

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

11/21/2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Gail Leeper called the November Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Mayor Leeper & Council Members McLure, Powell, and Stuart; Town Attorney McGill; and Public Works Director Harrington. Council Member Clute and Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Leeper led the Pledge of Allegiance at the November Town Council Meeting.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

GUEST COMMENT: Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

- **Drummond Waste Water Facility Upgrade Infrastructure Project Update**

For the record Engineer Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering; provided Mayor and Town Council updated packets regarding the Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade.

Engineer Koon provided an update on the progress of the Waste Water Treatment Facility Upgrade; There was geotechnical work done along the banks of the lagoon and where the UV treatment would go, results are suitable for what we are trying to accomplish with the sewer lagoon project.

The lagoon pump test completed June 28-30th was to determine if the lagoon levels are influenced by the river; the results came back good, showing the lagoon is not influenced by the river.

This test is critical to benefit contractors who BID the upcoming project; providing them the information, if they would be able to dewater.

The test pumped 300 gallons per minute over a three-day span, monitoring the rise and fall of the lagoon in relation to the river; this three-day test pumped approximately 500,000 gallons of water.

The results were good, the bad part was the cost of that test; doing the test was included in the original project scope. DEQ would not allow that water to be pumped back into the river, nor be pumped on the ground to settle out; so, Triple Tree Engineering had to rent large tanker trucks to haul the water. The original quote for this service was \$32,000.00 the trucks were required to be at the lagoon longer than anticipated, the final bill once invoiced for this service was \$52,000.00.

This test was grant reimbursable; which was confirmed, prior to performing the test.

Engineer Koon asked, for a proposed amendment for the December Drummond Town Council Meeting for this fund amount change.

Previously the need for the UV System was questioned; that once changed from a one-cell to a three-cell lagoon if the UV disinfection system would still be needed. This idea, of leaving out the UV System was brought before the funding agencies; who expressed, they do not want the UV System omitted from the project.

Samples of the water, as it is now, was collected for UV testing; those samples were sent to Energy Labs in Billings; the transmittance results were 35%. In order for the UV treatment to work, those numbers need to be at 45%. Once the Lagoon is changed from a one-cell to a three-cell, and the sludge is

removed the UV Disinfection System should function in the desired range.

The handout distributed to the Mayor and Town Council goes over the testing, pumping, geotechnical and the UV options considered. Engineer Koon researched three UV Systems; the Trojan system makes the most sense for Drummond's Waste Water UV Disinfection System. The handout provided by Engineer Koon, goes over other municipalities in Montana that utilize this system; also noting, that DEQ is familiar with this system, and the open channel system would utilize less electricity.

The Trojan system is open channel flow type, with horizontal UV lights; the wastewater would flow through this open channel and the UV lights would bake the waste as it processes through. There will be need for some small pumps, within the system.

Engineer Koon is looking into whether a block building or fiberglass encloser would suit the project better for the UV Disinfection System part of the sewer project; and the cost of each of these housing types would consider into the equation.

Maintenance for the Trojan system would entail, the pumps and UV lights.

Engineer Koon discussed with Public Works Director Harrington the need to change his Operator Status, which will be required by the funding agencies. Engineer Koon will follow up with Public Works Director Harrington regarding the Operator Status requirements.

Wash water requirements needed for cleansing was discussed; using a truck with pressure tank, the need to add a tank inside the building, or the need of a well. The most cost effective would be to utilize a truck with a pressure tank. The estimated frequency of cleaning would be quarterly.

Sludge test results in relation to rural water output; shows the lagoon has a pretty solid base, which is good for putting the liner in.

Thus far, into the project; testing results have been positive, with no red flags.

Provisions will be made to anchor the liner; which is important to prevent the liner from floating, if water gets under it. Special precautions are being taking to make sure the liner stays in place. Triple Tree Engineering is consulting with Jacobs, the sub-consultant, in this area of the project.

Sludge removal and hauling options are being considered; one is the land fill in Missoula, another is placement with a local land owner. Currently Engineer Koon is speaking with Bob and Sherilee Lund, regarding an area for placement of the sludge, since the Lund property may be plausible for the sludge placement.

Discussion was made of two other land owners; as possible options for the sludge placement, as well as, the Drummond Solid Waste Site or the Drummond City Park as a possible option for sludge placement.

Brad's first contact for the possible Solid Waste site placement, would be Paul Alt.

Engineer Koon expects there would be approximately 350 dump truck loads.

Once a close proximity sludge placement site is determined, an agreement and contract verbiage will be drafted.

State Revolving Fund; all questions and concerns have been addressed. The best approach for the UV Disinfectant is to have the design completed and have it pre-plumbed, then seek out additional grant funding.

Drywall at lift station is staying dry; the lift station has been full of water since 2020. Since the water was pumped out, the lift station has remained dry and not filled back up.

Engineer Koon proposed, adding a meter to measure the flow; instead of basing that on pump times. Reading of the meter would be wired to a read out above ground, eliminating the need to crawl down into the hole.

Discussion was made as to the alarm system at the lift station, and the operating quality of that system. Engineer Koon will watch to see if any modifications will be required by DEQ, as to an alarm system.

Engineer Koon, discussed the need to add a manhole to the existing dry well, currently there is not enough room.

We are currently on track to have DEQ approval by early spring, so the project can go out to BID.

Bidding is still on schedule, planning to go out to BID Spring of 2024; with 2024 construction and completion of project by end of 2025.

Next Town Council Meeting; Engineer Koon will provide layout maps, as to the design and placement of the UV System.

- **House Bill 355 – Infrastructure Projects - Maintenance of Existing Project.**

Drummond will be receiving \$25,594.00; there is a 25% cash match, which is not in kind.

Discussion was made, as to the infrastructure projects that will be allowable under HB 355. A few infrastructure projects discussed were streets, the line at the water tower or adding to an existing building.

HB 355 allows addition to an existing building, but not constructing of a new building.

Further funding option discussion; the RRGL grant funding of \$125,000.00, would be a good choice for the Water Tower, since that RRGL grant is for water conservation.

Mayor Leeper brought attention back to the Water Tower; since we know it is leaking, HB 355 funding would not be enough to cover the entirety of that project, but use of the RRGL funding along with HB 355 may be an option to complete this project.

A prioritized list is to be completed by the end of this calendar year, December 31, 2023; January 1, 2024 to March 30, 2024 a public meeting must be completed, prior to the application being submitted; the deadline for the application is March 30, 2024.

- **MCEP funding for the Bridge**

MCEP requested a technical report from an engineer for repair or replacement of the South Main Bridge. Engineer Koon provided an estimate of \$5,000.00 for the completion of a technical report.

One of MCEP's start up conditions for the \$190,000.00 South Main Bridge Grant is this technical report from an engineer. These funds are reimbursable at the completion of the project, which includes 100% matching funds.

The Condition of House Bill 11; the MCEP Grant would be \$190,000.00; the Town would have to match \$190,000.00.

Under statute, bridges are Counties responsibility; Granite Counties agreement, when the State abandoned South Main was that they would assume maintenance of the South Main Bridge.

Prior to Mayor Leeper and Attorney McGill conducting research as to the ownership of South Main, Representative Fitzpatrick was working to help Drummond receive funding for this bridge, since it is within Drummond City limits.

Mayor Leeper, researched years of past minutes and the State abandonment of South Main, ownership of South Main was found within the County Commissioner Minutes.

Attorney McGill went on to discuss, we do not have responsibilities for bridges, Counties do; which is in the statutes.

Discussion was made regarding the MCEP Grant funding for South Main Bridge; this MCEP grant was awarded to Drummond, but the ownership of South Main and responsibility for the South Main Bridge lies with Granite County.

Drummond's position is to allow Granite County to handle budgeting, applying, and receiving of Grant Funds for the South Main Bridge Project, through the Counties coffers; thus, not adding to the Town's reporting and auditing requirements.

- **Water PER (Preliminary Engineering Report)**

The Town received approval for the RRGL Funding Grant of \$15,000.00. Tripple Tree Engineering also applied for an MCEP Funding Grant on behalf of Drummond for the required matching funds of the RRGL Grant.

This Water System PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) for the Town of Drummond; will look at, applying for and receiving Infrastructure Grant Funding. Discussions prior, pertaining to the Water PER was to use these grant funds to look at the existing Fire Suppression System. Also, with the Water PER; it would be beneficial to look at an affordable public water system.

Mayor Leeper advised the Council; a public water system may not be something we do for near future, since property owners each have a private well. However, this is an issue that needs to be addressed; down the road DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality) may make the Town go in this direction because of the water conservation aspect of it.

The mayor expanded, as funding opportunities arise it is beneficial to expand on what we can, by doing the preliminary steps needed regarding the Town Water System.

The mayor requested; Triple Tree Engineering move forward in completing the PER (Preliminary Engineering Report) of the Drummond Water System.

Discussion was made regarding the Grants that would be needed to complete a Water Project. Triple Tree Engineering will complete the PER; then return to discuss the with the Town, the best strategy to utilize Grant Funding for the Drummond Water System Infrastructure Project. Infrastructure applications will be due May 2024.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

LAW ENFORCEMENT: The Town Council was provided a report from the Sheriff.

MINUTES: Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the October Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Stuart made a motion to approve the October Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Council Member Powell 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 Powell 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.

- HB 355 Update – discussed within Guest Comment.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Resolution 2023-8 Cash Policy and Use of Town of Drummond Revenue Deposit Worksheet.**
 - **Motion to waive reading Resolution 2023-8 Cash Policy and Use of Town of Drummond Revenue Deposit Worksheet.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-8. Council Member Stuart made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-8. Council Member Powell seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Resolution provided within Council Packets, for review by Mayor and Town Council.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-8. Council Member Powell made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-8. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

- **Resolution 2023-9 Sewer Investment CD Transfer to Sewer Cash Operating Account**
 - **Motion to waive reading Resolution 2023-9 Sewer Investment CD Transfer to Sewer Cash Operating Account.**

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-9. Council Member Powell made a motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2023-9. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Resolution provided within Council Packets, for review by Mayor and Town Council.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2023-9. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-9. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.

Resolutions 2023-10 and 2023-11 on the November Agenda have been extended to a future Town Hall Meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- **Christmas Tree Lights at Mullan Statue** – The Volunteer Fire department will place lights on the tree located at Mullan Statue, which has been a “New/Old” tradition.

The Town purchased lights for this tree lighting tradition. There are electrical plugs at the base of the tree, which had been placed prior.

- **Action Inc. Meeting** – Mayor Leeper made available the Action Inc. report for review, which Granite County is a part of.

- **Headwaters Meeting –**
 - ✓ A local business made it to the second phase; in an application to receive grant funding to complete updating of that business.
 - ✓ Fiber equipment shelter East of the Turf, which will consist of housing for internet data.
- **LEPC Meeting –** Meeting will be December 14th.
 - ✓ They are anticipating new guests, Northwestern Energy and Blackfoot Communications, attending these meetings.
 - ✓ Jackie Bolster DES Coordinator and Drummond Mayor Gail Leeper are working on putting together a mock disaster for this summer; Simulation in Montana, is a business that helps conduct these mock disasters.
 - ✓ New Ambulance Company, called Coast to Coast, will be in the County by end of the month. They will primarily be doing transport, but will be available at other times as well. Coast to Coast will be housed in Philipsburg, at the Ambulance Building.

TOWN ATTORNEY: None

PARKS:

- **FWP (Fish, Wildlife and Parks) Fishing Boat Access Agreement –**

Mayor Leeper asked Council, if they had the opportunity to review the previous agreement, and if they had any thoughts or discussion.

This original FWP (Fish, Wildlife and Parks) Fishing Boat Access Agreement; FWP wanted to build fishing boat access, then they wanted Drummond to maintain it; which is what has happened for twenty-five years, as explained by Attorney McGill.

This Agreement calls for renewal of the agreement after those twenty-five years.

If the Agreement is to be the same; Attorney McGill would advise the Council, to review the agreement to determine what the benefit would be to Drummond. Attorney McGill, pointed out, what work FWP has put into the access point has evaporated over the 25 years.

Should these conditions remain the same in the agreement, then Drummond would be responsible to continue with all the maintenance of the access point, while FWP gets the benefit. Currently FWP are not contributing to any upkeep of the fishing boat access.

Attorney McGill would advise, contacting Fish, Wildlife and Parks to discuss other agreement conditions; such as a 50/50 split of the maintenance. She advised, the terms of the standing agreement, short changes the Town of Drummond.

The current use of this river access point, causes cost to the Town of Drummond.

Mayor Leeper advised Council to think about this more, prior to the next Twon Council

meeting; she also instructed Public Works Director Harrington, to write down a list of all the maintenance tasks and costs, associated with having and maintaining this access point.

The Fish, Wildlife and Parks Fishing Boat Access Agreement expires February 2024; topic will be on December Town Council Meeting agenda for further discussion.

ROADS:

- **Snowplowing Sand** - County brought Drummond sand for snow plowing.
- **Snowplowing Broad Street** – No Parking Signage placed for Snow removeable,
- **Patching** – Potholes were filled in some areas with gravel.
- **Drainage**- Discussion was made regarding the drain located at the corner, by Swedes; which has caused flooding in the past.

Mayor Leeper clarified that this the States responsibility, the Town does not have jurisdiction over that location.

Discussion continued, that the culvert underneath that part of the highway has not been cleaned out by the State for years.

FLOODPLAINS:

- **Dike** – Council Member Powell noted when he walked the Dike the beaver dam had been removed; however, beavers have already created a new dam.

Council Member McLure will contact Fish and Game, to get a nuisance trapping permit.

SEWER:

- **Xylem** - Mayor Leeper called Xylem Customer Service, regarding getting placed on schedule for service call.

Public Works Harrington to will provide Mayor Leeper with a better contact number for a supervisor at Xylem.

- **Western Cat** – Cat completed repair/replacement on the fuel line.
- **Nash** – Last month Nash came out and cleaned.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Old Fire Truck Restoration** – Larry Bryan, Clerk-Treasurer Wight's Father, offered to restore the Old Fire Truck free of labor charge, only billing for material.

Projects such as this is within Mr. Bryan's scope of work.

Mr. Bryan then spoke with Chris Coating Representative, at NCS; who in turn, was able to have

the coating material donated through National Coating & Supply.

After Chris learned of Mr. Bryan's donation of time to this project, he pledged to donate his time as well helping Larry Bryan restore Drummond's Old Fire Truck.

OLD BUSINESS:

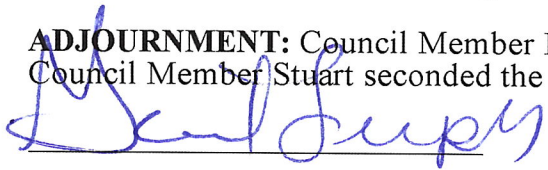
- **MCEP Funding Conference Call** – Previously discussed in Guest Comment.

Mayor Leeper, added to that she and Attorney McGill will be going to the Commissioner's to discuss the conference call and that the MCEP funding cannot be passed through to the County.

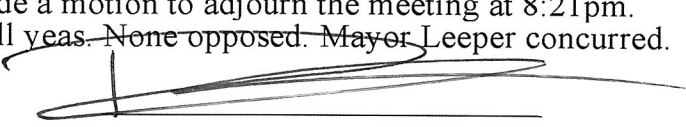
Next Town Council Meeting scheduled Tuesday, December 19th.

January Town Council Meeting will be extended from the 16th of January, to January 23rd.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Powell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm. Council Member Stuart seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



Gail Leeper, Mayor



Robin Wight, Town Clerk-Treasurer