

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**June 11, 2024**

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Kristie Blackford, Jerry Ulmen, Colette Phillippe; Dave Schuler  
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger  
Recording Secretary: Kristie Blackford  
General Manager: Brian Blackford  
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson

The Public Meeting began at 7:07 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry  
Second: Colette Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 5/28/24: Colette  
Second: Dave Passed

**Checks Rec'd at the Meeting:** #502 \$200.00 ck # 12277 #541 \$130.00 ck#13869 #539 \$500.00 ck#187

**Old Business:**

3/12/24 ~ Dave reported from Joel on 2/27/2024 that MJD is six weeks out on equipment for the Poly Phosphates.  
4/9/2024 ~ Chemical Feed MT (polyphosphates) is waiting on materials/equipment before they complete install. 5/28/2024 ~ Good News - We received an email from Marty at MJD Contracting saying the materials are in Billings being delivered to Helena early next week. Hopefully the install will be complete by July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the newsletter Dave clarified what Poly Phosphates are and why we need them in our district.

3/26/24 ~ Dennis reported that the Lead and Copper rule has changed. We will need to inventory and report by October 1, 2024. Royce and Brian will work on this. 4/9/2024~ Royce reported that GHCWD will have to report our inventory service lines using a spreadsheet DEQ has provided us. We will need to verify the incoming service line to the meter. 5/28/2024~ Testing was completed the weekend of the 18<sup>th</sup>- 19<sup>th</sup>. Inventory is 80-90% complete. Gary and Royce will work on contacting residents during their meter reads within the next few meter reading cycles. This will consist of them knocking on doors as they do meter reads and asking if the resident knows what the service is to their house, such as copper, plastic, galvanized, etc. 6/11/2024 ~ Test results back high on copper. Royce will work with DEQ to determine how to proceed.

Christy provided the board the 2023 CCR. Please note with the Newsletter in this month's mailing postage will require 2 stamps. 6/11/2024 ~Christy will send the signed certification form in to DEQ 6/12/2024

Dave brought up the generator – he suggests selling it. Jerry said he thinks it needs to be in working condition to sell it, and that it needs a new battery. Motion to spend up to \$400 to get it up and running and sell it: Colette Second: Kristie Passed 5/28/2024~ The board discussed and Dennis will get a battery for the generator. Once the battery is in we will discuss further.

We need to determine the 2024-2025 budget for the July public meeting. Brian, Kristie and Arny will work on those numbers. 5/28/2024 ~ Public Meeting will be July 9. There will be a budget meeting Wed 5/29 at 6:00. 6/11/2024~ Lori emailed out an updated budget. Board received hard copies and will review 6/25/2024

Motion to purchase 15 rolls of stamps for approximately \$960 prior to price increase: Colette Second: Dennis Passed

**New Business:**

Dave mentioned the email Lori had sent regarding Arny the book keeper. The board allowed Arny the opportunity to reply to those accusations. The board discussed this and this matter is closed.

**Bookkeepers Report:**

5/14/2024~ The gal who was doing our Audit went on emergency maternity leave. Arny is meeting with Clayton, Wednesday 5/28/2024 to determine the findings. Another audit will need to be completed by 12/31/2024 since our project was not completed in one year. 6/11/2024 ~Arny will have hopefully a final meeting 6/13/2024 with WIPLI

Insurance of approximately \$7,700 due by July 1,2024

# 4977	Jacob Smith	\$	126.50	Return of Deposit 659
# 4978	Colette Phillippe	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 4979	Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 4980	USPS	\$	990.00	15 Rolls of Stamp
#		\$	<b>1,393.54</b>	

KDS		\$	54.95	Monthly Internet
Montana State Fund		\$	513.25	Unemployment Insurance
Wendy Weissman CPA		\$	183.75	QuickBooks & Payroll
Utilities Underground Locate		\$	13.76	8 locates
Hawkins		\$	612.14	Chlorine
Energy West		\$	29.84	PH #2
Energy West		\$	25.34	PH #1
Northwest Pipe		\$	300.91	3/4 E+ Full Port Ball Valve
Department of Treasury		\$	1,307.55	Federal Withholding
Brian Blackford		\$	1,484.79	General Manager Wage
Kristie Blackford		\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Alice Christensen		\$	372.46	Mowing
Gary Humble		\$	252.01	Wages, Mileage Misc
Arnold Schandelson		\$	939.07	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler		\$	108.52	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley		\$	383.50	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter		\$	378.38	Secretarial Wage
		\$	<b>7,098.74</b>	

Transfer from Main to Admin: \$17,443.00 Money for next audit  
 Transfer from Main to Loan Repayment: \$ 5,954.00 Bond payment  
 Motion to Pay the Bills as read: Jerry  
 Second: Colette Passed

**Treasurer's Report:**

Everything is looking good in Quick Books. Kristie is working with Arny to access Black Mountain.

**General Manager's Report:**

- A new leak has formed in the chlorine injection line. Brian had repaired, and then had to re-repair.
- We have had 2 floods and 2 service disruptions at PH#1 because the floats are not properly working. Cascade Electric will be up this week to check. Brian is manually turning them on and off until then. Currently the problem is intermittent and has been difficult to troubleshoot.
- Brian has added to the height of the berm at PH #1 to protect the neighbor's property while also softening the slope so that mowing is safer.
- Distribution pump at PH #2 pump #2 has been repacked.
- The distribution pump and PH #1 pump #2 is leaking at a seal and will need to be replaced. Thankfully we have a pump on standby that can be installed.
- Brian is working with his Tech person to upgrade our office tower, monitors, etc.. Total cost should be about \$150.00
- Brian is reviewing the Insurance packet.

Upcoming absences: Brian and Kristie will be gone Aug 9-19.  
 Christy is out June 15-20

Motion to adjourn at 8:13 Jerry  
 Second: Colette Passed

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Dennis Peppenger  
 President

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Christy Walter  
 Secretary