

Special Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held Special Council meeting on October 23, 2025, at 5:47 pm.

Members Present: Mayor James Dahlen Council Persons, Sonja Dahlen, Scott Decker, Rachel Ghekiere, Garrett Graff, Tina Neer, and Jim Sivils

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Dave Ghekiere (Public Works Director)
Ashley Wickum (Clerk/Treasurer)

Guests: Justin Wickum

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm
2. Public Comment: None
3. New Business:
 - Discussion: North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. The council discussed the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. Justin Wickum asked if there is a plan to maintain the distribution system and if there was a cost analysis for this? The Town is working with the engineers on this. Jim Sivils asked about how the final decision would be made. Would it be made only by the council or would the community members be involved? The council will have the final vote to decide. Discussed creating an information brochure or flyer for the community. Additional questions focused on maintenance of the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority system, would it need booster stations, who will operate the plant, and how does North Central Montana Regional Water Authorities plan to maintain a fully licensed staff. Rachel Ghekiere believes that the cost comparison means that the logical choice is to go with North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. Scott Decker asked about a plan for if the Town's current system fails or needs upgrades before a connection to North Central Montana Regional Water Authority can be made and water provided? Garrett Graff would like to have more information about the water purchase agreements and cost to remove the intake structure at the lake if/when that might happen. Discussed nominated capacity for the town and current nominated capacity. The council will compile additional questions and provide them to Ashley Wickum by Monday, she will send them to Jim Zadick and Bill Hunt. Bill Hunt will attend the North Central Montana Regional Water Authority meeting on Tuesday, November 4th. The council will look to set up a meeting with North Central Montana Regional Water Authority after their November 4th meeting.
4. Tina Neer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sonja Dahlen seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm.