

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
Followed by
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832
SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 - 7:00PM

FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
September 16, 2025 - 7:00PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the September Public Hearing to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, O'Dell and recently appointed Council Member Speer; Town Attorney Tim Dick; and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance during the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Rico Barkell, Granite County Sheriff.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PUBLIC HEARING DISCUSSION TOPIC: FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 ANNUAL BUDGET

Mayor Leeper led the annual budget discussion stating, fiscal year 2026 budget we worked in detailing items needing to be split between the General Fund and Sewer Fund; as well as, noting savings in the Lighting Fund from utilization of LED lighting within the light poles.

Mayor Leeper noted, FY26 budget the Town employees did not receive an annual raise; adding employees do not receive a raise each year.

Mayor Leeper added, she is not opposed to placing a levy before the residents for needed items not allotted within the annual budget; expanding, that was not an option this fiscal year with the Wastewater Project.

Discussion was made amongst the council of clarifying questions within the budget. Once all discussion items were addressed Mayor Leeper asked, if there were any further questions or discussion for Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, which there were not.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member O'Dell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Followed by

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 16, 2025 - 7:07PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Gail Leeper called the September Regular Town Council Meeting to order at 7:11pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Clute, O'Dell and recently appointed Council Member Speer; Town Attorney Tim Dick; and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Rico Barkell, Granite County Sheriff.

OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Leeper led appointed Council Member Teddy Speer in taking her Oath of Office as a Drummond Town Council Member.

GUEST COMMENT: Rico Barkell, Granite County Sheriff, addressed the Council; after an invitation extended by Mayor Leeper. Sheriff Barkell was appointed as Granite County Sheriff, after the recent retirement of Sheriff Dunkerson.

Sheriff Barkell discussed some of the changes within the Granite County Sheriff's department and recently hired deputies, as well as a recent deputy retirement.

Mayor Leeper extended an invitation to Sheriff Barkell for the Granite County Deputies to attend Drummond Town Council Meetings as able to introduce themselves to the Council.

Drummond Town Council and Sheriff Barkell briefly discussed the interlocal law enforcement agreement between the County and Drummond.

Sheriff Barkell shared opportunity programs for citizens to be involved with law enforcement; the use and benefit of canine units; traffic stops; and visibility at school sporting events.

Sheriff Barkell expanded that the Sheriff Office was busy during the summer months; adding the jail is at 75% capacity, including the higher number of felonies seen.

Sheriff Barkell excused himself after guest comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

MINUTES:

August 19, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

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

August 28, 2025 Public Hearing

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the August Sewer Rate Public Hearings minutes. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the August Sewer Rate Public Hearings minutes. Council Member O'Dell 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.

FINANCIALS: Financial sheet provided to the Town Council.

Sewer Certificate of Deposit

Clerk-Treasurer Wight notified the Council the bank has created a 3-month certificate of deposit, which will renew at the current APY. The 4-month certificate of deposit option is no

longer available at the financial institution.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to close the maturing sewer certificate of deposit, then re-open the balance with interest in a 3-mo certificate of deposit, which will rollover at the current APY. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to close the maturing sewer certificate of deposit, then re-open the balance with interest in a 3-mo certificate of deposit, which will rollover at the current APY. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ACTION ITEMS:

Prior to action item discussion and motions; Mayor Leeper expressed, the Town will begin utilizing roll call votes, leaving less room for error.

Discussion was had amongst the Council, with no objections.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19 #RRG-24-1887 Wastewater Treatment Facility Grant Funding Term Amendment.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-19 Council Member McLure made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-19. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Resolution 2025-19 Waive Reading	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Council President Cary McLure	X		
Council Member Earl Clute	X		
Council Member Mike O'Dell	X		
Council Member Teddy Speer	X		

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-19 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE #RRG-24-1887 Wastewater Treatment Facility Grant Funding Term Amendment, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-19 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE #RRG-24-1887 Wastewater Treatment Facility Grant Funding Term Amendment Council Member McLure made motion to approve Resolution 2025-19. Council Member O'Dell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Resolution 2025-19 Motion	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Council President Cary McLure	X		
Council Member Earl Clute	X		
Council Member Mike O'Dell	X		
Council Member Teddy Speer	X		

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20 Adopt Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Setting Appropriations. Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-20 Council Member Clute made motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2025-20. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Resolution 2025-20 Waive Reading	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Council President Cary McLure	X		
Council Member Earl Clute	X		
Council Member Mike O'Dell	X		
Council Member Teddy Speer	X		

Mayor Leeper asked, if the Council had any further questions or discussions in regards to Resolution 2025-20 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE Adopt Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Setting Appropriations, which there were not.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve of Resolution No. 2025-20 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE Adopt Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Operating Budget and Setting Appropriations. Council Member Clute made motion to approve Resolution 2025-20. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Resolution 2025-20 Motion	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Council President Cary McLure	X		
Council Member Earl Clute	X		
Council Member Mike O'Dell	X		
Council Member Teddy Speer	X		

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Action Inc.

Mayor Leeper provided within the Town Council Packets Action Inc.'s latest statistical handout, providing a brief representation of help provided within Granite County through the Action Inc. Program.

54 people within Granite County were assisted; seniors are getting the help they need; and one household received a new furnace.

LEPC/CWPP

The County is re-establishing involvement in the Community Wildfire Protection Plan; there is Federal Funding available to assist in this area.

Discussion was made regarding the Philipsburg Water System. The Town of Philipsburg drinking water comes Fred Burr; The Town of Philipsburg is actively pursuing grant funding to assist with the Town's Water System.

Delinquent Taxes

\$137,000 has been paid in Granite County Delinquent Taxes; the County and the Town's are actively working together in collecting delinquent taxes.

In prior years, the County and the Town's would place delinquent taxes within the Philipsburg Mail; due to budget restraints, the Town of Drummond has opted utilizing the Town's website and social media sources in effort of collecting delinquent taxes.

The County and Town's joint effort in collecting delinquent taxes is a benefit to the entire county.

ATTORNEY:

Mayor Leeper requested Town Attorney Tim Dick prepare and present an overview and refresher of Council Member Duties as elected Officials; especially, as the Town has recently appointed a new Council Person.

Attorney Tim provided an overview of Council Member duties, removal for cause, notice and filing, open meetings, conflicts and quorums; providing examples and engaging in active discussion with the Council.

PARKS:

Mayor Leeper provided Attorney Tim a tour of Drummond prior to the September Meeting, including a tour in the Drummond City Park.

Mayor Leeper asked the Council to review materials regarding the Drummond agreement with Fish, Wildlife and Parks; as the term is quickly approaching, expiring February 2026.

The Fish, Wildlife, and Parks fishing boat access agreement was for a term of 25 years, with a 2-year extension. A copy of the agreement will be presented to Council Member Speer for review and placed on the Agenda in October.

Great Divide will be removing the port-a-potty at the park for the winter season.

ROADS:

Dodge Truck

Public Works is servicing and prepping the Dodge, in preparation for snow plowing.

Suzuki Truck

Mayor Leeper requested the Suzuki Truck be serviced, and placed back in operation to help save on fuel costs.

North Main

Letters have been prepared for tonight's meeting to be signed by Council; prior to mailing to the residence living on North Main in the congestion area, letters reference parking and right-a-way easement. The North Main right-a-way easement is 70 ft.

Patch

One more load of patch is needed for the gulch past the football field.

FLOODPLAINS:

Weeds

Goats did a good job with weed removal along the dike.

Bergman Slough

Council Member McLure requests the plate at Bergman Slough be removed by October 1st.

SEWER:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Project

Jackson Contracting Group is working well with Triple Tree Engineering.

Engineer Brad Koon reported to the Council the contractor has been good to work with, they have completed a lot, with some left to do regarding the formal process of submittals; which consists of a detailed process, submitting/accepting or rejecting/and revising it is the check and balance portion of ensuring the fine details are correct.

Contractor process has consisted of having well driller for wells outside the lagoon for times when dewatering is prohibited. Collecting data and testing.

Gravel has been placed for the laydown area, and the contractor is preparing for fence.

Sludge removal is anticipated for November 12th; at the original chosen site.

Excavation is anticipated for January 13th to bring area down to grade for the UV disinfection building.

Discussion was had between Engineer Koon and the Council, regarding concern the Council has with pouring the cement slab in the winter, due to temperature concerns; even with the presentation of covering and heaters being utilized.

Council Member McLure will review the specs regarding concrete; she also will request testing.

This project needs to be completed correctly and to specifications; concrete pour within the winter months in the Montana climate is a red flag, and is noted in the record being placed as notice of concern.

Land owners have expressed to Engineer Koon the desire of meeting with the Contractors on the wastewater project, as they will be utilizing their land accessing the easements to work on the wastewater project.

Mayor Leeper also provided Attorney Tim Dick a tour of the lagoon, as part of the Town tour earlier this evening.

Discussion was had regarding livestock and access; as well as, cows breaching the lagoon.

Further discussion, focused on roads, fences and gates; should there be issues with equipment accessing the lagoon.

Lift Station

The lift station lost a phase breaker, and the generator did not properly engage for backup; sewer backed up 2 ½ ft back into the lift station.

NorthWestern Energy power breakers have been blown recently within the Drummond area, which caused a switch over delay at the lift station. This resulted in back feeding within the main line into Town.

Palmer Electric has been working with Public Works rectifying this issue, currently parts are on order for repair. Power to the pole is temporarily off; as the original design included no bypass, it goes directly through the pumps, then pushed out to the lagoon.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member McLure made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16pm. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

ADJOURNMENT	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Council President Cary McLure	X		
Council Member Earl Clute	X		
Council Member Mike O'Dell	X		
Council Member Teddy Speer	X		



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal