

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**Public Meeting**  
**January 14, 2025**

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Dave Schuler, Jerry Ulmen  
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger  
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter  
Operator: Excused  
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson  
Guest: Jan Jones

The Public Meeting began at 7:41 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry  
Second: Dave Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 12/23/24: Jerry  
Second: Dave Passed

Jan & Mercy had some questions about the results of the audit which the board addressed. She also had questions on the O&M, Construction Savings, and Bond Repayment monthly transfers. This was discussed. They also had questions on #603 motion to be removed from the district. 1/14/2025 ~ Jan reviewed the audit was concerned about some of the findings. She read some findings and was asking questions. This was discussed with the board and Arny. Jan has offered to reive

**Old Business:**

#603 ~ was asking about opting out of the water district and the pros and cons of that. 10/8/2024 ~ Brian has received a text from the home owners requesting to withdraw from the Gore Hill Water District. 10/22/2024 ~ Dennis is going to contact Montana Rural Water to find out what the current procedure is for someone to be removed from the district. 11/12/2024 ~ Dennis provided the procedures from MCA to all board members. This will be sent to the homeowners as well. The account must be brought current prior to them submitting the letter asking to be removed. 11/26/2024 ~ The homeowners served us a petition for withdrawal from the district along with check # 109 for \$100.00. Christy will file with the county on 12/3/2024. 12/10/2024 ~ Christy has filed the petition with the county. She wrote up a notice to be posted on the website, bills, and newsletter. Christy will look into the cost of posting in the Tribune. 12/23/2024 ~ Christy provided the board with the cost of 3 Sunday publications. Christy will submit for the next 3 Sundays. 1/14/2025~ the public meeting was held with 17 general district members and the board. After an explanation and discussion period the vote was held.

Only one vote was allowed per household.

Dennis called for a count of the existing district members FOR allowing #603 to be removed from the district: 1 person voted For.

Dennis called for a count of existing district members AGAINST allowing # 603 to be removed from the district: 16 people voted Against.

By a vote of the majority of the district members present, account # 603 will not be allowed to be removed from the district. Christy will determine what needs to be filed with the county.

#705 ~ Homeowner was questioning what the status of the generator was. He offered to help us sell the generator Dennis said he will ask Grant to start the process of selling the generator for \$16,500. 11/12/2024 ~ Homeowner has placed the ad on craigslist with Dennis's phone number. 11/26/2024 ~ Dennis has heard nothing from Grant. The generator is currently working. Kristie and Brian will also advertise on Facebook Marketplace. 12/10/24 Nothing to date 12/23/24 ~ Dennis had a request to purchase the generator. This was refused because it was a low ball offer. Dennis is waiting to hear back. 1/14/2025 ~ Dennis is still waiting.

12/10/2024 ~ MT Rural Conference registration is out. Conference dates are 3/12/25-3/14/25. Dave will not be able to attend.

**New Business:**

1/14/2025~ Colette Phillippe passed away on 12/24/2024. It has been posted that this position needs to be filled. This is posted on our website and in our quarterly newsletter. We are asking anyone interested to contact a board member for more details.

Dave will not be available for any of the meetings during February and March due to a scheduling conflict with his job.

Going forward any and all claim forms must be turned into Arny by the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month for payment on the last business day of said month. This will allow the board to review all payments at the meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

**Bookkeepers Report:**

8/27/24~ # 580 sent an email asking about the attachments we should be sending with the emailed bills. Arny and Christy will get an email list together to and will send out the CCR and Quarterly Newsletters. We will continue to send out enclosures in bulk emails blind copied to those who received emailed statements. 9/10/2024 ~ Arny will provide Christy a list. 10/22/24 ~ Arny has provided Christy a paper list. He is working on an electronic list.

Arny has paperwork from the credit union to update the signatures for the board members. We had board member's sign. 11/26/2024~ The credit union is requesting that the minutes officially stating that Colette Phillippe was authorized to sign for Gore Hill. We also need to state that at least by Mercy Padgett and Lori Eby are no longer employed by Gore Hill. 12/23/2024 ~ the credit union is requiring us to remove Colette from the ability to sign checks due to non-receipt of her notarized signature. Once she is back home and attending meetings, we will get her authorized to sign checks again. 1/14/2025 ~ Rochelle contacted Dennis and Arny. She requested that we have all members sign and one time and return. Dennis will call Rochelle and let her know we are out 2 weeks since Kristie is out.

11/26/2024 ~ #509 stated that they paid \$137.00 several months ago that we have never received. They will repay an additional \$35 from the billed amount in each of Jan, Feb, Mar and April 2025.

1/14/2025 ~ #567 has some sort of excessive water usage issue. Arny has asked Brian to follow up on this.

1/14/2025~ #617 called Arny to let him know that he had submitted 2 bill pay checks (Nov and Dec) and they have not cleared the bank.

#723 told Dennis that they are not receiving paper bills. That is because they had had elected to have email bills. Dennis has asked Arny to send both email and paper bills.

The following bills were read for approval:

Energy West	\$	56.25	PH # 1
Energy West	\$	58.59	PH # 2
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	195.61	Supplies
Hawkins Inc	\$	611.14	Chlorine / Cylinders / Freight
Energy Labs	\$	453.00	Nitrogen & Nitrate
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	191.86	Suction Hose
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	3.75	Supplies
Northwestern Energy	\$	790.80	PH # 2
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly service
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,711.11	PH # 1
Brian Blackford	\$	1,204.24	Operator's Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.53	Director's Fee
Gary Humble	\$	276.69	Wages, Mileage Misc
Arnold Schandelson	\$	949.06	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$	108.53	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$	221.87	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter	\$	378.39	Secretarial Wage
	<b>\$</b>	<b>7,404.37</b>	
 # 5001 Gerald Ulmen	 \$	 138.53	 Director's Fee
	<b>\$</b>	<b>138.53</b>	

Motion to Pay the Bills as Read: Jerry  
 Second: Dave Passed

**Delinquents:** Payment is due 1/13/2025 Termination is 1/15/2025

#625 Total owed \$1,727 Money due \$90.00 plus some extra (Dennis is encouraging 50% of monthly payment)

Payments are due 1/27/2025, termination will be 1/29/2025

# 556	\$	154.31	# 594	\$	155.39	# 648	\$	689.55	# 650	\$	261.65
# 669	\$	1014.47	# 687	\$	259.50	# 707	\$	476.56			

**Treasurer's Report: Excused**  
**Operator's Report: Excused**

- 12/10/2024 ~PH #2 is down. We will either need Cascade Electric or Aqua Source to check, Brian is estimating this will cost more than \$500.00. Brian is hoping to have this fixed within the next 2 days. Board Approved
  - Wires burned out underground and had be dug up and replaced. Soft start was also damaged and looks like it will need to be replaced. Brian is waiting on Nash Electric for price and availability. Board Approved
- #689 requested an emergency shut off on his side of the meter. No cost to the district.
- We had observed low water pressure when one of the distribution pumps at PH #1 is on. Brian has contacted Nash Electric to test pressure sensors. Board Approved.
- Brian is continuing to fill the cisterns at PH #2 manually to reduce stress on PH #1 if it were to run 24/7.

Motion to adjourn at 8:40  
Second:

Dave  
Jerry      Passed

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Dennis Peppenger  
President

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Christy Walter  
Secretary