**TOWN OF ALBERTON**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 11, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**
The special meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Alberton was called to order by Mayor Loreen Felstet at 5:00 PM on Wednesday, November 11, 2026, at the Alberton Community Center.

**ROLL CALL**
Present:

- Mayor Loreen Felstet
- Council President Timothy Fox
- Council Vice President Sharon Briggs
- Councilor Kyle Cirincione
- Councilor Kari Riebe

A quorum is present.

Staff Present:

- Town Clerk-Treasurer Aaron Adams
- Deputy Clerk Shannon Cunio
- Public Works Manager Charlei Jenkins
- Town Attorney: Wally Congden

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Felstet welcomed the council and town residence to join in listening to a

presentation from Bobbie Shular from Montana Rural Water Systems. This is a listening meeting, with no action items, to learn about the utility rate analysis.

The presentation began with outlining our current water costs.
- Existing debt from the recent improvement project: $16,170 per year (pd off 2034). Cost per customer $6.42 per month.
- New debt due to replacing water lines and new hydrants: $21,375. Cost per customer $8.48 per month.
- Reserve (loan) must go into savings to service loans. We currently have $9,932 here. Need $5,632. Cost per customer $2.23 per month.
- O&M refers to all funds needed to service the water utility each year: $130,243.71. Cost per customer $51.68 per month.
- Reserve asset should be in place that is approximately 30% of O&M, suggested amount: $26,065.11. Cost per customer $10.34 per month.
- Total expenses for water utility per year is $199,484.42. This translates to $79.16/month for each water utility customer.

It was recommended that the municipality has the authority and responsibility to cover these costs, and that the water utility expenses should be reviewed one per year.

Sewer utility analysis.
- Debt due to refinance RD loan: $39,700. Cost per customer $17.05 per month.
- Reserve (loan) must go into savings to service loans: $5,736.10. Cost per customer $2.46 per month.
- O&M refers to all funds needed to service the water utility each year: $143,046. Cost per customer $61.45 per month.
- Reserve asset should be in place that is approximately 30% of O&M, suggested amount: $42,913.80. Cost per customer $18.43 per month.
- Total expenses for water utility per year is $231,395.90. This translates to $99.40/month for each water utility customer.

At minimum, with our current fee schedule, obligated expenses will cost each customer $80.96 for the sewer and $68.82 for water, totaling $149.88 per month.

Some comments after the presentation:
- Public Works Manager Charlei Jenkins discussed some ways we can restructure rates such as changing our tier system and billing various sized water lines.
- There was also public comment suggesting if utility bills go up dramatically, would people refuse to pay, which would have a negative impact on the utility.
- Councilor Fox asked what would happen if we didn’t raise rates at all. Also, if we could

slowly increase rates.
- One resident asked to see the town's revenues in the next discussion.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment occurred during the meeting, and thus no formal public comment was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Kyle Cirincione moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Sharon Briggs

**Roll Call Vote:**

- Timothy Fox: Yes
- Sharon Briggs: Yes
- Kyle Cirincione: Yes
- Kari Riebe: Yes

Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

**Respectfully submitted,**

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|---|---|
| Signed: | Attest: |
| _____ | _____ |
| LOREEN M FELSTET | AARON ADAMS |
| MAYOR | CLERK / TREASURER |