

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

December 17, 2024 - 7:00PM

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Gail Leeper called the December 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**AMEND AGENDA:**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the Amend the December Town Council Meeting Agenda, adding the following:

MAYOR REPORT: Montana League of Cities and Towns.

SEWER: Monthly Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Meeting.

SEWER: Inspection

NEW BUSINESS: Re-Appoint Leo Pfendler to Conservation Board.

Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the Amend the December Town Council Meeting Agenda. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

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

**MINUTES:**

**December 17, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the November Regular Town Council Meeting minutes. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve the November Regular 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 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.

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

- Mayor Leeper updated the Council; the delinquent tax report provided by the County in their packets, is

not correct, as every one in the Town is on the list. Either the wrong report was sent or it was not updated.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND AND MIKE O'DELL: WAIVER OF COUNCIL PAY.**

Council Member O'Dell requested to waive council pay; utilizing those funds elsewhere, as needed, within the Town's Coffers.

Discussion was had of the parties agreement that the Town would continue budgeting monies for O'Dell's Town Council seat in its annual budget; and the mayor has authority to utilize those monies for other purposes in the Town's best interest.

Further discussion clarified, Council Member O'Dell's ability to waive his Town Council pay until he no longer serves in the capacity of Town Council Member; or he gives the Town Council 30 days' notice in writing that he wants to resume receiving Town Council Pay.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve this MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND AND MIKE O'DELL: WAIVER OF COUNCIL PAY. Council Member Clute made motion to approve MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND AND MIKE O'DELL: WAIVER OF COUNCIL PAY. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20 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 Resolutions 2024-20 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-20. Council Member McLure 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 2024-20 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 O'Dell inquired, in relation to the monetary value of \$1,000 within the exchange agreement; confirmation the \$1,000 is for the entirety of the Wastewater Upgrade Project, in which Mayor Leeper confirmed. Further clarification was given; as to the staging area dimensions, as specified in the agreement.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2024-20. Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2024-20 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 seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WM DINGWALL COMPANY, 43 DINGWALL LN, DRUMMOND, MT 59832, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS WM DINGWALL COMPANY, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR PLACEMENT OF SLUDGE FROM THE EXISTING LAGOON FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolutions 2024-21 Council Member O'Dell made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-21. Council Member McLure 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 2024-21 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WM DINGWALL COMPANY, 43 DINGWALL LN, DRUMMOND, MT 59832, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS WM DINGWALL COMPANY, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR PLACEMENT OF SLUDGE FROM THE EXISTING LAGOON FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. The Town Council discussed the difficulties in finding a suitable placement area for the sludge; with DEQ Department of Environmental Quality regulations for the proposed site, meeting all regulation standards. The site presented; for approval before the Town Council has passed the required testing and met the requirements, as specified by DEQ.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2024-21 Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2024-21 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT BETWEEN WM DINGWALL COMPANY, 43 DINGWALL LN, DRUMMOND, MT 59832, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS WM DINGWALL COMPANY, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND FOR PLACEMENT OF SLUDGE FROM THE EXISTING LAGOON FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22 A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN XYLEM WATER SOLUTIONS, USA, 3860 HELBERG DRIVE, HELENA, MT 59602, HEREINAFTER KNOWN AS XYLEM, AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND; AS PROVIDED IN QUOTE # 2024-HEL-0040 AND QUOTE #2024-HEL-0061.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22 TABLED, to be placed on future agenda.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-23 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACTOR CONTRACT BETWEEN TCS NORTHWEST (CONTRACTOR), AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND (OWNER) TO MEET HB355 SLIPA GRANT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolutions 2024-23 Council Member Clute made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2024-23. Council Member O'Dell 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 2024-23 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACTOR CONTRACT BETWEEN TCS NORTHWEST (CONTRACTOR), AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND (OWNER) TO MEET HB355 SLIPA GRANT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS. Discussion led by Mayor Leeper, clarified the need for approval of signed Contract between the Town and a Contractor; as that was one of the requirements and conditions, which had to be satisfied to meet HB355 SLIPA Grant Funding.

Attorney McGill interjected a need to amend said contract, as proposed; inserting **ARTICLE 7**, currently listed as **Not Used** to include Inner delineation adding the verbiage **“AMENDMENT: THE PARTIES AGREE, THE AGREEMENT CAN BE AMENDED.”**

Further discussion between the Mayor, Town Council and Town Attorney led to the importance of adding ARTICLE 7 to the proposed contract. The contract in its existing form is generically written; to meet the Grant Funding requirements, a detailed agreement would be required listing terms of the contract between the Town and Contractor, including but not limited to price, labor and detailed work to be performed.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2024-23. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2024-23 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CONTRACTOR CONTRACT BETWEEN TCS NORTHWEST (CONTRACTOR), AND THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND (OWNER) TO MEET HB355 SLIPA GRANT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

## **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

- **Xylem:** Mayor Leeper provided an update regarding Xylem email communications, with the Town; acknowledging she would personally reach out to Drummond's Xylem representative, regarding presented questions of the Maintenance Agreement.
- **Headwaters Report:** Mayor Leeper reported Headwaters held a Joint Session with Butte-Silver Bow discussing Washington D.C conference; including Secretary of Defense, placement of 3% of the budget for grants back to the people.

These grants assist communities such as Granite County; Granite County Sheriff's Office can utilize these grants for funding a canine unit. Granite County is currently looking into the purchase of two canines for Granite County Canine Unit. These grant funds could be utilized in outfitting the law enforcement vehicle, with proper functions for canine officer use.

- **Action Inc. Report:** Action Inc helps and supports communities all the time. Mayor Leeper provided documents from the last Action Inc Meeting for the Council's review per their desire; this document also provides a summary of the numbers assisted throughout Granite County.
- **Montana League of Cities and Towns:** Update as to December 17<sup>th</sup> webinar; regarding the 2025 Legislative year. The ability to search legislative issues directly on the MT League website, which is user friendly; where updates will be provided weekly and with special attention to bills being watched on issues which present concern.
- **Executive Forum:** February 28<sup>th</sup> is Municipal Day at the Capital; which, provides an opportunity for elected officials to mingle with legislative elected officials.

This discussion pertaining to this meeting; led to identifying those individuals who may speak on behalf of the Town, regarding opportunities such as this. As discussed, the contacts who may speak on behalf of the Town of Drummond has the governmental municipality are as follows: Town Mayor, Town Attorney and current sitting Council. As well as, Clerk/Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington, as given authority by the mayor.

It was further discussed, this is a great opportunity for other organizations such as: Kiwanis, Chamber, Seniors, and other individual entities; to take opportunities presented like this to speak with their legislatures in how their government may assist their organizations.

Mayor Leeper, expanded their will be a MT League representative at the Capital every day session is in;

to assist those who may come to take part in this legislative session.

**ATTORNEY:** None

**PARKS:**

- **Fish, Wildlife and Parks:** FWP Fishing Access Site, Financial Discussion – Mayor Leeper provided an update on the existing extension to the FWP Fishing Access Site Agreement. After discussion she had with Town Attorney McGill, it was noted; that the Town does not have to take any action now, as after the extension period of January 29, 2026, indicated in the extension agreement the Town can simply not renew.

**ROADS:**

- **Truck Maintenance:** The Town’s one-ton pickup; had work completed on the airbags and back suspension.
- **Front End Loader:** Council Person O’Dell posed a question; regarding equipment servicing and who completes maintenance on this equipment, as it is County equipment.

Mayor Leeper expanded; there is not a written agreement regarding this equipment. Referring Council Member O’Dell to contact Paul Alt, with Granite County Roads; regarding maintenance and the equipment’s original condition.

Further discussion led of the Loader’s water pump; which may be going out, and the need to have the an estimated provided for equipment maintenance. Mayor Leeper requested Council Member O’Dell, reach out to Terry Gise for quotes pertaining to maintenance.

- **Stop Signs:** Council Member O’Dell provided reference, after speaking with Montana Roads Department Brandon McMahon, stop signs are not required to be break-a-away; adding however, they are required to be 7 feet from the bottom for placement.

Discussion was presented of correcting 1 to 2 stop signs per year; until all have been corrected to reach the required height placement of all the stop signs.

- **Snow Plowing:** Discussion was had with Council Member O’Dell and Public Works Director Harrington of the difficulty in snowplowing areas where Blackfoot has completed work throughout the Town; as well as, the inability of snowplowing dirt, which is resulting in tearing up the ground.

Snow staging areas were discussed also with the current Blackfoot work throughout Town, which now poses the need for adjusting areas previously utilized for snow staging.

Items needed currently for snow plow; connectors for the sander and strobe type safety light.

**FLOODPLAINS:**

- **Ice Jams:** Ice is developing on the river. The present areas of concern are within the County’s jurisdiction; which, is in the vicinity of the Drummond lagoon.

- **Update Floodplain Mapping Ordinance** – Council Member McLure acknowledged the upcoming zoom meeting; releasing Clerk/Treasurer Wight of attending that meeting due to her current obligations.

The Town will watch for further information presented, for the required upcoming floodplain mapping ordinance.

## **SEWER:**

- **Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade:** Recent funding Conference call between Clerk/Treasurer Wight and USDA, Jennifer Baldassin, presented concern to the Town's Sewer Rates. Mayor Leeper spoke to this issue, on the recent Funding Conference Call with the projects grant funding agents. She will reach out to Jennifer to address her questions.

Bond Council, Dan Semons, also spoke to the concern of sewer rates; in that the Town should wait for the presented sewer construction bidding packages; prior to moving forward with presenting numbers to the citizens, to prevent having to unnecessarily duplicate the process.

Currently the Wastewater Treatment Facility Design is 95% complete. Expecting to go to bid February to March 2025.

Mayor Leeper expanded that the funding agencies are working with Drummond, and other small towns in Montana such as ours with these projects.

**Road Easement to the Lagoon:** Land Owner adjacent to the sewer lagoon, has recently installed additional gates for livestock; which presents an issue for proper entry, of Town and construction equipment access to the sewer lagoon.

There was a total of three additional gate entries placed on the land owner's property. The original easement will be provided to Attorney McGill. Should the need arise, Attorney McGill will draft a letter to the land owner and law enforcement would be contacted for access removing gates if necessary.

Further discussion led to safety of the livestock; as well as, service limitation resulting from the additionally placed gates and entry size.

There are currently 5 entry gates to process through and unpredictable horses; to reach the lagoon through the access easement.

Mayor Leeper will sit down with the land owner to see how to best resolve this issue.

**DEQ Department of Environmental Quality Inspection:** The December 5<sup>th</sup> DEQ Inspection went well. The DEQ Inspector was impressed with the lift station, as to the cleanliness. Justin and Marty have worked diligently to ensure our lift station is kept clean. It is great to have Marty, with Great Divide Sewer and Septic, assisting Drummond with this task.

The inspector was pleased with Public Work Director Harrington's document file.

It was brought to the Town's attention, for our Public Works Director to develop a testing plan for certification.

As well as, creation of a physical document for pump hours and maintenance; not to just record the data in pictures.

- **Xylem** – Clerk/Treasurer Wight was asked to reach out to Xylem, requesting our representative Dalton attend the January Town Council Meeting. Drummond is planning to complete maintenance in the Spring, avoiding hazards of maintenance in the winter.

**CITY COURT:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

- **Vacant Council Seat (PARKS)** – The Town is in need of filling the vacant Council seat; after the recent unexpected passing of Council Member Stuart.

There will be a Celebration of Life held by Carla’s family in the spring/summer of 2025. Mayor Leeper will waive the Rental fee for use of the park for this event.

Carla loved overseeing the park; which was her individual assignment, as a Drummond Council Person. She enjoyed taking time at the park, as she took time to personally enjoy this space; as well as perform her civic duty in overseeing the park.

The Town is looking to the future, in placement of a small memorial on behalf of Carla; which may consist of a bench to sit near the water, with a plaque honoring Carla and a tree planted in her memory. We will miss Carla and what she brought to the Council and the community.

- **Conservation Board** – Leo Pfendler

Mayor Leeper informed the Council Leo Pfender needed to be reappointed to the Conservation Board and if it be the Council’s desire, to do so by motion. Council Member Clute made motion to approve the re-appointment of Leo Pfendler to the Conservation Board. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Clerk/Treasurer Wight will update the County, as to the motion made; Leo Pfendler will need to take his Oath of Office at the Granite County Clerk and Records Office.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

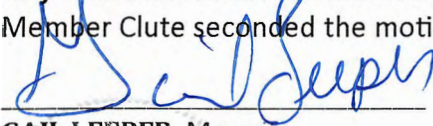
- **Fireworks** –Drummond Firework Town Hall Discussion. The Town anticipates holding the previously discussed Drummond Firework Town Hall on Thursday February 11, 2025, time currently set for 4:30pm. Location discussed, Drummond Community Hall.

Notification to the citizens is anticipated in the form of post cards; mailed toward the end of January.

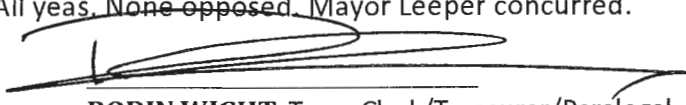
For any firework issues over the New Year’s celebration; those instances would be referred to, and handled through the Granite County Sheriff’s office, under the existing Public Nuisance Ordinance.

**Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, January 21, 2025.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



**GAIL LEEPER, Mayor**



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