

Town of Metaline Falls
Regular Public Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Council Chambers

11 guests in attendance, Selkirk Sun Recording

Present: Mayor Sherice McAnerin, Council Members Fran Maxwell, Blake McAnerin, and Sam McGeorge, Maintenance Director Monte Rice, Assistant Clerk Tess Parker. Councilmember Mark Lockwood and Clerk/Treasurer Jade MacArther were absent.

Meeting Called to order at 7:01 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

* Two agenda amendments were requested; Councilmember Fran Maxwell asked to add a discussion of changing the regular meeting time and Mayor Sherice McAnerin asked to remove Resolution 2026-05 from the agenda. Councilmember Blake McAnerin so moved, seconded by Councilmember Fran Maxwell; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes:

Councilmember Fran Maxwell moved to approve the minutes from the June 9th, 2026 regular meeting. Councilmember Sam McGeorge seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to approve the minutes from the June 23rd, 2026 special meeting. Councilmember Sam McGeorge seconded; motion passed unanimously.

County Reports:

- Sheriff Glen Blakeslee was absent.
- Fire District 2: Deputy Chief Blake McAnerin reported 164 total calls in June (150 EMS calls, 6 fire, 5 vehicle, 3 other); Metaline Falls had 12 EMS calls, down from 13 this month last year. FD 2 is fully staffed and not currently deployed anywhere outside the county on wildfires.
- Pend Oreille County Commissioner: Commissioner Brian Smiley brought Carole Richardson to present plans for the creation of a Solid Waste Advisory Committee in Pend Oreille County. The county currently does not have one, and it is required by state law. The committee would advise the County Commissioners on such matters as garbage, litter, and recycling. The committee will be made up of nine members and the county would like it to include

representatives from the northern part of the county. The committee will meet one to two times per year, most likely on Thursday afternoon. Flyers about the committee were distributed to guests. Commissioner Smiley had nothing else to report.

Maintenance Report: Maintenance Director Monte Rice reports that things are going well and that he is waiting on more oil in order to finish treating the wood at Toldya-K park.

Accounts Payable: Assistant Clerk Tess Parker presented Accounts Payable, Expense Vouchers, and Treasurer's Report:

- June Accounts Payable: Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to approve accounts payable for June; seconded by Councilmember Sam McGeorge; motion passed unanimously.
- Expense Vouchers: Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to approve expense vouchers for June; seconded by Councilmember Fran Maxwell; motion passed unanimously.
- July Accounts Payable: Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to approve accounts payable for July 1-14; seconded by Councilmember Fran Maxwell; motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report: Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for June; Seconded by Councilmember Sam McGeorge; motion passed unanimously.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Sherice McAnerin has been working with eight volunteers from Metaline and Metaline Falls watering the Town's flowers. The volunteers have been helping out in both towns. The oiling of the wood at Toldya-K park is almost complete and it looks really nice.

Council Reports:

- Councilmember Fran Maxwell: Nothing to Report
- Councilmember Blake McAnerin: Nothing new to report regarding FD 2. The weather is expected to become warmer and dryer.
- Councilmember Sam McGeorge: In response to a previous request by Sean Reagan that his property be annexed by the Town of Metaline Falls, Councilmember Sam McGeorge recommends the Town research what annexation entails legally and consider what would be in the best interest of town residents. He would then like to schedule a special public meeting to discuss it. Commissioner Brian Smiley recommended that the Town's consultant for the Comprehensive Plan update be informed of the possibility of annexation, as they may be able to advise the Town.

Commissioner Smiley believes annexation may benefit the Town and recommends the Town consider annexation of the lower part of Lehigh Hill Road as well.

Old Business:

- Kaniksu Apartment update: Cruz Thompson, Housing Director at Rural Resources presented an update of the Kaniksu Apartment renovation project. Rural Resources is in the underwriting phase of the loan and is waiting for a response from HUD. The anticipated closing is August or September of 2026, after which renovation would commence and take about nine months to complete. Kaniksu currently has four vacant units that they will renovate and then move residents into so they renovate additional units.

Rural Resources requests a 20 foot easement for Building A to accommodate ADA compliant units. The ADA compliant units are now in building D, but Rural Resources believes Building A to be more appropriate and safer. Rural Resources needs the Town Council to make a decision regarding the easement sooner rather than later. Councilmember Sam McGeorge asked about other options; Mr. Thompson reported that Rural Resources does not have the budget to purchase the land, but they do own another vacant parcel and a trade might be an option. Councilmember Sam McGeorge expressed his concern that the Town retain the right to use a corner of the lot in question for dumping plowed snow. He was also concerned that the use of the lot continue to benefit subsidized housing in the future and never a for-profit institution. Mr. Thompson explained that the loan is a 40 year deferred loan after which it would likely be refinanced for another 40 years.

Commissioner Smiley asked about the renovation plans; Mr. Thompson explained that the exterior would remain largely the same, and that the roof, electrical, and interiors would be the focus. The ADA units will undergo the most significant changes.

Guest Dan Shegrud shared that residents of Kaniksu had expressed to him concerns that the funding was going to fall through and that they would not be able to remain in their current unit after the remodel. Mr. Thompson reiterated that funding is secure, and he confirmed that residents would be moved to new units but would remain in the same buildings and floor level as their current unit.

- Wastewater Fund Fiscal Sustainability Plan: Councilmember Blake McAnerin moved to adopt the Wastewater Fund Fiscal Sustainability Plan; Councilmember Sam McGeorge seconded; motion passed unanimously. Councilmember McGeorge briefly explained to the public the purpose and need for the plan.

New Business:

- Mayor Sherice McAnerin asked for the Council's approval to seek three bids for a new sign on the highway coming into town. Councilmember Blake McAnerin so moved; Councilmember Fran Maxwell seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Mayor Sherice McAnerin asked for the Council's approval for Clerk/Treasurer Jade MacArthur to attend AWC's Municipal Finance Bootcamp. A scholarship will be used to cover half of the \$600 cost of the event. Councilmember Blake McAnerin asked if Metaline was going to help pay for the training, as Clerk/Treasurer MacArthur works for both towns. Mayor Sherice McAnerin said that Metaline could not afford to contribute, but that Clerk/Treasurer MacArthur plans to provide her own food and drive rather than stay in a hotel, thereby reducing costs to the town. The possibility of mileage reimbursement will be discussed in the future. Councilmember Sam McGeorge moved to approve the expense of attending the event; Councilmember Fran Maxwell seconded; motion passed unanimously.
- Change in meeting time: Councilmember Fran Maxwell suggested that the meeting time be changed back to 6pm rather than 7pm. Council and public present discussed what time would be best for everyone. Commissioner Brian Smiley mentioned he would likely not be able to attend a 6pm meeting. It seemed that 6:30 pm would work better for some people. Councilmember Fran Maxwell moved that the regular meeting be held at 6:30pm beginning in August; seconded by Councilmember Blake McAnerin; motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

- Resident asked about the possibility of street repair on 6th Avenue. He reported that the uneven pavement directs rainwater into his yard. Council responded that work of that magnitude would be dependent on grant funding or revenue from the Transportation Benefit District that is in the process of being established, and that those processes take time.
- Resident shared that he is against the annexation of the lower Lehigh Hill Rd, on which he lives. He is cautious about what it entails, what it might cost residents, and how it might limit their activities. Council reassured him that there are no immediate plans and, if annexation was to be considered, residents would be invited to participate in the discussion. The Council and Commissioner Smiley indicated that the main impacts of annexation would be different development restrictions and the Town assuming responsibility for any wastewater system in existence on annexed property. Councilmember Sam McGeorge reiterated that while there were no immediate plans for annexing any property, and that he was only recommending that the Council

research what annexation entails and have a discussion of what policies would need to be in place in the event of annexation.

- Resident asked who is responsible for the part of their sewer line that crosses from their property line through another private property to meet the sewer main. Their line clogs easily and they would like assistance. Council informed them that Maintenance Director Rice can flush the main line, but that residents are responsible for the line between their property and the main line even if it crosses through another property, and that they would need to talk to the other property owner to access it for repairs. The resident asked if the Town has maps of the lines and they were encouraged to come to the Clerk's office to see what is available. Commissioner Smiley was familiar with the properties and offered to facilitate communication.
- Resident was concerned about an unexpected hole they came across while walking on property near the railroad tracks. Council informed them that it was private property.
- Bill Bisson on behalf of the Bigfoot Festival: Mr. Bisson reported that the Bigfoot Festival went well and that the committee was discussing possible improvements for next year. It was noted that the food trucks were large and congested the area in front of the park. He asked the Council to consider allowing the festival to install electric near the train depot so that food vendors could be located there at the back of the park. Mayor Sherice McAnerin pointed out that the Port of Pend Oreille, from whom the Town leases the park property, would need to approve of any such changes. Councilmember Sam McGeorge requested the Bigfoot Festival Committee provide the Council with a 'scope of project' to consider.

Councilmember Fran Maxwell moved to adjourn meeting; Councilmember Blake McAnerin seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:14.

X

Mayor

X

Mayor Pro-tem

X

Clerk-Treasurer