

They did help a Drummond citizen the Mayor and Council were concerned with; printing off documents, getting her needed information and having her questions answered by the Regional Engineer.

Great News we are moving into the next milestone; the formal appeal period. Maps are almost completed; and areas of prior concern, will soon be removed from the floodplain.

DNRC provided draft documents to the Mayor and Town Council for review. As Nadene discussed, they are currently getting ready to start the formal 90-day appeal period. This appeal period is no different than any other Public Comment Period where the Citizens can present comments or feedback.

DNRC will provide documents to provide to the citizens regarding the difference of an appeal or comment, along with the forms that would need to be completed by them, should they like to make an appeal or comment.

The appeal period runs through the community. Town of Drummond will track public comments and appeals; providing them to DNRC.

FEMA's communication team will draft template fillable press releases, for the local paper to print informing citizens of the process and stages of the floodplain maps. DNRC will provide legal notices for Granite County to Linda Bouck for publishing in the Philipsburg Mail.

Tentative dates are end of May, beginning of June. Once those dates are confirmed DNRC will provide electronic and hard copies to the Town; which will be available for the citizens if they would want to see them.

Any submissions during the 90-day appeal period will be addressed to President McLure; then are to be forwarded to DNRC, or directly to FEMA.

Town of Drummond's citizens will place appeals with Drummond Town Hall; areas outside Town of Drummond jurisdiction, those submissions will need to be taken to Philipsburg.

Maps should go effective approximate in one year.

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

Mayor Leeper and Attorney McGill received an email of the Sheriff's Contract up for renewal in August 2024, the draft contract has a 2% rate increase; Mayor Leeper informed Council, they will receive a copy of this agreement for their review, asking for them to verify the language within the contract. She continued; Law Enforcement is something the Town has to have.

**MINUTES:** Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the February Regular Meeting minutes. Council Member Powell made a motion to approve the February Regular 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 Stuart 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.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- **Resolution 2024-3 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-3 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Council Member McLure made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-3 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and Decision of Resolution 2024-3 was made, in regards to THE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Noting, HB 355 Infrastructure Funds was discussed during the Public Comment and Hearing.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3 A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING A FUNDING PRIORITY LIST FOR STATE-LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNERSHIP ACT TO THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Resolution 2024-4 AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-4 AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR. Council Member McLure made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-4 AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and Decision of Resolution 2024-4 was made, in regards to AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR. Noting, Mayor Health Insurance would be offered to the mayor position.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4 AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4 AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE MAYOR. Council Member Powell

seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Resolution 2024-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. Council Member McLure made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Discussion and Decision of Resolution 2024-5 was made, in regards to THE RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. Noting, Town Council Health Insurance would be offered to the Town Council position at his/her own expense.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OFFER OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE MMIA EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROGRAM OF THE TOWN TO THE TOWN COUNCIL. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Lund Exchange Agreement** - Engineer Brad Koon, spoke in regards to the Lund Property Exchange Agreement; stating we are getting close. More samples were taken to narrow down the area of sludge placement. Those samples results should be back next week, which would give a better indication of the number of acres for the placement area.

Verbiage within the agreement and terms were discussed amongst the Council, Mayor and Engineer, and the need to insert *not to exceed 50 acres*. Once the test results are in, Engineer Koon will reach out to Clerk/Treasurer Wight for a revision document.

Further discussion, led to activity on the land owner property and access through the land owner's cattle guard. Once test results are in Engineer Koon will speak with the land owner in relation to the exchange agreement and any negotiation items needing to be addressed, then report back to Mayor Leeper.

Discussion continued to contractors; and the need to have in contractor contracts the requirement *to return the land owners property to its original condition*.

- **Blackfoot Waiver** –

Mayor Leeper brought to the Councils attention the new locating wand, with camera and viewer; purchased by Blackfoot Communications. This purchase is for the Town of Drummond Public Works to help in the locating process during Blackfoot Communication Fiber Optic Project, within the Town of Drummond.

Mayor Leeper continued with, that Blackfoot Communications requested a Liability Waiver from the Town of Drummond; for work completed during the Drummond Fiber Optic Project should anything happen, such as a line not getting located.

Mayor Leeper referred to Attorney McGill, asking her thoughts of the agreement; in which Attorney McGill responded, it is a standard Liability Agreement.

Discussion let to, Council Member Powell asking of any other entities which the Town would have similar agreements.

Attorney McGill expanded, the requirements of Town of Drummond's Public Works learning the new equipment to insure is preformed correctly. Mayor Leeper expressed, he was given tutorial material with the equipment, along with the possibility of having Rural Water coming to Drummond to personally train Public Works.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Blackfoot Communications Waiver of Liability. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve Blackfoot Communications Waiver of Liability. Council Member Powell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- **LEPC Update** – LEPC meeting held on March 14<sup>th</sup>; Public Works Director Harrington attended with Mayor Leeper.

DEQ was in attendance, they discussed information on spillage and provided contact phone numbers to call should an incident occur; also discussing air quality and proper contact numbers.

Sheriff's office reported on new members of Law Enforcement; Barkell is the Undersheriff, Robertson is the Deputy Coroner, and they need to hire one more deputy.

Rock Creek Bridge will begin in April 2024.

Granite County Medical reported, they are in Drummond two days a week now; there is a new director of nurses, and the hospital is now doing house calls.

The scheduled mock disaster for May 2024 in Drummond has been put on hold for the time being, due to conflicts.

- **Political Candidates** – Mayor Leeper met with Becky Beard, SD 38 Candidate; and Ryan Busse, running for Montana Governor. Both the candidates wanted to know what the issues are in Drummond and what Drummond's concerns were. Mayor Leeper was able to discuss the needs of Drummond, as she had the opportunity to meet with each candidate individually.

**ATTORNEY:** None

#### **PARKS:**

- **FWP Fishing Boat Access Contract** – We have not heard back from FWP.

- **Golden Opportunity 4-H Group** – Public Works Director Harrington pruned a lot of the trees at East End Park; Golden Opportunity 4-H Group, consisting of 11 members and 6 adults, picked up clippings and placed them in the dump trailer; which was tons of help.

Public Works will be placing mulch around trees that the roots are showing.

Council Member Stuart added, that she had been to the park and observed how nice the area looked. She also asked, if East End Park was used as a ride share location point; as she has observed, a lot more cars are parked there on a daily basis, every day.

Mayor Leeper stated, that is a meeting point for a lot of people; continuing, there are signs placed at East End Park stating No Over Night Parking.

## **ROADS:**

- **Pot Holes** – Council Member Powell had discussed with Public Works Harrington the starting point to begin pot hole patching, such as North Main and Front Street.

Mayor Leeper interjected, she had driven by one of the areas of concern on Front Street, with a large pot hole. She stated, this pot hole is on the State Right of Way; continuing, we cannot work on Front Street, that is not within Town of Drummond’s jurisdiction.

Council Member Powell will reach out to the State regarding the areas of concern on Front Street. Mayor Leeper advised Council Member Powell, to go to Drummond State Shop and speak with Brandon.

Council Member Powell continued discussing, areas in the school bus route; which are being torn up need to have priority attention.

Mayor Leeper had spoken Paul Alt, with Granite County Roads, they will be letting Drummond use the trailer again this year to preload material for patching. This arrangement has been working out well for Public Works Director Harrington.

## **FLOODPLAINS:**

- **DNRC – Floodplain Maps Appeal Period** – Discussed under Guest Comment.
- **Core of Engineer** – Council Member McLure stated, on April 1<sup>st</sup> they will be putting out rough draft of the National Levee Safety Guidelines for input. Council Member McLure will be going over the data once it is available, and will forward the link to any of the council who would like to review the material.

The Core of Engineer’s stressed; this National Levee Safety Guideline, will not take the place of the FEMA Guidelines they will coincide with each other.

## **SEWER:**

- **Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade** – Engineer Koon distributed updated Project

## Mapping and Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade Project Report.

The last report we were at 65%, we are currently at 85% design. We are about complete with the design process of the project, just need to wrap up a few more things; first, we are needing test results of the Lund property, so we know the acreage and how the sludge will be spread; next, DEQ is requiring a few more borings down and around the lagoon to find where the ground water is. Both of these items will be completed in the next few weeks and will be wrapped up. Projecting we would submit to DEQ by the end of April.

Engineer Koon, met with Mayor Leeper, Public Works Director Harrington and Clerk/Treasurer Wight a couple weeks ago reviewing the documents provided today, which the scope of the project is changing one large cell into three cells separated by berms going to the middle, there will be pipes placed between the cells; which will help with sludge removal, or if there is a need to bypass a cell. Each cell, in the three-cell system, will be lined.

Engineer Koon continued with how the project start; berms being built first, isolate the effluent. Then he expanded, how the process will move through the cells; drying, sludge removal, liner placement and continuing this process through the cells as the project progresses.

The UV building pad will be placed in the southwest corner; there is a berm around it, so they lowered the elevation of it. This allows not having to utilize pumps; by lowering it, will allow gravity flow into the UV system and gravity flow through it, so the only power would be for the UV lights. Then it would gravity flow through that then out to the river. Engineer Koon worked diligently with DEQ to agree to this process; meeting the requirements for their approval.

UV Building, will be a block building approximately 10 ft wide by 25 ft long +/-, exact dimensions are not on the current plans. Engineer Koon, further explained the UV process as it processes through the UV building.

Engineer Koon, pointed out the hatch area on the map; which will be utilized by the contractor as the project is being completed.

Triple Tree has put in the request to Northwestern Energy for the power, which will be single phase power. The funds required for this part of the project are presumed to come in less than anticipated, more in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000, instead of \$100,000 as originally thought.

Engineer Koon expects, the agreement from Northwestern Energy be ready for the Town to sign in the next month or so, for the power aspect of the project.

The budget aspect of the project, the numbers were put together a few years ago during the PER (Preliminary Engineer Report) phase, to start getting funding for the project. When the Design portion of the project reached 65%, Triple Tree Engineering took a deep dive into the estimated costs of the project and an updated the project estimate costs. The original estimate of the project budget was \$3.5 million which was based off the Philipsburg project numbers, which that project was also was over the initial budget numbers; the Drummund updated Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade project estimate is currently \$6.1 million. Triple Tree utilized Jacobs Engineering, who is helping with the design portion of the project, they have team members whose specialty is to estimate projects; they did the deep dive into the budget numbers of the project coming up with the current updated budget amount of 6.1 million. This number still includes \$600,000 of contingency, which is still important to leave in at this phase.

Looking at the exhibits, Engineer Koon; went over the grant funds in place for the project:

\$2 million (ARPA) Competitive Grant, \$300,501.21 (ARPA) Minimum Allocation (Grant Granite County/Drummond), \$500,000 MCEP Grant, \$125,000 RRGL Grant. Originally SRF had committed to forgiving \$250,000, after speaking with them last on the updated budget numbers; they are willing to up that forgiveness to \$750,000. These grant funds help a lot, but there is still a gap.

Triple Tree started speaking with USDA (Rural Development) and CBGD; based on those conversations, there could be a few scenarios how the remainder of funding could come together. After speaking with Steve Trundle, with USDA; there could be \$800,000 to \$1.2 million more needed in funding. In that scenario we would have to go through another application process applying for Rural Development funds and CBGD funds; which would push the project back, we should hear in the fall from USDA Rural Development, and February of next year on CBGD.

There is a stipulation on the ARPA funding, the \$2 million and \$250,000, those funds have to all be spent by the end of 2025.

In an effort to get the ARPA Funds spent, Engineer Koon recommends, applying for USDA Rural Development and CBGD funding, then get approval from DEQ; bid the project this fall; keep the UV treatment as an alternate, which is \$500,000 +/-, if we get the additional funding, we can award the UV Treatment; otherwise, if not, leave that portion out. Which would hopefully keep the sewer rate increase down as much as possible.

The contractors will place a base bid; with an alternate bid, to include the UV building, all within the same package. Bidding is anticipated for this Fall, constructing next Spring.

With the current grant funds in place for the project; there is an anticipated rate increase of \$43.00 per user. There are a few options putting the rate increase at \$20-\$25. Mayor Leeper expanded, there is a two-year period for the rate increase to be implemented. To do this project there will have to be a rate increase.

Discussion continued; regarding material costs, time frame to bid the project, making sure ARPA funds are used prior to end year 2025, sewer rate increases for the remainder of the project.

Triple Tree Engineering will begin the application process, submitting to Rural Development USDA and CBGD for grants to cover the increased estimate of the sewer project; in which, Mayor Leeper conferred with Town Council as to their agreement.

- **Sewer Rate Formula** – Dan Semmens, Bond Council on the Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade, asked how the Town came up with sewer rates for the Town of Drummond, the existing formula for sewer rates was prepared in the past by engineers using a standard formula. Engineer Koon explained, once the application is submitted to Rural Development, they will assist the Town of Drummond through the process of the sewer rate structure and what the rates should be.

Mayor Leeper expanded, if she had increased sewer rates in the past, small percentages gradually over time; the final rates for the completed project wouldn't have seemed so drastic.

Adding, the Town is very frugal; and that the funding agents were surprised the Town only has two loans.

The Town is currently working on FY 2025 Budget, it is anticipated sewer rate increase process will be worked into preparing fiscal year 2025 Budget.



- **Drummond Water PER –**

Drummond was awarded \$15,000 from RRGL, last year; and yesterday was awarded \$30,000 from MCEP for the match to complete the Drummond Water PER. Town of Drummond will be receiving \$45,000 in total to complete the Drummond Water PER (Preliminary Engineering Report), which will be at no cost to the Town.

This Water PER will be looking at a water system for the Town, as well as looking at the existing Fire Suppression System.

Completing the Water PER will allow Drummond to be in compliance with DEQ, showing we are continuing to move forward with water infrastructure for the Town. Also, the PER will show which improvements are currently needed within the existing fire suppression system, utilizing the HB 355 SLIPA funding for those improvements.

**CITY COURT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

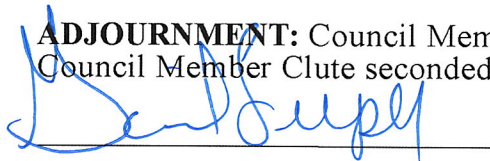
**OLD BUSINESS:**

- **1954 F600 Fire Truck Restoration -** National Coating & Supplies donated the paint material for the restoration of the 1954 F600 Fire Truck. Clerk/Treasurer Wight offered to prepare a donation receipt for the cost of the material; which Mr. Hagan stated, was not needed. Clerk/Treasurer Wight is currently preparing a thank you letter to Mr. Hagan and the Parent Company of National Coating & Supplies.

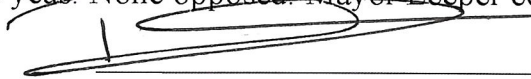
The coating restoration is coming along nicely, Mr. Bryan has a target date set for the Fourth of July Parade in Drummond.

**Next Town Council Meeting scheduled Tuesday, April 16, 2024.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member Stuart made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. ~~None opposed~~ Mayor Leeper concurred.



Gail Leeper, Mayor



Robin Wight, Town Clerk-Treasurer