TOWN OF DRUMMOND

Regular Town Council Meeting

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

AUGUST 18, 2026 - 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the August Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, and O'Dell; Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Pascoe; Attorney Timothy Dick was in attendance via Teams Meet. Council Member Speer was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

Calvin Wight; Engineer Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

GUEST COMMENT:

Scheduled guest Rex Wolferman, representing Clearwater Services (CWS), was not in attendance. Mr. Wolferman had contacted Town Hall regarding whether Clearwater Services could dump sewage into the Town of Drummond Wastewater Facility.

Mayor Leeper advised Mr. Wolferman to be placed on the agenda and come before the council; further indicating her advice to the council would be not allowing outside sewage to be placed in the Town's wastewater system.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Law Enforcement Report was provided to Drummond Town Council, for the August Town Council Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES

July 21,2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

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

Roll Call Vote:

AUTHORIZATION TO APPROVE MINUTES	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		

Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer			ABSENT

CLAIMS

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

INVESTMENTS:

Investment sheet provided to the Town Council.

FINANCIALS:

Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

Sewer Certificate of Deposit matured August 7, 2026, rolled over at current APY.

ACTION ITEM:

RESOLUTION 2026-6

A RESOLUTION FIXING AMOUNT OF LEVIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 ASSESSED ON PROPERTIES IN THE TOWN OF DRUMMOND, MONTANA.

Town of Drummond Mills 134.93

Lighting District Mills 21.96

Total Mills 156.89

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-6. Council Member McLure made a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-6. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Waive Reading Resolution 2026-6	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer			ABSENT

Mayor Leeper discussed with the Council, Montana Department of Revenue provides the values utilized for calculating the mills. Discussion and question presented, if the council felt the mills calculated were high or low in comparison to the budget. Concluding comments relating to Drummond, the Town runs an extremely frugal budget doing everything possible from having to present to the constituents additional voted mill levies.

Mayor Leeper asked if there was any further discussion, which there was none.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-6. Council Member Clute made a motion to waive the reading of RESOLUTION 2026-6. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

RESOLUTION 2026-3	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer			ABSENT

Resolution 2026-6 PASSED AND ADOPTED.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Action Inc.

Mayor Leeper provided report and update on Action Inc., including the assistance provided to constituents within Granite County.

County Commissioners – New Mining Core Drilling

Above Maxville, Irish Metal proposed expanded exploration Finley Basin as document in the Philipsburg Mail. Concerns brought before the Commissioners pertained to the flight pattern of helicopters from May to December, and where they would get their water source.

Local Government Center MSU Jurisdiction Cooperative Agreement between Granite County, Philipsburg, and Drummond.

All jurisdictions have approved moving forward utilizing Local Government Center's cooperative agreement package for educational and consultation services. This fee for services would be split between the three jurisdictions.

Fire Restrictions within the Town of Drummond Jurisdiction.

Granite County Commissioners' fire restrictions do not apply to the Town of Drummond jurisdiction, it was recently brought to Mayor Leeper's attention that municipalities need to pass and adopt fire restrictions by resolution for the municipal jurisdiction in addition to those fire restrictions set, passed and adopted by the County.

Law Enforcement required an individual to extinguish active campfire at park. No fires is currently posted at the city park.

Montana Department of Transportation

Montana Highway 1 bridge was inspected by four engineers stating the bridge inspection resulted in only cosmetic deterioration, not structural.

Report received 2-years prior stated the bridge status was poor. Additional or immediate work on bridge is determined if the results are cosmetic of structural.

ATTORNEY:

None

PARKS:

None

ROADS:

Front End Loader

Heater is working and equipment is ready for winter.

Discussion continued onto potholes, including type of additional equipment needed.

Skid Steer

Town is currently working towards rental of skid steer equipment.

Dodge Truck

Prior to maintenance work completed by mechanic on Dodge, Town will borrow a code reader to verify which codes pull indicating possible issues with the Dodge.

FLOODPLAINS:

Weed Control

Livestock worked well for weed control at the dyke. Next year, clarification will be made to the exact locations' livestock is needed to consume vegetation. Some areas to be cleared by livestock were missed due to livestock owner not having clear understanding of areas needed to be maintained.

The Town may need to purchase more goat fencing, for conducting weed control in two sections.

Discussion continued to landowner Bill Jo Clawson's construction in relation to the dyke.

Levee Inspection, USACE; Completed August 13, 2026

Levee inspection went well. Concern was presented for Nuisance rodents, gophers, digging holes from the top down through the sides of dyke. Discussion was made regarding utilizing live traps for removal or needing to hunt extinguishing the gophers causing damage.

SEWER:

Xylem Preventive Maintenance Service, Completed August 13, 2026

Preventive maintenance was completed. The Xylem technician was very thorough with his cleaning and maintenance of the pumps. Public works placed weights on the bottom of the floats which made a difference, previous problem corrected itself. Discussion continued, as to the benefit an electric winch would be at the lift station.

Discussion continued clarifying the safety and need of an electric winch.

Manhole Maintenance

Sewer line behind school flushed; manhole behind the Wagon Wheel sucked out again, there is still not enough water to move sewage at that location. Further noting, tenant at the Wagon Wheel whose name the power service is in, is now deceased.

Discussion was made regarding degreaser, with plan to distribute to local businesses and Drummond School. Town would purchase the first round of treatment, then request business owners purchase and maintain their drains.

Drummond Wastewater Improvements Project Change Order 3

Prior to Engineer Koon's update and discussion on needed change orders, the council discussed need to prevent large objects from passing through the lift station and possibility of needed screens. Concern was presented of valve congestion and garbage entering the lagoon. Questions continued as to what prevents garbage from continuing through the three cells to the UV disinfection portion of the lagoon.

Best scenario would be to collect debris and garbage at the lift station prior to moving into lagoon.

Further discussion led to types of existing pumps, and utilization of grinder pumps. Engineer Koon will present the council's concerns to Jackson Contracting.

Additional discussion amongst the council was weed control at the lagoon, establishing a maintenance plan prior to future need.

Engineer Koon presented change orders for discussion amongst the council. Change order no. 3 consisted of the following PCO (proposed change orders):

PCO#029 Splitter Box Gate Location Changes $2,936.83
PCO#031 Electric Cattle Fence at Lift Station $1,267.17
PCO#032 Cells 1 and 2 Berm Widening $64,498.12
PCO#033 Lagoon Fencing $196,033.67
PCO#034 Lift Station Improvements $72,846.95

Council further discussed the existing pumps at the lift station and current challenges presented with alarms and possible pump failures and/or blockage. This discussion led to needing new pumps and electric winches at the lift station to be included in the proposed above change orders.

Engineer Koon will clarify and add these additional items into change order request number 3, prior to submitting to USDA RD for review and decision.

Mayor Leeper asked for change order number 3, including PCO#029, #031, #032, #033, #034 with addition of the discussed new pumps and electric winches to be approved by motion. Council Member O'Dell made motion to approve Change Order No. 3. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

Wastewater Upgrade Change Order No. 3	Yea	Nay	Abstain

Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer			ABSENT

Change Order No. 3 Passed, to be moved forward to USDA RD for approval.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Tower

Valley Fire District fire personnel brought to Council Person Clute's attention need of removal of metal object protruding from the ground at location where fire trucks pull water from the tower.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Towing Service Procurement Discussion

Town of Drummond currently has a Law Enforcement Interlocal Agreement with Granite County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office has Tow Service Companies scheduled for service calls on a rotation basis. The current tow timeframe is a five-day process, as a vehicle must be tagged for three days prior to removal.

Discussion continued with the possibility of having tow companies on rotation which have detailed and specified tow services they elect not to complete, sign and provide a waiver allowing those tow companies willing to provide these services to be contacted for these types of requests.

Discussion amongst Mayor Leeper, Town Council and Attorney Dick concluded that the law is not specifically clear of stepping into management end of a Tow Service Agreement which could lead to unnecessary liability risk to the Town.

Fishing Boat Access and Day Parking

Confirmation of previously discussed Fishing Boat Access and Day Parking concluded the Town elects to charge a fee of $5.00 for these services. This decision will be made by resolution.

A resolution will be drafted and paced on a future agenda for discussion, decision and adoption.

Justice of the Peace Contract

Current Justice of the Peace agreement between Judge Fratzke and the Town expires December 31, 2026. Clerk-Treasurer Wight will forward Attorney Dick current contract for review and drafting of new contract for incoming Granite County Judge.

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Roll Call Vote:

ADJOURNMENT	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	n/a		
Council President McLure	Yea		
Council Member Clute	Yea		
Council Member O'Dell	Yea		
Council Member Speer			ABSENT

GAIL LEEPER, Mayor

ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal