

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

December 17, 2025

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. <u>Jerry Jerry Hall</u> | 13. |
| 2. <u>Brian Hinder</u> | 14. |
| 3. <u>Irwin Sankel</u> | 15. |
| 4. <u>Dana Lee</u> | 16. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2025**

On December 17, 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 6:28 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Nate Caton, Don Wilson, and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Dena Wilson, Jerry Hall, Brian Handel, Irwin Sankey, Ron Eurle and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. Gruels received letter from Attorney regarding 2nd Avenue, and the mayor never saw the letter. Bill and Rosie sent a letter of response, and the mayor read it out loud. The problem that the mayor has with the city alleys is the ex-president of the council owns a city alley, Jim Perkins got the alley half in 2011 and another half in 2017. Bill Kennedy has a street fence, which he really shouldn't, but he has the exact same right as Perkins does. Mayor pulled the contract with Republic Service and read a portion from the contract, Republic drives on Perkins property to pick up garbage for two other residents that the city does not own, and there has been a protective covenant for 124 years, so legally the garbage truck can't drive there. More conversation was had. Mike Ventling would like access off of 2nd as a pup and truck cannot make the corner off of third avenue unless we put in a 60' gate. Second street runs straight through, and I was asking to gain access back since its ours to begin with. Gruels were very upset about the treating letter to themselves and parents. Jerry Hall asked about the 3-minute rule. Dennison stated some things were left in the right-of-way, that is the reason for the letter. Sounds like the items on the right-of-way will be cleaned up, with a January 10th deadline.

Correspondence was next on the agenda. None

Mayor/Council was next on the agenda. None

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Fromberg patrol time since 17th of November was 67 hours, 43 minutes, calls for service, 18 hours 5 minutes, total patrol time 85 hours 48 minutes. Variety of calls range from school, civil, hit & run & lost pet.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. Brian Handel all wood fence. Councilwoman Taylor moved to approve Brian's all wood fence. Councilman Wilson seconded. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Brie Schindele singlewide trailer replacement. Single wide being removed and single wide going back in the same place. Jerry Hall asked about the year of the trailer. Councilwoman Taylor stated it's a 2012, in that zone it is supposed to be 15 years new and fits parameters. Councilwomen Taylor moved to approve Brie Schindele, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor shared that the committee meet today for zoning, they should be finished up soon. They have some questions for Dennison after the meeting. Mayor asked if we had heard about the new map. Councilwomen Taylor shared that they are out of the office with all the flooding happening. We have asked about the floodplain ordinance three times but haven't gotten it back yet from DNRC. Mayor also shared that the \$25,000 flood repair money for Larry Richardson expires on December 31, 2025.

Discussion/Decision for the clerk to become a Notary for the Town was next on the agenda. Everyone thought it was a great idea. Councilman Caton moved to approve Clerk Michele to become a notary for the town. Seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Clerk will check what the fees are for non-members at Bank of Bridger for notary.

Discussion/Decision for annual hardware support from Bert Kraft at \$480 per year starting January 1st, 2026, was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor moved to accept Bert Kraft for the annual contract. Seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision to submit speed limit reduction request to MDT was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor sent a letter to Nate first, submitted to MDT, responded quickly from engineer in Billings, will not cost us \$15,000, 70-45 speed is a no-no, and will be changed. It will take two years to make the change, it will be sent off to Helena for the speed study review, no cost. 35 through town will drop to 25 when school is in. She tried for the intersection with semi-trucks coming from East River Street to be changed, only if the highway gets reworked. Elton Kirtley asked about School Street being a County Road, it is our street. Elton Kirtley asked about the speed on school street, we need a 25-speed sign put up. Councilman Wilson shared how fast they drive on Mine Spur Loop. Mayor stated to look at what's in our sign inventory, and purchase what's needed. Jerry Hall shared that he didn't see a speed sign going towards Joliet passing the football field. Mayor thought we should think about annexing the football field into the Town and Norma Swecker.

Discussion/Decision to purchase a TV screen for the Town Hall meeting room was next on the agenda. Councilman Wilson wanted to set a budget, \$300-\$500 was decided on. Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to purchase TV screen, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision for Mike Ventling PWD has authority to cancel Google \$13.99 charge made by Marcus Schutterle past PWD was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor shared about the cameras; Clerk Michele hasn't been able to get the charge off. It was decided to sell the camera system that is in Town Hall. Councilwomen Taylor made a motion to remove camera and permission to cancel charge, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #530 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to prohibit public camping was next on the agenda. Mayor read out loud the first reading. Councilwomen Taylor moved to accept first reading of Ordinance #530, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

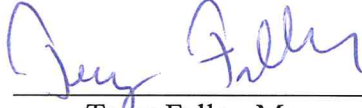
Ordinance #531 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg Governing the Use of Animals within the Town of Fromberg was next on the agenda. Mayor read out loud the first reading. Councilwoman Taylor moved to accept first reading of Ordinance #531, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Councilman Wilson had one question on the noise side of it, who enforces that? The Sheriff will talk to the owner; they may forward to the attorney. Dennison stated that you can record and share with the Sheriff, talk with neighbor to corroborate.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Mike Ventling gave his report, and the copy of report is in the office.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Michele Auch gave her report, and the copy of report is in the office.

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

Adjourn at 8:40 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

November 13 2025

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. JERRY HALL ✓ | 13. |
| 2. Sandy Bauwens ✓ | 14. |
| 3. Don Wilson | 15. |
| 4. Dena Wilson ✓ | 16. |
| 5. Elton Kintley ✓ | 17. |
| 6. Marg Tafar | 18. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 13, 2025**

On November 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 6:28 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Nate Caton, Don Wilson, Mike Ventling, and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Elton Kirtley, Sandy Bauwens, Dena Wilson, Jerry Hall, Marge Taylor and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. Elton Kirtley had a question about building a roof over his existing deck, would not need a zoning permit, since he's not changing the footprint. Marge Taylor wanted to know what was happening with the Nottingham investigation or if Red Lodge five was handling it?

Correspondence was next on the agenda. None

Mayor/Council: Councilwomen Taylor shared that MUCFA is \$60.00 to join, and they can help with our River Project to plant the 2,000 trees for free, and DNRC and MUCFA have to plant 10,000 trees per year. There are two things required to join MUCFA appoint a tree board, most Mayors appoint their council until they can fill the positions and have to adopt tree ordinances. The conditions of planting at the river were discussed further. A tour of Zoo Montana was offered to Councilwomen, Tammy and Clerk, Michele to take a look at good trees for the Town that would be on a smaller scale. Jerry Hall commented that he keeps being asked why our employees keep quitting. Mayor shared that Romeo was just overwhelmed, they became responsible to the government, and not a career for him. Councilman Wilson stated that there is a plan in place, move forward, and try and get the right person. Mayor stated that we had special meeting to raise wages to become competitive. Councilwoman Taylor shared what we had learned at school, and we are not the only community hurting with employees. Councilman Ventling shared that Dennis from Montana Rural Water handles the waterside, and Robin sewer side, testing is getting completed, and they have been doing cleaning along with Councilwoman Taylor and Michele. Mayor stated our #1 well was not working, and Ace electric found a blown fuse. Councilman Ventling said that #1 well is not 100% operational, there are some other issues, Dennis is doing some more testing. They will be coming next week, and the lagoons will be the top priority, our blowers are designed to run alternating between the three blowers, one blower is torn apart, other two have lots of hours as they are running 24/7 now, parts are on the pond banks that should be in the ponds. Councilman Wilson stated that at least we are heading in the right direction and not in the dark. Mayor shared that they will be bringing an Engineer from Vonn to look at our system. MRW would not be working with us if they did not see that the Town was making changes to the wages and we are making efforts to get on track. Kirtley had questions about the blowers, what happens if they quit? MRW is working with the manufacturers to check on the system, Councilman Ventling stated that once the DO Probes get back into the ponds and running correctly that will dramatically take the pressure off the blowers. Mayor asked about the #1 well mag for the pump, they were all good, wires too. More discussion was had about the well pumps. Councilman Wilson asked if we had gotten more trees bids. Not yet. Mayor thanked Tammy and Michele for cleaning up the big mess in the shop. Marge Taylor, this was for Nate, Jeremy had the shop immaculate!

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. No Sheriff

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. No updates

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. No updates

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: None

Old business was next on the agenda. Mayor shared that we received a letter from JAB Property who owns the trailer court and they wanted Karl out of the picture, his name was on the lien, and he is responsible for the lien. There is nothing that the Town can do regarding the liens, it's too late. We had someone show up in the office about their tax lien and there is nothing that can be done. A final decision needs to be made between meter pits or meters under trailers. Councilman Ventling stated moving forward we need to put meter pits in and owner runs new lines, Councilman Wilson and Councilwoman Taylor agree. Councilman Wilson and Councilman Caton agreed that we need to come with a new standard and move forward with meter pits. Councilwoman Taylor made a motion to do meter pits and meter loops with the understanding that we are hiring a new party, and we have the sewer lagoon, and water is first priority before installing these. Councilman Ventling shared we are going to have this meter pit project done in spring or summer of 2026. Mayor shared that it will be very costly for both parties, we have the meter pits, loops & meters. Councilman Wilson wanted to come up with a date for install weather permitting, May 15th, 2026, was chosen, weather permitting. Mayor, do we do this for everyone? Not for existing meters in houses, no, but if they have a water break then they will be replaced with a meter pit. Councilman Wilson, with new construction you will be getting a meter pit. Mayor, the trailer park has two-meter pits, more discussion was had on installation of meter pits, curb stops are before meter pits. Councilman Ventling, seconded by May 15 2026 start construction with meter pits in the trailer park. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Clerk Michele asked about the remaining balances owed, all balances remain per council.

New business was next on the agenda. Peak Water Services proposal for water & sewer services was next on the agenda, Mayor stated that we will table that. A motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor to table, seconded by Councilman Ventling. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion of new Animal Ordinance was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Taylor had amendments that were read aloud, changes and additions were discussed. Public Works will have a current list and put out notice to owners, if dogs are not licensed. Councilwoman Taylor was going to send updates to Dennison.

Discussion of changes to Personnel Policy regarding marijuana/vaping was next on the agenda. Move to accept the change to 7.7.20 no smoking and vaping by Councilwoman Taylor Council. Councilwoman Taylor mentioned drug testing, if it is smelled. Derrick Sheppard would like our Attorney's input on testing. Councilwoman Taylor moved to table until Dennison can look at drug testing. More discussion was had about the subject of marijuana testing and history of having marijuana plants.

Discussion/Decision on purchasing crosswalk signs and other signs for events ahead was next on the agenda. Look for cross walk signs in the shop, flashing speed signs are \$4,000.00 apiece and run on solar, purchase 2-state law signs big base with lights, clerk thought the road budget could handle the flashing speed signs, Sandy Bauwens asked about grant money towards speed signs, have Janna VanRooyen look at grant for speed signs, Elton Kirtley would like the lowering speed in through Town, Councilman Ventling stated that would take a state study as they have jurisdiction over the highways, Councilman Caton has concerns about the speed at his restaurant and the sheriff said that unless you have blood on the ground its going to take a speed study. Councilwoman Taylor shared that a speed study costs \$15,000, write to the department of transportation in the Billings area, have Nate send pictures too. Councilman Wilson asked if a study was needed for the flashing speed signs? We do not. Clerk to look into if gas tax funds could be used for flashing speed signs. Councilman Ventling

stated that public works could put out crosswalk signs in the morning and pull at night. Motion to table was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Change of internet provider from Century Link to TCT for Town Hall, Shop, Sewer Lagoons, Well House & Tanks (5) was next on the agenda. Councilman Ventling shared that Dennis, MRW; recommended to get internet to all systems. Clerk shared that TCT will run the fiber to the water storage tanks at no charge. Motion to move from Century Link to TCT was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Discussion/Decision on Town Shop Inventory and Sale of Equipment was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor stated that inventory might be needed for our audits, which clerk shared they will start in January. Councilman Ventling said they weren't needed in the past. Clerk to follow up with Nexus to see if needed. Councilman Wilson stated that it will be hard to identify all the parts, if you don't know what it is. Offers to help with inventory after December. Councilwomen Taylor said to subtract 1,000 sandbags from figure if we can find out how many were originally purchased, Nate has sandbags in his storage facility still, and he hasn't been compensated for, and possibly purchase pallet racks to get them off the shop floor. Councilman Wilson offered to help move the sandbags. Councilwomen Taylor-street sweeper was purchased with shot brushes. Councilman Ventling stated it will be nice if digging near a paved street, and it's a skid steer attachment. Cop car should go, has to go out for bid, has to go through a resolution and advertised, other skid steer possibility. Councilman Wilson, could all these items be sold and get a useable truck? Mayor shared that the truck is in the shop being fixed, we need a useable vehicle to run to town for water samples. The old mower was in the sewer plant that pulled the mower, need to see if it's usable and get it back to the shop. Gas power pump sitting outside, since it can't be stored in the sewer plant. Councilman Ventling thought that public works should get a list together for what to keep, get rid of, or out to bid. Photos of the filth were shared about the shop. Motion to table the inventory and sale was made by Councilman Wilson, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Discussion/Decision for purchasing well house & bulk water parts was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor had a question regarding the parts that were in the shop. Councilman Ventling shared that we have a 4" line and a 2" was purchased and will not work. Dennis got the correct parts; these are the needed parts. A motion to purchase parts was made by Councilwoman Taylor, seconded by Councilman Caton. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #530 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to prohibit public camping was next on the agenda. Did not receive an updated ordinance from Dennison. Motion to table was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

The Consent Agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows:

Councilman Caton—aye, Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Dennison was out sick.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Romeo and Tatum resigned on October 31, 2025. Mike Ventling interviewed for the Public Works Directors position and accepted, he is stepping down as Councilman. He will work on the lagoon first as it has the worst violations, he will be working with Montana Rural Water, MRW is working with DEQ to get them off to back off and reduce fines, and he will get his certification testing done ASAP. Mayor stated that we will need a part-time or full-time city person, as two people are needed to dig. Stateline Contractors shared with the mayor to check w/FEMA as pipes are starting to settle and break stuff from the flood, have clerk check with Annalee. Mayor looking at getting the equipment needed donated from the Mine. More discussion was had about the lagoons and wells, and hiring part-time or full-time, and benefits. Mike Ventling gave his official notice of resignation from the council.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. Clerk shared that we got Bank Rec on Black Mountain Software and started a garbage audit between Town records and Republic Services. MMIA is dropping worker's comp, and the Town will have to get a new company.

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

Adjourn at 8:15 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FROMBERG

Special

COUNCIL MEETING

October 29, 2025

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. Elton Kitley

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 29, 2025**

On October 29, 2025, a special meeting was held at Fromberg Town Hall, 118 W River Street in Fromberg. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Mayor Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Michael Ventling and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Dennis Eaton and Robin Franzen from Montana Rural Water; Elton Kirtley and Clerk Michele Auch.

Public Comment on Agenda item only: None

The only item on the agenda was discussion and approval of Resolution #546 to update the wage scale for the Town of Fromberg. Mayor read the resolution out loud. Councilwomen Taylor moved to amend the clerk to starting \$21.00 to \$35.00. So, we are in compliance as clerk isn't making \$25.00. Councilman Wilson has a question with the Public Works being at \$35.00 is that an additional \$1.00 per license? Yes. Councilwomen Taylor stated that at \$35.00 they mostly have their licenses. Robin shared a story from Livingston. Dennis shared that public works and clerks are the backbone of the Town. Mayor, they keep the Town running. Dennis stated that the mayor and council need to defend their workers. Mayor doesn't believe in anonymous complaints, put your name on it. Councilwomen Taylor stated that are not any formal complaints in the office, we need a formal compliant form. A motion was made by Councilman Ventling to accept Resolution #546 with the amendment of \$21-\$25 for the clerk/treasurer, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. Motion passed with the following votes. Councilman Wilson—Aye, Councilman Ventling—Aye, and Councilwomen Taylor—Aye. Motion carried.

When will job posting be done? Clerk would like some input to update the posting. Councilwomen Taylor was concerned with the health insurance because Dennison hasn't gotten back with her since it was never voted on, no resolution or minutes done, and to advertise with single coverage. Clerk stated that it is set with MMIA for 25-26 full coverage, it's the same group election as the past two years. Mayor, it's hard to take away once it's there, Councilman Wilson stated to leave it the same. Mayor stated that we are covering the whole family, and Tammy is saying that's not how it used to be, it was just the employee. Mayor, we can't go backwards since it's in effect. The council would have to vote to go backwards, since precedent was already set. More conversation had to come up with a plan for next year and let new recruits know there could possibly be a change to single payer.

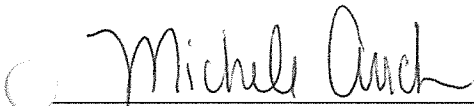
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Motion passed with the following votes. Councilman Wilson—Aye, Councilman Ventling—Aye, and Councilwomen Taylor—Aye. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:49 pm.

ATTEST:



Terry Feller, Mayor



Michele Auch, Town Clerk/Treasurer

TOWN OF FROMBERG

Special COUNCIL MEETING

October 24, 2025

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

1. Dennis Eaton - MRWS 13.

2. Elton Britley 14.

3. *Dane* 15.

4. Marge Taylor 16.

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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES FOR A SPECIAL MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 24, 2025**

On October 24, 2025, a special meeting was held at Fromberg Town Hall, 118 W River Street in Fromberg. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and the meeting was called to order at 5:59 pm by Mayor Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Michael Ventling and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Dennis Eaton from Montana Rural Water; Elton Kirtley, Dena Wilson, Marge Taylor and Clerk Michele Auch.

Public Comment on Agenda item only: Marge Taylor would like to see an inventory of the shop, log cabin, and maybe Council could do a walk thru. Mayor, hard to do inventory when you don't know what it is. Councilman Wilson, what should be there and what's missing. Councilman Ventling, unfortunately we are missing a lot from when I was in there. Councilwomen Taylor we need to do a yearly inventory. One hasn't been done since Ventling was there, 10-12 years ago. Dennis MRW said that they could help with part identification or send photos of parts. Councilman Wilson, we have accountability moving forward. Dennis, critical control, points to having certain items in inventory. Councilwomen Taylor, we will have to post the meeting if all members are together for inventory, and maybe video everything. Dennis, PPE (standard operating procedures) training at the lagoon is very important, \$50,000 fines, need tri pod with harnesses, air sniffer for gas, check with Exxon, Cenex, and the mine for donations. Conversations regarding confined space permit, manholes, safety checklist, confined space permit, water tank, air pressure vent, meter pits up to 8', benched digging, vac trucks, JHA (Job Hazard Analysis), write-ups for employees. Councilman Ventling, public works isn't a stable job if the mayor and council doesn't like you, pay them a decent wage, insure stability in their job. Councilwomen Taylor stated that if there is an outline in place of what the public works director is responsible for, the employee will have recourse with micromanaging. Councilman Ventling, I got a text from Michele, by the way, out of curiosity what would it take to come back as public works director? The wage would have to go up, this job is a \$30.00/hr plus job, most towns would have multiple people doing the job, instead of one person. The past wages just aren't enough. The licensed operator can be personally fined and can go to jail if he fails or has an issue with the system. Dennis shared more information about wages. Councilwomen Taylor brought up health insurance and the Town covering full family. Councilwomen Taylor shared about her experiences with fellow co-workers. Councilman Ventling would like to know when it changed from single person. Mayor, it is money well spent. Councilwomen Taylor tired of going down the same road. Dennis shared more information. Councilman Ventling shared he would need, \$32.00/hr, with a five-year contract, a cost of living raises every year, cannot leave current job without stability. We need someone with experience, qualified and willing to stay. Mayor-and willing to stay. Dennis, clerk and public works director are your critical people. Marge, when hiring someone, a list is needed of what the essentials are. Council Ventling had to write a complete report that went into the council packet about what he was working on, accomplishments, and issues that came up. Need someone that knows the system to be able to get that list and it's going to take a lot of time to fix just the current issues. We have been running on one well pump; 2nd pump isn't running. If the well goes out, we have no other water. Dennis suggested that clerk contact Bobby from MRW to get a rate schedule done. Councilman Wilson stated we cannot afford to hire someone without experience. Dennison shared that he doesn't trust engineers, have one council member take on one area and learn, snap a photo and send to Karl, well casing, chlorine feeders, Gretchen is another good one to help, (4) chickens with no roosters. Councilman Ventling, we will need someone to help out, one full-time or 2 part-time summer help so there is overlap. Councilman Wilson, there is a mountain of work and to teach the helper for future position and raise public work help to \$28.00. Elton Kirtley, write up some ordinance for protection? Councilwomen Taylor, check with Derrick Sheppard with MMIA. During an interview a request for a contract can be made. Councilwomen Taylor, they want Public Works and Clerk to run the same scale \$25.00-\$35.00. Councilwomen Taylor requested clerk to reach out to Livingston what their stipend is. Mayor, the system that we have now seems to be working, it's a great benefit and a selling point. It would be wrong to change, stay with system we have now. Councilman Wilson thought going with employee and spouse

vs family. Councilwomen Taylor is it considered fair for current clerk, waiting to hear from Dennison. Councilman Wilson, benefits are used as a selling tool moving forward. Elton Kirtley had questions about insurance. Marge praised the council what a great job they are doing and Elton agreed.

\$1.00 Water Certificate & \$1.00 Sewer Certificate, \$1.00 HR Certificate, no raise for spaying weeds, use Carbon Weed District.

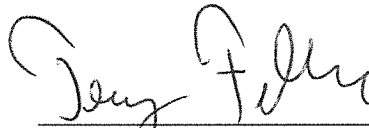
Public Works Director \$25-\$35, Public employee \$17-\$28, Clerk/Treasurer \$25-\$35, Clerk/Treasurer part-time \$17-\$22, General Labor \$ \$18-\$20. COLA (Cost of Living Increase) work on that next. Next meeting Wednesday 6:30 pm to pass the Resolution.

Councilman Ventling had conversations with Romeo, he tried to convince him to stay, but he is done.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. Motion passed with the following votes. Councilman Wilson—Aye, Councilman Ventling—Aye, and Councilwomen Taylor—Aye. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

ATTEST:



Terry Feller, Mayor

Michele Auch, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Michele Auch, Town Clerk/Treasurer

TOWN OF FROMBERG
COUNCIL MEETING

October 9 2025

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME

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| 1. Karl Rude ✓ | 13. |
| 2. JERRY HALL ✓ | 14. |
| 3. Sandy Bauwens ✓ | 15. |
| 4. Dana Wilson ✓ | 16. |
| 5. Jenna Van Rooyen ✓ | 17. |
| 6. Elton Kuttler ✓ | 18. |
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**FROMBERG TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES FOR A REGULAR MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 9, 2025**

On October 9, 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 6:26 pm by Mayor, Terry Feller. Other council members present were Don Wilson, Mike Ventling, and Tammy Taylor. Others present were Elton Kirtley, Sandy Bauwens, Dena Wilson, Jerry Hall, Karl Rude Janna VanRooyen, Romeo Anguiano, Public Works and Michele Auch, Clerk.

Public comment on items on or not on the agenda. Karl Rude comments regarding trailer park water bills. He looked at his meters on his property, one of the meters doesn't advance at all, one isn't a meter, not one drip of water, put a lien against his taxes. Three years and one month later, nothing solved and missing my child's game. Not one document of paper showing a water reading, still bad addresses, but have to pay my damn taxes. There are no records of conversations if the mayor left today. Solve the problem and forgive my water bill. There are two people that haven't paid their water bills as they couldn't afford them and I asked for the application, and there is no application as there is no program. You have no idea what's on my property, what is legally serviceable, and what is available, but you want me to pay my taxes, or I sue to get my way out of it. I don't have \$11,000 to pay or \$150,000 to sue. Karl was upset that the mayor told the news and County Commissioners that he had threatened to sue. He had talked with attorneys, but for months telling the Town he couldn't afford to pay. He called the Town tyrants, and he tried to good faith to work with the Community. He will have to sell portion of his children's college account to pay for stuff you can't even find on his property. He is tired of whining about this. Councilman Wilson asked if he is the current owner? Dennison, there is a contract deed in place, which means a contract has gone through and people are buying it. The two people are Mad Dog & Jab Properties; you sold the note on the property you're not current owner. Karl is not part of JAB. Dennison stated that he has copies from the Clerk & Records office of sale. Councilman Wilson, you were going to charge the city for using the existing water lines, we should put in the meter pits and make it your responsibility to run from the pits to the trailers, you also threatened to sue the city of Fromberg \$500,000. I gave it the benefit of doubt and went through all the papers, is this supposed to be absorbed by the rest of the Town? The water went to that piece of property. Dennison, we feel your pain, water was delivered to the property, and someone has to pay for the water that was delivered to the property, it's between the property owner or the tenants. We stole his property, he asked Michele if we still have his meter here? Yes. One month project, has turned into three years. Councilman Ventling, all past deals were made with the ex-mayor and not through council. We have the meters ready to install, but the problem is who is responsible if they freeze. Mayor, are you letting us on your lines to install the meters? He will entertain a negotiation. Councilman Ventling gave some history about meters. Councilman Wilson-it was mentioned that meter pits would be put in and then you would charge us to use the lines and wash these amounts. Karl-nobody asked me to use the lines and doing so you end up stealing my lines. Councilman Wilson-the answer to that is to put pits in run and you run your lines, problem solved. Councilman Ventling stated that we cannot use your lines. Council Ventling gave history of how this was originally set up. The reasonable thing is to put 7 more-meter pits in line with other ones tap into main line 7 more times. Come out of meter pit with curb stop, that is where our responsibility ends. Then it's up to you to bring in your own lines to attach to those meter pits. I tried working out a deal, problem still arises on how we protect those meters from freezing. I cannot dig on private property, per MMIA liability issue is too great. No water out of 3rd meter non active fees, with no meter in it. Dennison this is something the city can look, but something they can't decide on now. It's been three years, do something. If you pay the lien then it can be done, that's extortion, just a joke. Mayor let's move on, and I feel your pain. Karl apologized to the mayor. Please solve my problem, the pain will go out to whoever lives there. Councilman Wilson knows people who live there and will end up moving, that's part of the game. Mayor let's move on. Thanks Karl

Correspondence was next on the agenda. None

Mayor/Council: Councilwomen Taylor wants to setup a work session with the council and walk thru with Romeo of sewer lagoon, water well house, outline of duties, seven years without outline what needs to be done put into black and white. Councilman Ventling is experienced with the waterside, no experience with current sewer plant. Councilman Ventling, the system works very well; Councilman Wilson, sewer goes into the river are we are in compliance? Reach out to the other SAGR systems, have them come here for training or go there. License operators can be held financially responsible.

Put on next meeting agenda, the need for two crosswalk signs and other signs for events ahead. Look into MOT for crosswalk signs with push buttons, Dennison stated it's a long process for any signage to go through MOT. Get signs like Red Lodge and Joliet, public thought it was a good idea. The speed signs can be purchased by the Town like Bridger speed signs.

Camp trailer is going to move soon. Old gas station is getting cleaned up.

Sheriff department report was next on the agenda. Sheriff Wildin shared total patrol time 67.56 minutes, 11:39 min in town for calls for service. 79.35 minutes, 21 calls. No property crimes or crimes against a person. Asked the public for any suspicious activity? Councilman Ventling, high speeds on the highway. Sheriff Wildin thought that the speed signs that catch people's attention with flashing speed helps snap people out of it and is a good idea. Introduction to Deputy Ingill he is going through 3rd phase, C14 is his badge number, and they are now fully staffed. Any questions? Elton Kirtley shared of a dog ambushing him and his dog while on walks and eventually there might be a problem, big black dog, the other one is on county property maybe a isiting cow dog, he doesn't want any issues. Call as soon as possible and we can have a conversation with the owner.

Zoning/Variance application was next on the agenda. Guyla Jo Bawens application was withdrawn as the mobile home wasn't a double wide that is necessary in Residential "A". Would need a variance to do it, and Town attorney would like to move away from them.

Zoning/Floodplain Ordinance Committee was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Taylor had no updates. Mayor stated that Red Lodge Community Center has set aside \$25,000 till December 31, 2025, for Larry Richardson's house. Cannot get a contractor to look at his place, his house is not built to specs for the floodplain. He will not be able to sell it in the future, and Larry doesn't care. Councilman Ventling gave history about the builders coming to the Council meetings three times to see if anything special needs to be done regarding permits needed. Council said they were good to go.

Planning Board: None

Historic Preservation: None

Old business was next on the agenda. Bids to take down trees in the park was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor called eight tree trimers; most were too busy and not coming to Fromberg. Mel's Tree Service bid was for \$ 9,025.00 included one tree, not taking any wood, no chipping, and stump grinding would be done in the spring, but would break up the project. Clarence \$13,000 ish to take down two trees, take small wood, we are responsible for the big stuff cut into 8' lengths. Far tree on Eastside/North corner Cottonwood. Wait for Northwest and cut down around high-power lines and then be ready to cut down the whole tree. The tree hanging over the gazebo is one to worry about. Ask Clarence about new price without one tree. Where are the

unds coming from? We are not setting aside anything for trees in Town. I don't want to use all of Stillwater funds for trees. Apply for Red Lodge Community Grant in May. Elton Kirtley stated they need to be lopped off and made safe, lopped off first at 'power lines.' Northwest needs to do the ones by the powerlines. May need a Resolution to set aside money every year.

New business was next on the agenda. Janna VanRooyen, applying for Grants on behalf of the Town was next on the agenda. She would like her water bill to go down, and she was CFO for a dairy co-op. She would like permission to look at Grants on behalf of the Town. Motion to approve Janna Van Rooyen was made by Councilman Ventling and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson--aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

CD set-up for Parks \$25,000 and Facilities \$25,000 Capital Improvement funds was next on the agenda. Councilwomen Taylor proposed \$20,000 parks, and \$20,000 facilities in six-month CD's. Motion was made by Councilwomen Taylor and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson--aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

Update to Nexus CPA audit needed for FY 23-24 was next on the agenda. Additional amount of \$15,000 for FY 23-24, current bill for \$10,725.00, estimating \$75,000-\$80,000. The ARPA loans are still open, so we have them available. Councilwomen Taylor stated that we will we have to look at adjusting utility rates. Elton Kirtley asked about water being shut off, liens have been filed on property taxes in the approximate amount of \$133,000. Almost \$20,000 past due was paid. Additional \$35,000-\$40,000 to cover additional audit for FY 23-24. Motion to approve was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Wilson. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson--aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye. Motion Carries.

Dennison stated loan obligation of the Town is that the Town actively pursues the water bills that are out there. Councilman Wilson, this is how the town is funded. Councilwomen Taylor stated that we almost didn't get these loans had Kirstin not come in and helped with the books that hadn't been reconciled for three years. Councilman Ventling, look at grants to help with offsetting future project costs. Move with small increments over the years, vs high jump. Per Kirstin we are supposed to run with a cushion in each fund. Councilman Wilson, he's concerned with raising rates right now.

OPEN A PUBLIC HEARING:

Ordinance #530 an Ordinance of the Town of Fromberg to prohibit public camping was next on the agenda. Mayor read the Ordinance outloud. Councilwomen Taylor had question about camping on Town easement adjacent to properties they are visiting and no camping on Commercial property. A motion to table for the proper wording was made by Councilman Ventling, seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

The Consent Agenda was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilwomen Taylor, seconded by Councilman Ventling. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling—aye, and Councilwoman Taylor—aye. Motion Carries.

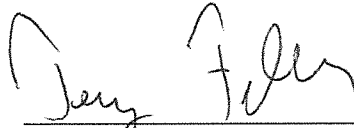
Town Attorney was next on the agenda. Dennison could see why officers have a lot of issues enforcing our current Dog ordinance. He has a rough draft for the next agenda and penalties are made up. The language is there for you to look at.

Public Works was next on the agenda. Romeo shared that he had Stateline come into help on leaks. TCT had run through Mark Seyler's new sewer line. Bridger has had some issues with TCT too. Will be at school next week with Tatum, Air BnB is booked. Bridger was too busy to help with testing and Councilman Ventling will do the monitoring they will meet this weekend. Councilman Wilson would like to help in the future with testing. Sandy Bauwens asked about replacement meters, we will start meters soon. Councilman Wilson would like a separate meeting to talk with Dennison about Karl. There was a double water break and discovered there was no main line and a one-inch line was installed that was run and branched off to several houses. Replacing water lines will need to be a future project. All breaks have had new meter pits put in. More conversations were had about the trailer court.

Town Clerk was next on the agenda. FY 25-26 final budget was submitted to the State, Billing for September 25 was \$39,597.37, Burt who helps with Town's website was very helpful getting recording device and updating website.

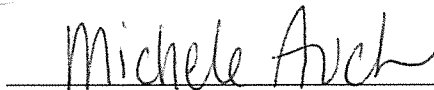
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Ventling and seconded by Councilwomen Taylor. The motion carried with the votes as follows: Councilman Wilson—aye, Councilman Ventling--aye and Councilwoman Taylor – aye.

Adjourn at 8:48 pm



Terry Feller, Mayor

ATTEST:



Michele Auch, Town Clerk