

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832
MARCH 24, 2026 - 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 O'Dell and Speer, Attorney Tim Dick, Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight; and Council Member McLure in attendance via telephone. Council Member Clute and Public Works Director Harrington were absent.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Joel Boucher, representing Montana Department of Transportation.

GUEST COMMENT:

Joel Boucher, Montana Department of Transportation

Mr. Boucher presented findings of the December 2024 I-90 Speed Study along the corridor between mile marker 143-148 Bearmouth; and mile marker 140-157 Drummond. The entirety of the speed study consisted of I-90 mile marker 139.7 Bearmouth through 157 Drummond.

I-90 travels east and west, consisting of 4 lanes, 10 out and 4 inside shoulders, in 5 segments. Typical travel averages 8,800 to 13,200 vehicles daily, increasing to 20,000 a day on weekends and summer months.

Segments consist of speeds limits of 80MPH, 70MPH limit indicated for trucks. There is currently no advisory signage of upcoming curves.

Main focal area of the crash study over a five-year period from 2020 to Dec 2024, results indicate 289 accidents; 4 fatal, 18 serious, 18.7 rollover, 53.3 snow-slush-ice with the balance of 47.8% of incidents resulting in fixed object accidents.

Second cluster of accidents indicated 22 crashes, 58%.

Average speed ticket indicates 12.4 mph over posted speed limit: with most recordings capturing speeds of 82.1–85 mph, averaging 2.1-3 mph over posted speed limit.

Upon discussion Mayor Leeper stated, this is the second speed study conducted along this corridor.

Other Counties have been experimenting with different products to help reduce traffic incidents such as advisory signage for upcoming curves, or radar signage alerting drivers to actual speed traveling.

Funding for these precautionary measures are distributed from a statewide fund; recipients are dependent on largest populated areas and rate of crashes.

Further into the discussion council stated, placement of signage would be beneficial, appearing most driver behavior results from lack of knowledge of the upcoming curvatures. Winter weather conditions indicate travelers need to slow down from the posted signage.

Drummond has 60 days to present letter recommending signage advisory for this indicated study area.

MDT will be presenting results to Granite County on April 7th.

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES:

February 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

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

Roll Call Vote:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE MINUTES	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	ABSENT		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

CLAIMS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the claims. Council Member Speer seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY CLAIMS	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	ABSENT		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Jackson Contractor Group Pay Application Number 6 within the claims. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Jackson Contractor Group Pay Application Number 6 within the claims. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

JACKSON CONTR. GROUP PAY APP 6	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	ABSENT		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

INVESTMENTS: Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

SEWER INVESTMENT CD

Mayor Leeper informed council Sewer Investment Certificate of Deposit set to mature on March 29, 2026, will auto roll-over for 3-month term.

METAP GRANT

METAP Grant awardees anticipated to be announced from end of March to mid-April. METAP Grant is provided to assist with tourism needs. Town of Drummond applied for METAP Grant funding to assist in offsetting cost of recent snowplow truck purchase, equipping snowplow truck with needed safety equipment and installation of plow; as well as purchasing needed speed radar signs for placement on Front Street.

ACTION ITEMS:

RESOLUTION 2026-1 USDA | RD SEWER BOND

RESOLUTION RELATING TO UP TO \$952,000 SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, CONSISTING OF \$500,000 SERIES C BOND AND \$452,000 SERIES D BOND, AND AN UP TO \$952,000 SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE TO BE ISSUED IN ANTICIPATION THEREOF; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND FIXING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF AND THE SECURITY

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive reading Resolution 2026-1. Council Member Speer made a motion to waive reading Resolution 2026-1. Council Member O’Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

RESOLUTION 2026-1 USDA RD WAIVE READING	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	ABSENT		
Council Member O’Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

Mayor Leeper asked if there were any further comments or discussion on Resolution 2026-1, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 A RESOLUTION RELATING TO UP TO \$952,000 SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, CONSISTING OF \$500,000 SERIES C BOND AND \$452,000 SERIES D BOND, AND AN UP TO \$952,000 SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE TO BE ISSUED IN ANTICIPATION THEREOF; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND FIXING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF AND THE SECURITY. Council Member O’Dell made a motion to approve Resolution 2026-1. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

RESOLUTION 2026-1 USDA RD SEWER BOND	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	ABSENT		

Council Member O’Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

RESOLUTION 2026-2 HUB INTERNATIONAL – WORKERS COMPENSATION

Resolution 2026-2 Hub International tabled for the March Town Council Meeting; discussion and decision of resolution rescheduled for the April 2026 Town Council Meeting. Authorization of acceptance of Hub International Missoula as Town of Drummond Workers’ Compensation broker was provided by Council at the February 2026 Town Council Meeting. Resolution 2026-2 currently in creation process for the official record of acceptance.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

LEPC

Cyber awareness and concerns were discussed amongst Sheriff Office, Forrest Service, Ambulance and Fire District.

Discussion pertaining to upcoming fire season, the importance of updating the CWPP, resent reports and pictures released from DNRC of current fire activity. The Southside of Granite County will be especially vulnerable this fire season from drought conditions and lack of moisture this winter.

Executive Summit

Cyber security was a focal point at conference; utilizing Bluetooth technology leaves systems compromised to cyber hackers. Preventative security measures were discussed with awareness brought to “watchers” of keyboard strikes on laptops, and discussion of what are easy targets for hackers.

Montana State Extension Local Government is working as a liaison helping local government communities without law enforcement who currently are not under contract with an interlocal government agreement.

MCA and bylaws require either an interlocal agreement for law enforcement or the governmental community have their own law enforcement.

Discussion led to Bylaws; clarifying ordinances are the law of the jurisdiction, where bylaws is the function of the council in the jurisdiction.

Congressional Conference

Notification was given by Kelly Lynch, Executive Director of MT League of Cities and Towns, she will be leaving the League and relocating to California.

Mayor Leeper as current president on the board for MT League of Cities and Towns attended the Congressional Conference in Washington, D.C.

While attending Congressional Conference Mayor Leeper had the opportunity to converse with staffers on housing, transportation, rail safety, water and wastewater infrastructure, disaster relief mitigation. As well as discussions on how to streamline federal grants directly to municipalities as the state takes a large portion of these funds when they trickle down into the municipalities.

Mayor Leeper presented Drummond's budget to Senator Daines office which indicates the small frugal budget that Drummond runs off, there are not surplus funds for municipalities. Drummond will benefit in the future funding allocations as the Town knows how, and does run on a tight frugal budget.

Delegates would attend via zoom when speaking with representatives attending the conference. Discussions were held on youth programs, especially regarding civics which only are taught in a small segment, leaving our youth today without proper knowledge of how government is run.

"Village" is the terminology used for communities the size of Drummond, according to Washington. Mayor Leeper was invited to speak as a guest on a zoom radio interview MPR.

ATTORNEY:

Follow up discussion was held regarding progress at Drummond Motel in relation to water issues and public right-a-way in Town's jurisdiction, from certified letter sent by Town Attorney. Drummond Motel redirected water onto their private property resolving the breach on public right-a-way.

Discussion was held between Town Attorney Dick and the Council in relation to the Wagon Wheel water issues. That property has no water access as well on the property has gone dry. The Town is concerned of wastewater issues coming from that location, public works will investigate line. Followed by, having Great Divide flush out the sewer line.

Mr. Martin is now gone, leaving tenants to their own agreement. County Attorney and County Sanitarian are both involved with this situation. This property will be going back to the loan holder, First Security Bank.

This has been an ongoing issue over the past several months, Drummond Town Hall has been providing concerned residents contact information, such as County Attorney, County Sanitarian, and Human Rights.

There are currently 6-7 tenants remaining at this property. It is unfortunate, these tenants do not have a lease agreement with said property owner.

The Wagon Wheel property is approximately \$40,000 delinquent on taxes and fees.

PARKS:

School Fund Raiser

There will be a school fundraiser held on the baseball field benefiting the school golf program. Insurance will be covered by the school's insurance liability provider. The students are excited; community activities are exactly what these public spaces are used for.

Parking will be held at the rodeo grounds for this event on Saturday March 28th.

Easter Festivities

Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday April 4th; Public Works will rope off requested areas.

Park Closure and Fishing Access

Drummond City Park is currently open. Should the Town elect to close the park during winter months placement of a phone number will be addressed for the fishing boat access, since outfitters utilize boat access.

ROADS:

190 Road Study

Discussion held under guest comments.

South Main

Town of Drummond provided a letter of support for the County to apply for grant funding for three bridges on South Main.

Front End Loader

Drummond has been doing maintenance work on Granite Counties Loader currently in the Town's possession, as part of our agreement with the County in utilizing the equipment.

Sink Hole

Locate was previously performed around current sink hole, Mike Hill has been asked to provide estimate in addressing this issue. The amount of work needed will fall below the procurement threshold requiring bid procedures.

Should work be completed, the Town will secure a contract and proper insurance from contractor, prior to authorization.

Potholes and Patch

The Town will be getting more patch material; currently we do not know when it is expected.

Snowplow

Plow attachment will be slated to install on new truck mid-summer to fall. The Town will continue running the Dodge truck until it no longer runs.

The Town is still waiting to learn of METAP grant recipients, the Town submitted for assistance with snowplow truck, attachment installation and needed safety fixtures.

FLOODPLAINS:

Notifications of flood prevention material were posted, placed on Town website and social media.

SEWER:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Project

The project is utilizing third party testing in the construction of the wastewater project. Tests that do not meet compliance specifications, either work or material, are not passed until specifications are met.

DEQ Discharge Test Results

Drummond conducts a discharge capture test, whenever discharging is occurring in the allowable months. One test returned with higher bacteria levels. This was addressed between Triple Tree and DEQ. DEQ responded they are aware of the issue; the Town is proactively moving forward with the DEQ mandated sewer project.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Water per Gallon Charge

Discussion was had amongst the Council regarding recent water purchase by subcontractor conducting grinding repairs along BNSF railroad track in Drummond.

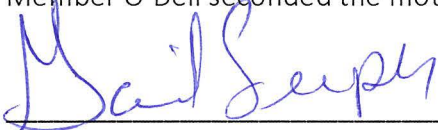
Current rate per gallon price is \$0.05, discussion led to raising that per gallon price for future bulk water purchases.

The Town is not in the business of selling water; however, it is a benefit to the town in assisting BNSF with fire prevention while subcontractor work is conducted along the rail line to prevent accidental fire.

Secondly, it benefits the Town having Montana Department of Transportation's in-kind agreement exchange of water for street sweeping services.

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal