

## Special Meeting

The Town of Chester Council held a Public Hearing meeting on May 13, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the Liberty County Senior Center.

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: Bill Hunt, Hunt Law  
See attached list of Community Members

1. Mayor James Dahlen called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reminder that the Meeting is Audio Recorded
4. Public Comments: Public comments are all under new business.
5. New Business:
  - Discussion: North Central Montana Regional Water Authority. Mayor James Dahlen led the discussion in a question-and-answer format. Bill Hunt also assisted with answering questions.
    - Ms. Yurman, wanted to know if this meeting was to discuss the colony connecting to the Town water. Mayor Dahlen responded that it was not.
    - Mr. Kulpas stated that he thought this matter was settled. Mr. Hunt responded with yes officially it is; however, the Town is having one last public hearing to make sure that everyone can speak up if they have questions.
    - Multiple questions were asked about how the Authority makes decisions. Mr. Hunt explained how the executive committee is selected, there are 5 positions chosen by the board and they meet monthly. He explained how many representatives each community will have on the board, and how this is based on the number of connections the community has. Chester would have one representative. The full board meets quarterly.
    - Mrs. Novak wanted to know who would represent Chester. Mr. Hunt said the council will decide; it's usually a council member but could be a community member.
    - Mr. Kulpas expressed continued concern that the Town will not have a say. Mr. Hunt reiterated that it is best to be involved and stay aware.
    - Ms. Yurman asked if the tribe could shut off the water. Mr. Hunt responded no and explained that if there are water restrictions it will be for everyone. Mr. Hunt went over the ownership of the water treatment plant and the non-core and core waterlines.
    - Mr. Cicon asked if there was room for growth within the water plant. Mayor Dahlen responded that the plant is built to be able to produce more water. However, Mr. Hunt

elaborated that the restriction in the possibility of growth is going to be in the line size going to the Town. Once this is designed, there will not be a lot of wiggle room. Mr. Cicon is concerned that it needs to be built with some room for growth.

- Mr. Novak would like to see the Town go ahead with this Mrs. Kulpas agreed.

6. Sonja Dahlen made a motion to adjourn the public hearing meeting. Tina Neer seconded the motion. The public hearing meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk Mayor