

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
Oct 08, 2024

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

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 9/24/24: Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Checks received at the meeting: #502 \$200.00 ck # 12316

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.
9/10/2024 ~ the activation date is 9/19/2024. Joel is working with Chemical Montana to complete this. 9/24/2024~ Brian worked with MJD today. Everything is set up except the signal wire that would turn on the poly ortho phosphate pump when the well pump turns on. They are waiting on Ad Edge to respond to their questions to resolve the problem. There will be an additional annual expense of approximately \$5,500.00 based on 19 million gallons billed annually.
10/8/2024~We are waiting for the electrician to up the relay with the signal wire. Dennis asked Brian to call Ad Edge to resolve the problem.

Jerry mentioned that because of the excessive water flooding the homeowner on the east side of Pumphouse 1 has had pump his septic twice and needs to have another pumping
The board approved paying for the next pumping, the homeowner will provide us with the statement for that pumping.
7/9/2024 ~ homeowners will have the third pumping once the ground dries out. 8/27/2024~ Septic was pumped on Saturday 8/24. Jerry will get a copy of the invoice for that pumping. 10/8/2024 ~ Jerry is trying to get ahold of the homeowner.

Per Dennis's request there will be a Board Members Only meeting immediately following the 9/10/2024 meeting. Since Colette was unable to attend 9/10 or 9/24 this has been postponed to 10/1 at 7:00. 10/8/2024 ~ 4 of 5 of the board members met. The part time meter readers and maintenance people will be under Brian's jurisdiction. Arny and Christy answer to the board. At that time, it was decided that Brian can not spend more than \$500.00 at a time. Brian mentioned to the board that very rarely can he go to Northwest Pipe and spend less than \$500 to fix an immediate problem. He asked for a spending limit of \$1,500.00 specifically at Northwest Pipe. It was decided to continue with the \$500 limit.

#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. Christy will research and report to the board on 10/22/2024 the next steps.

#705 ~ Homeowner was questioning what the status of the generator was. He offered to help us sell the generator. He was confused on how the minutes read regarding the generator. He stated that he read that a motion to sell the generator was passed on 5/28. Why hasn't it been sold yet. He also offered to help write up a pilot study on whether we could remove the water restrictions and how the district could sustain that. 10/8/2024~ Dennis asked for verification of the minutes of 5/14/2024 that stated that the generator was to be fixed and sold. Dennis was provided with those minutes. Dennis said he will ask Grant to start the process of selling the generator for \$16,500.

#597 ~ was wondering about the odd and even watering days with the smaller amount of people watering on their days. He mentioned that the even days are "shorted" 2 days during the summer watering times. He was wondering if watering day restrictions could be removed to generate additional revenue on the basis that those people who are not watering are not going to start watering on the odd day.

Motion to discontinue water restrictions for one year: Dave
Second: Kristie

This was tabled until 9/24 until we had all 5 board members are present.

10/8/2024 ~The above motion as been amended to opening July 1-July 31 2025 watering days (no odd or even watering days) with the time restrictions of 5 am to 11 am and 5 pm to 11 pm: Kristie
Second: Jerry Passed

New Business:

No New Business

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.

8/27/2024~We will need to send the county the delinquent accounts and amounts due to turn people over to tax billing. We need to get those numbers together by the next meeting (9/10) 9/24/2024 ~ Arny needs to call and verify.

5/14/2024~ The gal who was doing our Audit went on emergency maternity leave. 7/23/2024 ~ Clayton told Arny that the audit is in review. He doesn't know why we need another audit 24-25. Arny will call DNRC and verify. The board is under the impression an audit is needed each fiscal year. 8/27/24 ~ Nothing new to report. 9/24/2024 ~ **Audit is complete.** Arny discussed the findings: 1) Bookkeeper is paying the bills prior to board approval. Could be resolved with an update to the bylaws or pending our bills until after our 2nd and 4th meetings. 2) Segregation of duties – 2 part time employees handling incoming payments with treasurer review. No resolution because we do not have personnel for necessary segregation 3) they didn't like our filing system. Arny has updated. 4) Account reconciliation Arny is working on finding out if we need an additional audit prior to calendar year end 2024. Brian will make some inquiries. The question is "did we spend less than \$750,000 this year". 10/8/2024 ~ Arny heard from Cyd stating that we do not need to have a 2023-2024 audit. This will be every other year audit. Arny reported to the auditor's a response to the findings. The auditor has asked Arny to sign the response, and Arny wanted to review this with the board. We will need a to have a more inclusive inventory list of equipment on hand.

#625 has not made a payment since June 2023. Current balance due is \$1,605.01 for water. That does not include the money that we forwarded her in 2020 for the leak. She will be hung on 7/29/2024 5:00 pm if we have not received this partial payment with termination on 8/1/2024 along with another turn on fee. 8/13/2024 ~ \$1,000.00 cash was received on 8/6/2024. 8/27/2024 ~ current payment due \$200.00 9/24/24 ~ we received \$215 cash at tonight's meeting.

The following bills were reviewed:

Northwestern Energy	\$	1,694.81	PH #1
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,379.88	PH #2
Energy West	\$	21.28	PH #1
Energy West	\$	42.56	PH #2
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet Service
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	25.80	15 locates
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	160.10	QBO and Payroll
Energy Labs	\$	504.00	DEQ Required Testing
AT & T	\$	109.68	Monthly Cell Phone
Hawkins	\$	3,671.59	Poly Ortho Phosphates
Brian Blackford	\$	1,484.80	General Manager's Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Alice Christensen	\$	221.64	Mowing
Gary Humble	\$	237.38	Wages, Mileage Misc
Schandelson, Arny	\$	939.06	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$	108.52	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$	168.74	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter	\$	378.38	Secretarial Wage
	\$	11,341.69	
# 4991 Colette Phillippe	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 4992 Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
	\$	277.04	

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

Delinquents:

Payments are due 10/21/2024 Termination will be 10/23/2024

# 507	\$ 321.17	# 509	\$ 137.00	# 556	\$ 146.24	# 564	\$ 352.55
# 567	\$ 254.03	# 571	\$ 245.85	# 593	\$ 278.09	# 646	\$ 225.92
# 660	\$ 867.81	# 664	\$ 393.98	# 665	\$ 413.19	# 668	\$ 124.86
# 673	\$ 265.37	# 687	\$ 376.68	#	\$	#	\$

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to Report. Kristie finally has access to Black Mountain but has not had an opportunity to review.

General Manager's Report:

- #509 has a billing issue. 8/27/24 ~ Issue unresolved due to an event like this happening about 18 months ago. No action to be taken until 9/10/2024 at which time we will request resubmittal of payment.
- Lead survey has been submitted prior to the deadline.
- Both check valves at pumphouse #2 connected to the distribution pumps failed to function over the weekend causing the cistern to overflow. PH #1 was temporarily shut down until the board could approve parts.
- On Monday 10/7/2024, Brian was going to repair and inspect the valves and found that the valves were working. Brian will order a spare on Wednesday 10/9 after board approval on 10/8.

Motion to adjourn at 8:20
Second:

Kristie
Dave Passed

Dennis Peppenger
President

Christy Walter
Secretary