

Town of Fromberg Council Meeting

March 10, 2025

PLEASE SIGN IN
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- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1. JERRY HALL | 13. |
| 2. Sandy Bauwens | 14. |
| 3. Kevin Bauwens | 15. |
| 4. Eileen Birtley | 16. |
| 5. | 17. |
| 6. | 18. |
| 7. | 19. |
| 8. | 20. |
| 9. | 21. |
| 10. | 22. |
| 11. | 23. |
| 12. | 24. |

Aaron Muhs
Commissioner Scott Miller
Shane McKeever
Tom Warren + Ben Walker TCT

FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MARCH 10, 2025

The March 10, 2025 meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm by Mayor Terry Feller. Other council members present were Robert Haseman, Nate Caton, Mike Ventling and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Sheriff, Jerry Hall, Elton Kirtley, Sandy Bauwens, Kristin Bauwens, Arron Muhs, Commissioner Scott Miller, Shane McKeever, Ben Walker and Tom Warren from TCT, Marcus Schutterle, Public Works and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. Shane McKeever shared his upcoming project on E. River Street, he will be put on the next agenda. Susan Bauwens asked about paving of Mine Spur Loop. Mayor Terry brought up paving other areas in town. Councilman Ventling stated that the asphalt plants are tentatively set to open on April 1st. Public Works asks about the width of the roads to be paved. Aaron Muhs commented on the overgrown tree on Carbon Avenue. Elton Kirtley brought up trucks parking near the park, maybe have this on a long-term planning plan for a small fee, or on our 40 acres, and have a policy in place for semi-trucks to park. Councilwomen Taylor commented about the safety implications of parking by the ball park. Mayor stated that closer to the railroad tracks might be good.

The next item on the agenda was correspondence. There was no correspondence.

Mayor/Council: Mayor Feller, updated the progress on Larry Richardson's house in the floodplain. He would like to check in with Dennison regarding conflict of interest if town equipment is used to help offset the costs. The basement has to be filled with 102 yds of gravel, approx. \$10,000, which leaves \$15,000 for the rest of the project, which the town might have to cover the rest of the costs. If Larry is out of compliance the whole town is out of compliance. It is up to Larry to choose his contractor; the contractor has to be licensed for Red Lodge to release the funds. Councilman Ventling suggested putting in a culvert/tunnel where the water could flow straight thru the flood gate openings. Councilwomen Taylor would like to work on a fireworks ordinance, this was brought up a year ago, she suggested conducting a 30-minute meeting before regular meeting due to number of possible residents showing up. She also recommended amending the ordinance for Mayor's four-year term, as the past two obligations have not been filled, and changed back to two-year term. Bridger, Joliet, and Red Lodge all have two-year terms. Councilwomen Taylor is looking into one more grant for the Town Hall roof and siding, and it's easy enough to get a loan for the roof and siding replacement, possibly an InterCap Loan through Board Investment MT. com. Dick Taylor a retired building inspector looked at the roof and he suggested checking with Darryl Abby current building inspector if a permit is required for siding, he also recommend working with the Amish with steel siding, and we will need commercial bids for the roof. Mayor Feller will get caulking for the roof, so Public Works can make the temporary fix.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Sherriff reported 67 hours, 20 minutes of Fromberg patrol time from February 20, 2025 thru March 8, 2025. 33 hours and 54 minutes calls for service in the Town limits, 101 hours 14 minutes total time. No questions

Special events applications were next on the agenda. There were no special events applications.

TCT (Tri County Telephone) Fiber Optic Cable: Dennison is out with a family emergency and Franchise Agreement is still in the works. Councilwomen Taylor brought a map to ask about the tennis courts and placement of switch terminal. The size reference is two 4-drawer file cabinets put together with a passive system, no electricity. Ben asked about a storage area and they offered to pay for a space to store materials, the

burn pit area was suggested. Sandy Bauwens had a question about fiber optic coming to the property, Ben replied that the property owner would need to decide if they want it, they will put door hangers out and get approval from property owners to access their property. There will be no charge at this initial phase, if a resident wants fiber optic later, they might be charged for the drop to the house. Councilman Ventling had a few questions. Most lines will be underground. Motion to table for a special meeting or next meeting till we can get with Dennison about the Franchise Agreement was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion tabled.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda: There was an application from the school for an FFA Barn. Councilwomen Taylor shared that she will save us some time, it is not on City property, it's on County property. No need for further discussion.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next of the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor regarding Shane McKeever, we need to talk with Dennison, currently on plot map the project is in "B" district, need to make it Residential "A". This will go on next agenda, but checking with Dennison. Councilman Haseman, had a few questions. Mayor Terry suggested having a special meeting for this item, and we will need to contact who this affects. Shane McKeever is ready to go. Councilman Caton will have to abstain and they will need a quorum to vote on this item. Motion to approve the minutes for committee meeting. Elton Kirkley asked about timing for notifications, maybe check the new ordinance. Councilwomen Taylor stated that it's covered under Montana Annotated and Dennison knows how to proceed. Our ordinances do not cover changing districts and this will be district change. Motion to approve the minutes for committee meeting minutes 3-1-25 was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, Councilwomen Taylor--abstain. Motion carried.

Old business was next on the agenda.

Burn Pit Progress. Mayor Feller gave an overview of last month's discussion about covering the town's costs to manage the burn pit. Councilman Ventling and Sandy Bauwens didn't feel people outside of town should be able to use burn pit. Suggestions: weekend hours, get permit from town clerk, maybe ½ day during the week, get a calendar up, put a notice out which days are available to dump, tree contractors would have a larger fee to dump, volunteers will be needed for the weekends, volunteers dump for free, \$ 3.00 a pickup load, \$6.00 for a trailer load, and 4" branches allowed, every month will be different depending on volunteers, put names on tickets to track who/what's being dumped and Fire Department does the control burn. A motion was made by Councilwomen Taylor to amended the resolution, seconded by Councilman Haseman. Amend the current Resolution, then vote at next meeting.

Open a Public hearing: Mayor Feller read Amendment to Ordinance #257, second reading. Elton Kirkley asked what if you don't have a curb stop? Does this mean I have to have to pay to have a curb stop put it? I am not the only one that doesn't have a curb-stop. Mayor Feller wants to find out who will be affected by this amended ordinance and come up with a solution for them. Who doesn't have curb stops? Look at past COP construction maps. Motion to table # 257 made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye, and Councilwomen Taylor--aye. Motion carried.

Proposed Utility Application Form: Discussion was had about late letter fee. Councilwomen Tayer stated that Ordinances have to be adjusted before application goes into effect. Move to accept the utility application with amended late letter fee by Councilwomen Taylor after the ordinances have been changed, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye, and Councilwomen Taylor--aye. Motion carried.

Where/how to spend the \$25,000 donations from Stillwater Mines, and Wheaton Precious Metals made in 2022. Councilwomen Taylor stated it's for the use of the whole community and no money goes into our park funds. More discussion was had. Motion to move \$25,000 out of the General Fund into the Parks fund was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Ventling. Councilman Haseman asked about using the money for the ditch in front of the Post office, more discussion was had. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – nay, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye, and Councilwomen Taylor--aye. Motion carried.

Proposed additions to Zoning Permit Application: Add email address to application, Travel trailers are permitted in Residential "B", Aaron Muhs gave his account of approval given for his trailer and council talked about the trailer at his property by the school. Councilwomen Taylor stated that it should have had a zoning permit form. Propane tanks were brought up, MDU is our service provider by our ordinances and MDU is responsible if a disaster happens and they will payout and we shouldn't have propane tanks stated Councilwomen Taylor. Mayor Feller stated that we should get the attorney's take on the matter and there is a place where travel trailers are permitted. Add Floodplain box to zoning permit application, Mayor shared how he has to document conversation in the Floodplain, and if one person is out of compliance, everyone is out of compliance. Discussion was had about adding a zoning fee. Mayor turned it over to Scott Miller, he stated if it's not in an ordinance then the application is irrelevant if no law is backing it up. Councilman Haseman brought up a new fence in the floodplain, they will need to be in compliance. Move to table zoning permit application till next meeting by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye, and Councilwomen Taylor--aye. Motion carried.

New business was next on the agenda.

Open a Public hearing for first reading of Amended Ordinance #525 to change the meeting date to the second Thursday of the month. It was decided that everyone understood the reason for the change. Councilman Caton asked if we could start the meeting at 6 pm. We will need to check with Dennison about the change of time. Motion was made by Councilwomen Taylor to accept Ordinance #525, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton– aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Approval to keep loans open to help the town pay for the Federal Single audit, and financial audit for SRF loans. Motion to keep the loans open for the audits was made by Councilman Caton, and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – nay, Councilman Caton– aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Mayor Feller shared that he pulled 10 years of bank records, which he donated that money to pay for the copies. The records are available to the public. Valley Federal is not part of it. With Dennison's approval they are available to the public, as long as they stay in the building.

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the changes to the minutes to remove Councilman Ventling and replace with Councilman Caton was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton--aye, Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling-aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

Town Attorney Dennison Butler had not present.

Public Works discussed repairs to Lover's Lane with cold patch, or Mayor Feller is it more economical to use hot patch, and save cold patch for small repairs. Marc can work on getting prices. Mayor Feller asked if Mark Seyler had been in contact for tapping into sewer and water lines? Mayor had called Bridger to see if they had a vault for digging trenches, they do not, dig it wider for safety. Marc asked, who is going to pay for the hydrant up on Carbon Avenue that got ran over? Person responsible should present it to their own insurance. Councilwomen Taylor stated to add labor and equipment to the costs to the price of the repairs. Marcus asked about the per diem rate for travel, Councilman Ventling stated that when he went to school, he turned in his receipts and was reimbursed, and track mileage at .70 cents per mile. Talked about the railing across the street by the ditch approximately \$3,500.00 for angle iron. Councilwomen Taylor stated that MMIA wants us to do something, she is concerned about the children wanting to swing on a railing, maybe a grate of some sort? Discussed if new owner purchasing Harley's house will want to use the ditch, they are responsible to maintain the ditch. Will have to see if the water rights have been paid, leave it up to the new owners, the pipe under highway is collapsed, as well as, there is a problem at the museum too. Commissioner Scott Miller stated that the new owner is Erik Erickson and he is a Vet, and Marc said there is a well on the property. The ballfield will be sprayed twice this year for weeds. DMR's are all entered. Mayor stated no pressure on passing your wastewater test, but they will delete all the fines if you pass your test. No pressure! Councilwomen Taylor asked about the meter status, he has been working on repairing other items. Still have 55-60 meters to replace. Councilman Haseman stated that if he has a passing score, he is due a raise of \$4.00 per hour, he carries a lot of responsibility. Mayor agreed to look into a raise, since he would be holding the licenses.

Town Clerk Auch reported the utility billing balance to date is \$ 178,629, current due is \$ 29,551. Billed out \$41,263 for February 2025. Promise to Pay-to-date are 5-current, 1-current owner is paying past-due bill, and 6-past due. Three haven't paid, all fees should be put back on bill and shut-off. A journal voucher will be ready for approval at next months meeting to bring bank reconciliation to zero.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Caton, and seconded Councilman Ventling. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Ventling-aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourned at 9:25 pm


Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:


Michele Auch, Town Clerk

Town of Fromberg
Council Meeting
Rescheduled



February 10, 2025
18th

PLEASE SIGN IN

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|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. <i>Jerpy Hall</i> | 13. |
| 2. <i>Dan Auch</i> | 14. |
| 3. <i>MARK seyler</i> | 15. |
| 4. <i>Sandy Bauwens</i> | 16. |
| 5. <i>Elton Birtley</i> | 17. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2025**

The February 18, 2025 meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by Mayor Terry Feller. Other council members present were Robert Haseman, Nate Caton and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Dennison Butler, Attorney; Dan Wildin, Sheriff; Dan Auch, Jerry Hall, Marge Taylor, Elton Kirtley, Sandy Bauwens, Mark Sayler, Ben Walker and Tom Warren from TCT and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. Elton Kirtley asked about a plan for flooding.

The next item on the agenda was correspondence. Mayor read highlights from MMIA letter aloud on how to interact with the community.

Mayor/Council: Councilwomen Taylor had one item regarding getting bids for new roof and siding on Town Hall. There is a Grant available around August or October with a 25% match and suggested that we have a Grant writers help, as the town cannot afford a new building. The mayor asked if the community could come together and fix the roof, but Dennison stated that being a Commercial Building a License contractor would have to be involved. Marge Taylor also mentioned neighbors tree rubbing on the building too.

Sherriff department report was next on the agenda. Sherriff Dan Wildin reported 92 hours, 46 minutes of Fromberg patrol January 20, 2024 thru February 18, 2025. 32 calls for service in the Town limits, 64 hours and 6 minutes of patrol time and 28 hours and 40 minutes for 32 calls for service. Wide variety of calls, same as last month, it's a quite time of year.

Special events applications were next on the agenda. There were no special events applications.

TCT (Tri County Telephone) Fiber Optic Cable presented next. They had presented to the town about 1-11/2 years ago, Ben passed out documentation and maps of the project and they have received a grant to move fiber optic to the town. TCT will need a franchise agreement with the town, which grants them access to the town right of ways, and in return they will pay a percentage of yearly gross to the town. They brought maps of the design, most of the lines will be either bored or plowed and Ben stated that their contractor has a good reputation. Mayor asked how long the project would take? Most likely a couple of months, and they would like to start in the Spring. Jerry Hall asked why it has taken so long to come back to the town for the project? They ran into issues with the state and with it being a grant and was out of their hands. Their current design is trying to keep it mostly in the alley ways. Elton Kirtley asked if they are bringing it directly to the homes? Ben stated that they are using new technology which is faster and better. Dan Auch asked what the projected costs might be? Information they provided can be obtained in the Town Office. Dennison said that he had looked over the agreement, and had one issue that he had identified. Mayor stated that we should at least notify the community and get their input. A junction box will be requiring a large 10x10 hole, they suggested the park for the junction box. Councilwomen, Taylor would like another place decided on. The Burn Pit Area or Mine Spur Loop was also suggested. Motion was made to put on the next meeting agenda by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. Mark Seyler's application was next on the agenda. Dennison confirmed that the variance was for residential and commercial. Mayor stated that Mark meets all the off sets and Mark will be making \$150,000-\$200,000 investment, a lot of that being product. Mayor

gave an overview of where the project was taking place, the building will be 16'x 56' with a porch, it will have a living quarter and a store front to sell some goods. It will be on skids instead of foundation, with a road base pad, then stick built. The building could be moved, but it would be very expensive. Councilman Hasman asked what he would be selling? It will have freezer, cooler, maybe packaged beer, hamburger, can goods etc. Mayor stated that he has the required signatures to push the variance through. Mayor asked if the citizens have questions? Marge Taylor asked about parking, handicap accessible, being that it is new build? Dennison stated that the decision is not how it will be built, but about the variance. If its allowed and approved he would still need to abide by building codes with the State of Montana and ADA requirements, but that's not for the city to require. Elton Kirtley stated that "C" zone anything goes, it is basically a stick build modular, very fair for him to follow for a stick built, and set-up without a permanent foundation. Dennison talked about what a permanent foundation is, a term of art. There are a lot of permanent foundations that are not concrete, where things go into the ground to anchor the building, that is considered a permanent foundation, being tied into the ground. Councilwomen Taylor stated that residential homes need to be built on a concrete pad or foundation. She is concerned that it is not zoned this way and opens us up to a can of worms. Dennison stated that zoning needs to be updated, and more specific. Variances are an exception to the rule. Dan Auch has two questions? Can he, do it? The 'how' is up to the state? How deep does the town what to get into the "how"? Mayor stated he is building a modular stick-built house without a foundation. Councilman Haseman stated if he anchors it, it should be ok. Councilman Caton, it's one of the last commercial spots someone could come in and build a greenhouse which wouldn't be on a foundation, run a food stand, Councilwomen Taylor stated that this will be residential, that is where we fall into. If someone comes into wanting to build their home on skids, we leave ourselves open. Dennison restated that residential requires a permanent foundation, permanent foundation piece can look like a lot of different things. If this council grants this variance, its sets a precedent moving forward. A motion was made to accept the variance with conditions that it meets Montana State Codes and some sort of anchors in the ground by Councilman Caton, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next of the agenda. Mayor Nottingham had appointed Councilwomen Taylor to the Zoning Ordinance Committee, but wasn't previously voted on. Councilwomen Taylor stated that the Committee will bring recommendations to Dennison, there will be minutes, etc., the mayor is the Administrator of the newly combined Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee. A motion was made by Councilman Caton to accept Councilwomen Taylor appointment to the committee, seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor –abstain. Mayor further stated that we have a verbal Yes from Dan Auch, Elton Kirtley, and Aaron Muhs. Also, an email Yes from Ron Euerle for combining duties with Zoning and Floodplain Ordinance Committee. A motion was made to accept more duties by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Old business was next on the agenda.

Burn Pit progress and Resolution needed. We do have a passed resolution with rules, but it will need to be amended if fees are involved. Mayor Terry thought that maybe we charge to burn, they would come into the office for a ticket for a pickup load. We already have money invested in the burn pit, so why not charge to at least to break even. Another option would be to charge contactors to dump larger pieces of wood/logs so the community could cut wood, volunteers needed, schedule for days open, compost & mulch area, and other ideas were tossed around. Jerry Hall stated that if you are a volunteer, you should be able to dump for free. Dennison stated that an amendment to the current Resolution would need to be made to add a fee-based approach, and

volunteers won't be charged, it will need to be passed by the Council and followed. The motion was made by Councilwomen Taylor to amended the resolution, seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Mayor stated this is tabled, until a plan on how to attack this and make some money on it.

#539 Amended Resolution to combine Zoning Ordinance Committee with Floodplain Ordinance Committee Councilwomen Taylor motioned to approve #539 Amended, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

New business was next on the agenda.

Setting up a separate banking account for Park Funds of \$25,000, \$12,500 donated by Stillwater Mines, and \$12,500 from Wheaton Precious Metals after the 2022 floods. Councilwomen Taylor stated that it was understood that the funds be used for the community as a whole. Councilman Caton was at the meeting and confirmed it was supposed to be used for the community, not for roads. Councilman Caton said that Wheaton was told that the majority of the funds were going to the Parks and they were good with that. Passed history was shared. Councilman Haseman brought up could the money be used for a barrier at the drainage ditch by the post office? Dennison stated that any funds, lands, assets donated to a governmental organization has to follow the terms of the grant, so however it donated that's what needs to be followed. Councilman Haseman brought up questions about the ditch, and water in basements. Marge Taylor shared her experience. Councilman Caton moved to put the \$25,000 into its own account out of the general fund and then put it back on the agenda next month on where to spend the money. Seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – nay, Councilman ~~Ventling~~ Caton– aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion carries

Need approval to add Mayor Terry Feller to the Valley Credit Union Accounts. Councilman Caton moved to put Terry Feller as a signer on the accounts, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman ~~Ventling~~ Caton– aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Amend the Ordinance #257 to clear things up, Mayor read the Ordinance outloud. Councilwoman Taylor moved to accept the Amendment to Ordinance #257, seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Dennison said that since it's an Ordinance it requires a Public Hearing, opened it up to a Public Hearing at this point. Mark Seyler had questions how this applies to his situation. Councilwomen Taylor, stated that past practice homeowners paid for tapping fee and costs of supplies. Councilman Caton, stated you don't pay for town infrastructure. Mayor will get a much better answer for Mark moving forward.

Mayor circled back to Valley Federal Credit Union, that the money was for a water bond and Valley Federal was originally in the Town of Fromberg. We are checking to see if the Bank of Bridger will match the interest rate on CD's and then all the accounts can be moved to Bank of Bridger.

Councilwomen Taylor had a question for Dennison on an Ordinance, was this supposed to be posted 30 days prior to discussing it. Dennison replied that it cannot be passed today; it requires two readings with Public Hearing. Elton Kirtley brought up some past history on postings.

Motion to approve to have Amended Ordinance #257 at the next meeting for approval made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman ~~Ventling~~ Caton – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Deposit amount and guidelines for new utility users was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor recommended a \$200 deposit that goes into a separate bank account, once in good standing for a year resident could get their deposit back. We currently are at 120 days before water is shut off, referenced Joliet, Cody WY, and others for their procedures. It was suggested that 35 days past your bill, you are getting a shut off notice that will cost \$30.00 as it costs money to hand out door hangers. Mayor's only problem is that water bills are not sent out timely. Once a year deal with the clerk can be made would require paying current bill in full and ½ of bill that was behind. Otherwise, it's a shut off. Mayor stated that our loans and grants are based on water/sewer revenue coming in, if not, we don't qualify. Current Ordinance says 120 days, need to come up with a plan. Mayor shared that a citizen proposed: can we send our bills to a collection agency? Dennison stated that we can if written and followed, also that water bills follow the landowners per Montana State Law. More discussion about collections, liens, and past practice history was had. Mayor asked if there is a state law that has a compliance date set, look at power companies for their grace periods and bring some hard numbers to the next meeting. Councilwomen Taylor moved to table this item till the next meeting, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Changing the day of Town meeting was next since it conflicts with the School Board meetings since and both are important for the Town. What works best for Dennison as his attendance is most important. This change will require two readings for an amended Ordinance. Clerk Michele stated that a later meeting would be better for all the bills to be collected and paid. Second Thursday of the month was decided on. We will have this topic on the next meeting agenda.

Proposed additions to Zoning Permit Application. Items discussed: Travel trailers are only permitted in Residential "B" District, if in violation Dennison sends out letters and fees if they apply. This should be discussed with the new zoning/floodplain committee. Councilwomen Taylor, we need to make these changes to the current zoning permit application to be in compliance with Floodplain Regulations. Dennison will look into a fee for Zoning Permit Application, actual resolution or ordinance to accept. Discussion was had about fees. No vote needed.

Approve Marcus to attend Montana Rural Water System 45th Conference March 12th-14th in Great Falls. Councilwomen Taylor moved to accept Marcus going to Montana Rural Water, Seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman ~~Ventling~~ Caton – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Councilman Haseman asked if the Town pays. YES

Approve Michele to attend Clerk School May 4-8, 2025 Butte, MT. Councilwomen Taylor Motioned to deny Michele to go to clerk school so she can apply for a scholarship, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman ~~Ventling~~ Caton – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. There are two scholarships available.

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Caton. No discussion. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton--aye, Councilman Haseman – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

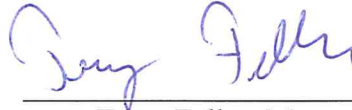
Town Attorney Dennison Butler had nothing to report but was open to questions.

Public Works Director Schutterle was not present, plowed snow all day. Mayor did ask Marcus about the snow piles.

Town Clerk Auch reported that Councilwomen Taylor had asked about the street lights, they have been changed to LED in March 2020. The Utility billing balance to date is \$ 160,731, current due is \$ 16,578. Billed out \$37,707 for January 2025. Promise to Pay-to-date are 13 total, 6-current, 1-new, and 6-past due.

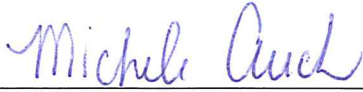
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Caton, and seconded Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Caton--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourned at 9:10 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

FROMBERG PATROL TIME: 64 HOURS 6 MINUTES

FROMBERG TIME ON CALLS FOR SERVICE: 28 HOURS 40 MINUTES

TOTAL TIME: 92 HOURS 46 MINUTES



CARBON COUNTY SHERIFF

102 Broadway Ave. North
PO Box 230
Red Lodge, Montana 59068
(406) 446-1234

Fromberg CFS (CCSO) ALL

Printed on February 18, 2025

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Description	Street	Latitude	Longitude
01/20/25 22:42	CFS202500607	Repossession	CARBON STREET	45.390773	-108.909065
01/22/25 13:29	CFS202500657	Gas Leak	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.395345	-108.906050
01/23/25 08:01	CFS202500672	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/24/25 08:31	CFS202500708	Animal	HIGHWAY AVENUE S	45.391799	-108.907314
01/24/25 22:10	CFS202500735	Traffic Stop	NORTH STREET	45.394157	-108.906720
01/25/25 11:05	CFS202500747	Area Check	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/25/25 12:33	CFS202500751	Special Event	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/26/25 23:46	CFS202500802	911 Misdial	BARTLETT AVENUE	45.391178	-108.914532
01/27/25 14:34	CFS202500815	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/31/25 09:34	CFS202500944	Scams	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/31/25 16:45	CFS202500958	Special Event	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/31/25 17:30	CFS202500959	Special Event	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/04/25 08:31	CFS202501065	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/04/25 11:55	CFS202501073	Welfare Check	THIRD AVENUE	45.389820	-108.902591
02/04/25 12:50	CFS202501074	Medical Emergency	CARBON STREET	45.390611	-108.910203
02/04/25 20:25	CFS202501088	911	3RD AVE	45.389820	-108.902591
02/05/25 12:13	CFS202501105	Citizen Assist	THIRD AVENUE	45.389820	-108.902591
02/05/25 12:56	CFS202501107	Civil Standby	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.393035	-108.906759
02/06/25 08:45	CFS202501137	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/06/25 21:09	CFS202501159	Traffic Stop	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.395345	-108.906050
02/10/25 08:00	CFS202501251	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/11/25 21:48	CFS202501300	Medical Emergency	THIRD AVENUE	45.389820	-108.902591
02/12/25 09:31	CFS202501311	Sex Offense	CARBON STREET	45.390611	-108.910203
02/12/25 10:16	CFS202501313	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/12/25 20:56	CFS202501326	Traffic Stop		45.393905	-108.906547
02/13/25 12:38	CFS202501340	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/13/25 16:55	CFS202501351	Special Event	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/15/25 05:54	CFS202501395	Medical Emergency	CARBON ST	45.390944	-108.916427
02/15/25 07:23	CFS202501396	Medical Emergency	MONTANA AVENUE S	45.390666	-108.909122
02/17/25 11:15	CFS202501453	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
02/18/25 09:45	CFS202501474	Assist	SCHOOL STREET	45.393104	-108.908763
02/18/25 11:48	CFS202501481	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062

Total Records: 32

Town of Fromberg
Council Meeting

January 13, 2025

PLEASE SIGN IN

Please Print Names



- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 1. Dan Auch ✓ | 13. |
| 2. William Hatt ✓ | 14. |
| 3. Kelly Schanen ✓ | 15. |
| 4. Elton Kirtley ✓ | 16. |
| 5. Mary Galar ✓ | 17. |
| 6. Nick Elliott ✓ | 18. |
| 7. Mark Searcy ✓ | 19. |
| 8. Richard Shanks ✓ | 20. |
| 9. Reece Shanks ✓ | 21. |
| 10. Chad Hanson, GWE ✓ | 22. |
| 11. Cyril Hergenrider ✓ | 23. |
| 12. | 24. |

**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2025**

The January 13, 2025 meeting of the Fromberg Town Council was held at 118 W River Street in Fromberg, MT. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Interim Mayor Nate Caton. Other council members present were Robert Haseman, Michael Ventling and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Dennison Butler, Attorney; Dan Wildin, Sheriff; Dan Auch, Jerry Hall, Marge Taylor, Elton Kirtley, Niki Elliott, Cyrill Hergenrider, Kelly Scharen, Mark Saylor, Chad Hanson from Great West Engineering, Richard and Renee Shanks, Marcus and Nicole Schutterle and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. There was no public comment.

The next item on the agenda was correspondence. There was no correspondence.

Update of the Water and Sewer project was next. Chad Hanson from Great West Engineering reported that the check valves for the vault by the tanks were installed on Friday the 13th and had substantially completed the project on December 16th, 2024. Item on the punch list was clean-up by the sewer lagoons, and Mark checked on the status for Chad before it snowed. At this time, they are doing the project and grant close-outs. Looks like the water project side is coming in \$26,000 lower, and sewer \$82,500 under budget and engineering \$ 50,000 under, which was moved to construction, the budget came in good. Councilwomen, Taylor stated that she had great feedback from the town residents and to let COP Construction know how happy we were. Chad thought that the project went very well, they found lots of surprises on Mine Spur Loop and Woppler Way down past reezy's house. Overall, the project went pretty smoothly.

Mayor/Council: Councilwomen Taylor had one item regarding establishing a deposit on water bills and only being 60 days out, would need to have a new ordinance. She would like to have this item on the next town meeting. The money goes into a separate account, and the residents are responsible to get their deposits back, not the clerk's responsibility.

Mayor Applicants and Appointment was next on the agenda. Interim Mayor Nate Caton read aloud the letters from applicant Terry Feller and Richard Shanks. Opened to the public for comment: Councilman Haseman asked Richard Shanks about his past work, thought the town needed help. Councilman Haseman asked about the town's problems. Interim Mayor stated that Terry Feller was unable to attend meeting due to his work schedule. Open to council to discuss. Mike Ventling thought it would be beneficial to have someone with past experience as Mayor. Mike Ventling nominated Terry Feller to finish out the mayor's term till the end of the year. Motion was seconded by Councilwomen Tammy Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion passed.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Sheriff Dan Wildin reported 63 hours, 20 minutes of Fromberg patrol December 16, 2024 thru January 13, 2025. Calls for service in the Town limits, 16 hours and 23 minutes. 24, total records. Wide variety of calls, nothing violent or property crimes.

Special events applications were next on the agenda. There were no special events applications.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. Mark Seyler's application was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor had a problem with the map he submitted, didn't represent the triangle. Mark stated that its 70' from the highway, 30' from North Street, 4' from telephone pole which is 6 ½ 'from the alley. There is no easement recorded for the alley. Councilwomen Taylor stated that the alley is plotted out on the town map.

Councilman Mike Ventling asked if it had been surveyed. Mark mentioned Marc and Liza. Mark showed the proposed building site. Mark showed that he owed the alley, there are no recorded easements, he is working with Northwestern Energy granting them easement to the alley. Past propane tanks were sitting in the alley, it never was really an alley. Dennison stated to get a copy of the Title commitment and it would say if there is an easement or not. Councilwomen Taylor cannot make a decision without the proper information. Mark discussed the power poles. Councilwomen Taylor stated that with a variance, not all residence were contacted within the 300', will need Jerry Hall, Laurie Gunther, John Ross, and possibly others. Councilwomen Taylor has another issue being a commercial lot, Amish build with no foundation. Interim Mayor Caton stated if this is addressed in our ordinances. Mark stated he will not pull a permit with the State until he has approval. Interim Mayor stated what's the difference between a coffee house or food truck. Councilwomen Taylor follows what the attorney says. Councilman Ventling stated a previous person paved in the highway right away. Mark won't be as close to other buildings in town, its more than 70' to the state right away. The variance is for a dual-purpose building. Councilwomen Taylor stated that gives us a place to start. Dennison stated that everything is laid out in the Ordinance. The clerk and recorder in Red Lodge should have this information, but Dennison will not be doing the work to find out. Department of Transportation should have a good map. Marc showed pictures of what the building will look like. Councilwomen Taylor said to include the picture of the building. Interim Mayor Caton wants the town to prepare him a list of things to provide moving forward. Mark could not find any survey pins, please confirm. List includes: Signatures, picture-map, pins, clerk & recorder.

Board Appointments for Historic Preservation and Planning Board. Councilman Haseman had question regarding these positions. Councilwoman Taylor stated that these positions are to represent our town so we have a voice, it's a volunteer position. Councilman Ventling stated that this position is to help preserve the history of the area. This position has nothing to do with building/restoration of historic buildings that goes to the State. Interim Mayor Nate read aloud Kelle Ventling's letter of interest. Councilwomen Taylor moved to appoint Kelle Ventling to Historic Preservation, Councilman Ventling seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion carries. Councilman Ventling checked with Dennison to see if there would be any conflict of interest. There is none per Dennison. Dan Auch was the applicant for the Planning Board. Interim Mayor read Dan Auch application out loud. Councilwomen Taylor move to accept the position of Planning Board. Councilman Haseman had question about this position. Councilwomen Taylor shared information about the position inside of Carbon County. Council Ventling seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Zoning Ordinance Committee Applicants. Councilwomen Taylor stated that Dennison designed it to have five members, one council member has to be assigned to it and basically dealing with the map. Dennison stated that it will be tied to the variance, zoning, it just needs to be updated. The town has zones for residential, commercial, and mobile home park. Go back through the ordinances, update maps, get a cross section of the town. We have Resolution in place for the Zoning Ordinance Committee. Mayor Tim Nottingham had appointed Councilwomen Taylor since she knows the maps, but it wasn't voted on. Mike Ventling moved to appoint, Elton Kirtley, Dan Auch, Ron Euerle and Aaron Muhs to the Zoning Ordinance Committee, Councilwomen Taylor seconded. Council Haseman had questions for Dan Auch. Elton Kirtley stated that any information Dan received from the Planning Board would only benefit the Zoning Ordinance Committee. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Old business was next on the agenda. There was no old business.

New business was next on the agenda.

Burn pit was first item of new business. Councilwomen Taylor stated that we need a no trespassing sign. Mike Ventling stated that several persons were dumping from out of town. We need a 2'x 4' sign that can be made in Joliet for \$160 and vinyl lettering can be done with the rules on it. Tammy will volunteer two Saturday's a month for 4 hours, hoping for more volunteers. Have the clerk advertise on Facebook when the burn pit is opened. Cyrill Hergenrider asked how will renters get notified that don't receive a water bill. Councilwomen Taylor motioned to vote to reopen burn pit when items are in place. Councilman Ventling seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Proposal for Resolution for Flood Plain Administration: Councilwomen Taylor called Shylea Wingard from Montana NFIP/CAP Floodplain Planner and we moved to the top of the bad list with FEMA. Floodplain has to be on the agenda at all times moving forward. Prior to the Flood, we had no Floodplain Administrator. They would like to see 3-5 individuals to administer the floodplain administration. Will need a resolution. Move to have a resolution for floodplain administration. Councilman Haseman had a few questions, it's a volunteer position, not paid. Councilman Ventling seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Councilwomen Taylor motioned that our Floodplain Ordinances be updated, Dennison can update them. Seconded by Councilman Haseman. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion carries.

Small grant opportunity for park tree removal and replacement. Councilwomen Taylor met a woman who does grants and she was contacted about the grant per email. Have to fill out grant application. Councilwomen Taylor moved to apply for small tree grant, seconded by Councilman Ventling. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion carries.

Snow plowing was next on the agenda. Councilman Ventling was concerned about the plowing on the railroad tracks. On heavy/windy days to have Marcus's schedule start early to address the railroad tracks, it has been a problem for many years. Snow pile on Main Street be moved as the kids play on it, and kids have almost been hit, when time permits move snow pile to another spot. Marcus stated that the kids are playing on it while snow is being moved, double check always. Comments about town truck with snow plow was sold at some point. Dangerous conditions a rise on the train tracks, hit it early with plowing.

Mountain View Major Subdivision. Interim Mayor Caton shared his knowledge of the plan for future project. Financial contribution either for the park or a Four Acres Park in the subdivision provided by the developer. Fire department might also receive funds in the future. Councilman Ventling, asked about water, Clerk Michele stated that they will have wells. Chad Hanson stated that money would be provided for the parks and would have to be for capital improvements. Developers are asking for what the town's concerns are moving forward. 1. Wells and Aquifers 2. Traffic at tracks, radius for semi-trucks and more traffic in general.

The consent agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Ventling. No discussion. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton--aye, Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

Town Attorney Dennison Butler had nothing to report but was open to questions.

Public Works Director Schutterle reported he is still waiting on parts for bulk water and meter. Might have to pick-up parts. He needs some parts for the sewer plant. Burn permit sign were put up, and no trespassing sign was put up. Marcus asked about the fencing issue. Councilman Ventling asked about blocks with wire in between instead of fencing. people are driving thru Vargas's property, put up a camera afraid someone might steal. Marcus is still on light duty. Diesel tank on grader he would like to install electric transfer pump for filling. Councilman Ventling asked about Waste Water License. Can no longer take test in Billings due to cheating. There is one in Helena, they did a review class in town, he would like more study time. DEQ has the fine for \$250 per month for not having a current licensed operator. DMRs one was late from Marcus, four were late before him back to 2020. Our DMRs are current, Roger Skogen from Montana Rural Water has worked on sampling plan that has been submitted, and Marcus asked for extension on Lead Service Line Project. Smoke test will be done in the spring. Councilwomen Taylor asked about how many meters are not working. Consistently 60, how many still under warranty. Radio reads would still be under warranty. Will need to do a 24-hour notice or blue hangers to change out meters. Cell towers is very expensive. Reading problems, move outside to meter pits, numbers vary, sometimes read. Councilwomen Taylor, trailer park does not have meters, it has one curb-stop. Something to address with new Mayor. Councilman Ventling stated they used to have two meters.

Town Clerk Auch reported that we did get conformation that HB355 had been awarded for the paving of Mine Spur both North and South and some of West River Road, grant approx. \$34,000 our match approx. \$11,000. The building between 119 and 117 West River Road now has an address of 117 ½. The Utility billing for December was \$37,578, balance to date is \$ 164,238.00, 89 accounts past due between 30-120 days as of the 1/9/25, as of 1/13/25 received another 5,548.00. Promise to Pay-to-date are 13 total, 2 paid in full, 6 overdue, 1 new, and 1 shut-off she came in a paid a little bit. Updating Minutes and Resolutions work in progress. Councilman Ventling asked if 6 past-due accounts were shut off, when Marcu hung door hangers, he was told they would come into pay, turn them off for non-payment.

Mayor stated that the next Regular meeting will be held on February 10th, 2025 7pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Ventling. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Haseman – aye, Councilman Ventling – aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourned at 8:41pm


Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:


Michele Auch, Town Clerk

FROMBERG PATROL TIME: 63 HOURS 20 MINUTES

FROMBERG TIME ON CALLS FOR SERVICE: 16 HOURS 23 MINUTES

TOTAL TIME: 79 HOURS 43 MINUTES



CARBON COUNTY SHERIFF

102 Broadway Ave. North
PO Box 230
Red Lodge, Montana 59068
(406) 446-1234

Fromberg CFS (CCSO) ALL

Printed on January 13, 2025

CFS Date/Time	CFS #	Description	Street	Latitude	Longitude
12/16/24 12:48	CFS202413781	Animal	SCHOOL STREET	45.393104	-108.908763
12/17/24 21:59	CFS202413840	Citizen Contact	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.393035	-108.906759
12/18/24 09:45	CFS202413857	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
12/18/24 13:11	CFS202413869	Animal	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.393035	-108.906759
12/21/24 16:37	CFS202414001	Suspicious	BILLINGS AVENUE	45.391106	-108.908124
12/23/24 15:37	CFS202414059	Crash - Non-Injury	BROADWAY AVENUE	45.391096	-108.907733
12/26/24 14:18	CFS202414128	911 Hang Up	HILL AVENUE	45.391493	-108.916850
12/27/24 03:06	CFS202414157	Area Check	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
12/27/24 22:03	CFS202414193	Area Check	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
12/30/24 10:12	CFS202414253	Medical Emergency	WEST RIVER STREET	45.392204	-108.913277
12/30/24 19:50	CFS202414276	Medical Emergency	CARBON STREET	45.390611	-108.910203
12/31/24 17:48	CFS202414304	Welfare Check	CARBON STREET	45.390584	-108.916049
12/31/24 20:45	CFS202414309	Fire Unknown	3RD AVE	45.388253	-108.902677
01/06/25 09:46	CFS202500115		SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/06/25 18:54	CFS202500136	Medical Emergency	MONTANA AVENUE	45.391169	-108.908736
01/07/25 20:11	CFS202500163	Traffic Stop	EAST RIVER STREET	45.391556	-108.905262
01/08/25 07:27	CFS202500172	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/08/25 08:17	CFS202500174	Disabled Vehicle	EAST RIVER STREET	45.391799	-108.907314
01/08/25 09:37	CFS202500178	Disabled Vehicle	MONTANA AVENUE S	45.391723	-108.909122
01/09/25 14:02	CFS202500212	Restraining Order	SAGE DRIVE	45.392495	-108.915567
01/09/25 18:36	CFS202500222	Animal	CACTUS DRIVE	45.392942	-108.913947
01/11/25 06:12	CFS202500273	Area Check	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062
01/12/25 23:44	CFS202500338	Robbery Alarm -	HIGHWAY AVENUE	45.395345	-108.906050
01/13/25 08:06	CFS202500346	School Resource	SCHOOL STREET	45.393158	-108.912062

Total Records: 24

Dan Wildin