

TOWN OF DRUMMOND
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Drummond Town Hall, 114 A Street, Drummond, MT 59832
DECEMBER 16, 2025 - 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, O'Dell and Speer; Town Attorney Tim Dick; Town Clerk-Treasurer Wight and Public Works Director Harrington.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Ben Dickinson and Kendra McKlosky, representing Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Engineer Brad Koon, representing Triple Tree Engineering.

OATH OF OFFICE: Oath of Office administered for Elected Officials with term start of date January 2026.

Gail Leeper, Mayor
Earl Clute, Council Person
Mike O'Dell, Council Person

GUEST COMMENT: Fish, Wildlife and Parks were in attendance gaining feedback from the council regarding the current Fishing Boat Access Agreement set to expire February 1, 2026. Mayor Leeper asked, the Council to provide feedback as to their thoughts regarding the expiring agreement.

Council President McLure stated, she had read the proposal from FWP. Expanding, she felt the proposed items were not favorable towards the Town. Memorializing, the Town coffers were utilized for the prior 20+ years in the upkeep. Concluding, the 2025 legislation regarding conservation license requirement to enter the City Park, leads her vote to be no.

Council Person Clute stated, FWP promised maintenance help within the 25-year agreement, which FWP cleaned the boat ramp once during that time frame. Adding the current representative's predecessors failed to mention of the upcoming legislation proposal changing the conservation license requirements; which, would be imposed on the City Park, leading to trust issues between the Town and FWP, concluding to a no vote.

Council Person O'Dell stated, he felt the same as Council Member's McLure and Clute regarding the 2025 legislative changes; which, impacts the entirety of the city park. As well as, lack of assistance from FWP in the existing agreement, resulting in a no vote.

Council Person Speer concurred with the council, indicating the lack of FWP assistance in upkeep and maintenance, results in a no vote.

Mayor Leeper's recommendation before the council would also be a no vote, adding she would request Fish Wildlife and Parks to remove the vaulted latrine, installed by FWP in the original agreement established some 25+ years prior. Expanding, her main concern is the public have access to the river; which would be impossible for either entity to enforce or regulate with an invisible line accessing the river, due to the 2025 legislation requirement of a conservation license to enter the city park.

Mayor Leeper continued, the Town is frugal with the tax payors coffers; there are activities throughout the year, in which the park is utilized by the tax payors and residents.

Fish, Wild Life and Park representatives provided their feedback to the Town's remarks.

Ben Dickinson expressed, all comments were valid; thanking the Town for their hospitality. Adding the original agreement did pose challenges with the length of the agreement, FWP should have returned

after the initial infrastructure placement and planned costs, and renegotiated the upkeep and maintenance plan, which was a misstep on FWP.

He confirmed, the Town wished to have the vaulted toilet removed and would follow-up on that process. Adding, all Fish, Wildlife and Park signage would be removed from Town property.

Continuing, the agreement would be allowed to expire come February 1, 2026. FWP would begin getting the ball rolling for sign removal and plans to remove the vaulted toilet in the spring.

Mayor Leeper requested, that the Town have Great Divide Septic clean out the vaulted toilet prior to FWP removal for sanitation purposes.

Mayor Leeper will be FWP point of contact; FWP will complete the removal of signage and vaulted toilet as soon as possible, weather permitting.

Kenda McKlosky also expressed gratitude to the Town in being open to discuss the expiring agreement. Expanding her concern, is that the public would continue to have access to the river.

All Parties were in agreement; timing, maintenance and current legislation was contributing factors in the non-renewal of the Fishing Boat Access Agreement; leaving the communication open should things change in the future, indicating a better mutual agreement for both parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

MINUTES:

November 18, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

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

CLAIMS:

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve the claims, including Jackson Contracting Pay Application 3. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve the claims, including Jackson Contracting Pay Application 3. Council Member Clute 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	YEA		
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.

Local Government Services

Mayor Leeper reported on a virtual meeting held between herself, Clerk/Treasurer Wight; Trevor Henry, Compliance Specialist and Aaron Birkeland, Accounting Compliance Manager Local Government Services Representatives; November 25, 2025.

Town of Drummond 2023 AUP (Agreed-Upon Procedures) Audit for Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023, was completed by Denning, Downey & Associates, P.C. and was submitted to Local Government Services August 2024.

Local Government Services reached out via email November 20, 2025; following up with the Town on finding's the Town received in the 2023 AUP. LGS main focal point was how the Town currently conducts bank reconciliations; which was once handled by the accountant.

They inquired when the Town's last Bank Reconciliation was preformed, at which Clerk/Treasurer Wight pulled her completed bank reconciliations; providing that October Statement was reconciled in November, indicating the Town is in compliance.

Local Government services were pleased with the Town's record keeping and ability to relay the bank reconciliations are completed monthly by Clerk/Treasurer Wight, then reviewed and signed off by the mayor.

They inquired if the Town would be interested in enrolling in a "Voluntary Technical Assistance Program," with Local Government Services. LGS reasoning behind this voluntary program, should the Town receive a second finding; they could withhold funding.

Mayor Leeper expressed her concern to the Council, adding Local Government Services had no file on Drummond; they did not know Drummond's Annual Financial Report was already completed and submitted to them. That Drummond had already contracted for FY2025 and FY2026 Auditing Services, that Drummond was not required to completed an Audit for FY2025 and an amendment was sent in as such.

Mayor Leeper also expressed her displeasure in LGS strong arm bully tactics presented in our virtual meeting; however letting the council know, we are good and willing to comply. Also noting that Local Government Services does not know Black Mountain Software or know how to read the reports provided from the software.

Mayor Leeper reported, she had Clerk/Treasurer Wight reach out to MT League to inquire about this "Volunteer Technical Service Program" Local Government Services is proposing. At which the League indicated, Drummond is in compliance and LGS can not make them enroll in this voluntary program. However, should the Town not have been in compliance; LGS could mandate a Town report 3-month

consecutive bank reconciliation documents to them to ensure compliance.

Mayor Leeper also reached out to Dan Clark with MSU; who also did not know the reasoning behind Local Government Services request.

It was recommended the Town present to LGS the following, the Town would be willing to consecutively report 3-month of bank reconciliation documents Oct-Nov-Dec 2025. However, the Town agrees to comply with reporting to Local Government Services with the stipulation; should the documentation not be satisfactory and/or they cannot read the Black Mountain Software the Town's stipulation would be they must converse with The League's Financial Director Jodi Rogers to discuss their concerns.

The Council concurred, with moving forward in a three-month volunteer program with the Town's specified stipulation. Town Attorney Tim Dick will draft a correspondence in response to Local Government Services request.

ACTION ITEMS:

Montana League of Cities and Towns

Town of Drummond's current Financial Agreement with Montana League of Cities and Towns is set to expire December 31, 2025. The Town's proposed new Financial Service Agreement will have expiration date of June 30, 2026. At which time, contacts will renew on a fiscal year basis.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Montana League of Cities and Towns Financial Service Agreement. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve Montana League of Cities and Towns Financial Service Agreement. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

Roll Call Vote:

MT LEAGUE FINANCIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	YEA		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project proposed Change Orders

Documents provided within Council Packets for review on Jackson Contracting proposed Change Orders PCO #005 Slide Gates and PCO #006 Granular Material. Engineer Koon provided comments for each; including these change orders will be applied to amount budgeted under contingency.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project PCO#005 Slide Gates. Council Member O'Dell made a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project PCO#005 Slide Gates. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

Roll Call Vote:

WWTF PCO#005 SLIDE GATES	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	YEA		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project PCO#006 Granular Material. Council Member McLure made a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project PCO#006 Granular Material. Council Member Clute seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

Roll Call Vote:

WWTF PCO#006 GRANULAR MATERIAL	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	YEA		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project ALLWEST Independent Testing Contract

The Construction Contract indicates the Town will contract with an outside testing Agency for the Wastewater Project, which will be paid out directly by the Town. Jackson Contracting will coordinate these tests. Funding for independent testing will also be pulled from contingency.

Council President McLure indicated, she would like to see results from concrete testing.

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project ALLWEST Independent Testing Contract. Council Member Clute made a motion to approve Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project ALLWEST Independent Testing Contract. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred

Roll Call Vote:

WWTF ALLWEST Independent Testing Contract	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	YEA		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

FWP Fishing Boat Access Agreement

**See discussion information, within Guest Comment.*

Mayor Leeper asked for a motion that Fish Wildlife and Parks Fishing Access Boat Agreement not renew

February 1, 2026, terminating the agreement. Council Member O'Dell made the motion Fish Wildlife and Parks Fishing Access Boat Agreement not renew February 1, 2026, terminating the agreement. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas, none opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred, motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

NOT RENEW FWP FISHING BOAT ACCESS AGREEMENT; ALLOWING TO EXPIRE FEB 1, 2026.	Yea	Nay	Abstain
Mayor Gail Leeper	NA		
Council President McLure	YEA		
Council Member Clute	YEA		
Council Member O'Dell	YEA		
Council Member Speer	YEA		

MAYOR'S REPORT:

LEPC

Public Works Director Harrington attended the LEPC Meeting this month.

CWPP needs to be updated, this process takes about one year to complete, meetings will take place by zoom. Town of Drummond's focal points to address will be: Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project, Flooding, Fire Suppression Water Tower, and the Railroad. Philipsburg focal point will be: wastewater and Fred Burr Lake.

Also discussed, DES Coordinator Jackie Bolster updated of high winds reaching in excess of 80 MPH expected this evening; leading to concern of down power lines and trees, similar to what was witnessed last year in Missoula. Along with recent moisture and lack of snow, trees pulling from the roots are possible.

Drummond Montana Department of Transportation, Brandon McMahon; offered he could be of assistance should the Town need him.

COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Leeper discussed with Council, Granite County Commission agreed to disperse the requested \$100,000 for Philipsburg and \$50,000 for Drummond from Granite County PILT Fund.

Drummond will utilize the requested PILT funding for the Town's Interlocal Agreement with Granite County Law Enforcement; which will then, free funding in the General Fund to assist in the purchase a truck for snowplowing. As the Town's current truck, the motor is about gone.

INTERCAP LOAN

Mayor Leeper discussed with Council, the Town applied for an Emergency Intercap Loan for the General Fund; in the case, we could not receive PILT Funding from Granite County for purchasing a truck. We have not yet received notification for the Intercap Loan.

METAP GRANT

The Town was originally planning to apply for METAP grant funding for the purchase of a truck; however, that grant funding opportunity process has been pushed to January 2026 for applications.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/DECORATIONS

Mayor Leeper reported the volunteers scheduled to place the Town's Christmas decorations were met with a scheduling conflict, and were unable to assist the Town in placing Christmas decorations.

She reached out to the Mormon Missionaries, from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; who graciously stepped up and filled the call in hanging the Town's Christmas decorations along Front Street.

In appreciation, the Town provided gift certificates to Parker's Restaurant; for the hours they spent hanging the Town's decorations.

ATTORNEY: None

PARKS: None

ROADS:

New Truck

Discussion was had, regarding the "new to us" truck currently needed for snow plowing, within the Township. Looking into various means to fund this purchase; Intercap loan and/or METAP Grant.

Sink Hole

North side of Front Street across from Fire Water continues to be a problem, beginning approximately 5-years ago. Discussion was had, regarding the number of dump trucks of gravel that have been placed in the sinkhole. Each year, Public Works dumps several bucket loads of gravel into the hole multiple times throughout the year.

Discussion led to having Public Works place an 811 ticket to determine any other utilities that may be in this area.

As the discussion continued, mention of an underground tunnel once used during the prohibition days from the Railroad Depot to Swedes was discussed; and if that could be perhaps the reasoning behind this sinkhole.

Engineer Koon recommended, the use of flowable fill for sink hole; similar to concrete material, yet diggable.

Public works will follow up with this project in the spring.

Patch

Drummond is at the mercy of the County, for receiving and storing patch material, as the Town does not have a location to store the material.

Blackfoot Gravel

Discussion was presented, regarding quality of the gravel material provided by Blackfoot Communications for the Town's repair of damaged road and alley areas from the Fiber Optic Project.

The Town requested gravel from Blackfoot, to begin repairing areas Blackfoot had not yet returned to repair; however, the material provided was more sand than gravel and is not sufficient to make those repairs.

South Main Bridge

Inquiry was made to South Main Bridge, of when the asphalt project is going to be completed. The County is currently in a holding pattern, as the weather must be a certain temperature to lay the asphalt.

Letter to Property Owners: Water Issue

There is a current water issue at the Drummond Motel, resulting in the motel utilizing a sump pump hose in dealing with the water issue. The sump pump hose is encroaching the roadway causing a hazard.

Mayor Leeper conferred, to Attorney Dick; after discussion amongst the Council, it was determined to have Attorney Dick compose a cease-and-desist letter to the property owner and manager of the motel for properly handling the encroachment and potential hazard.

For distressed Drummond Motel residents, coming to Town Hall regarding the living conditions resulting from those water issues; they have been referred to the County Attorney for assistance.

FLOODPLAINS: None

SEWER:

Wastewater Treatment Facility Project

Engineer Koon provided an update to the progress at the lagoon. He began his update, by congratulating Mayor Leeper on her Legacy Award; presented to her at MSU Extension's 40th Anniversary Gala in Helena. This award, was awarded by peers and others in the industry whom recognized Mayor Leeper for her dedication and hard work not only in her community, but helping others in municipal government for well over 30 years.

Engineer Koon then moved into his update on the lagoon; informing the council there has been improvement to the access road to the lagoon, including a loop around on the North side.

Due to current wet weather conditions and the softness of the sludge placement at the location site, Jackson will be shutting the project down until the first of the year. Sludge removal, will be taken down a few feet further from the actual sludge for leveling purposes.

Jackson will also be prepping the foundation for the UV building, with concrete pour expected February 2026.

Discussion was made, regarding future discharge to the river; which is the Town's responsibility and must be completed within the specified DEQ window.

Triple Tree Engineering's RPR (Resident Project Representative), Engineer Aaron Peters, worked with Clerk/Treasurer Wight, setting up Google Photos for the project; which can be viewed at Town Hall for those wishing to see the progress on the project, as the site cannot be visited.

Engineer Peters also met in person with Council Member Clute and Public Works Director Harrington.

Manhole Maintenance

Council Person Clute and Public Works Harrington, pulled manholes in areas of a real property main backup; it was determined there was no blockage in the Town's lines, issue was on the resident's property.

Discussion of sewer lines continued, between Engineer Koon and Council Person Clute; as to the recent lift station incident when power was lost and the risk of back up into Town. Engineer Koon will look into how feasible an overflow or safety valve would work; if that would be a plausible fix, then DEQ would need to agree to any planned action.

Lift Station maintenance, the floats and circuit board have already been replaced. The need of purchasing an extra pump was discussed to have on hand in an emergency.

CITY COURT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

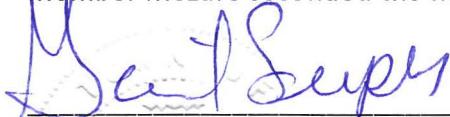
Historical Society

Council Person O'Dell inquired, who he could reach out to regarding the Historical Society. Mayor Leeper informed him, that is part of the Drummund Chamber; he could contact Linda or Colette.

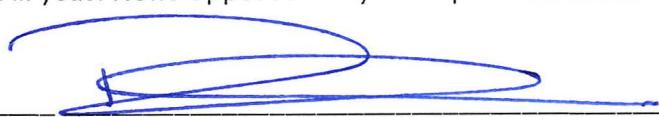
UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Next Town Council Meeting: Scheduled Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member O'Dell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Council Member McLure seconded the motion. All yeas. None opposed. Mayor Leeper concurred.



GAIL LEEPER, Mayor



ROBIN WIGHT, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Paralegal