

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Dec. 23, 2024**

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Dave Schuler, Kristie Blackford  
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger  
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter  
Operator: Brian Blackford  
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson  
Guest: Jan Jones & Mercy Padgett

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Kristie  
Second: Dave Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 12/12/24: Kristie  
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.

**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.

#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.

12/10/2024 ~ MT Rural Conference registration is out. Conference dates are 3/12/25-3/14/25.

Brian mentioned that the Cola increase is 2.50% effective Jan 1, 2025.

Motion to increase the wages to stay current with the 2.50% Cola increase: Dave  
Second: Kristie

Let the minutes reflect that there were 2 board members for and 1 against. Motion 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. 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.

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

The following bills were read for approval:

Federal Processing Registry	\$ 999.00	SAM Renewal for 2 years
Aqua source	\$ 2,837.35	Service Water in conduit box
Montana Rural Water	\$ 250.00	Brian's conference registration
Hawkins	\$ 50.00	Chlorine 10/15/24
Hawkins	\$ 40.00	Chlorine
AT&T Wireless	\$ 109.84	Monthly Cell Service
Energy Labs	\$ 169.00	Lead and Copper retesting
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$ 155.00	QB and Payroll
Great West Engineering	\$ 1,110.00	Professional Fee - Construction
City of Great Falls	\$ 26.00	Water Testing
Anderson's Backhoe	\$ 1,345.00	Excavated & Installed New Curb Stop
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$ 9.71	Supplies
Brian Blackford	\$ 120.00	1 year back pay for cell phone usage @\$10/month
	<b>\$ 7,220.90</b>	

# 5000	US Bank Trust	\$ 34,376.62	Bond Payment
		<b>\$ 34,376.62</b>	

Motion to Pay the Bills as Read:	Kristie	
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)

**Treasurer's Report:**  
Nothing to Report. Kristie finally has access to Black Mountain but has not had an opportunity to review.

**Operator's Report:**

- 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 8:50	Kristie	
Second:	Dave	Passed

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Dennis Peppenger  
President

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Christy Walter  
Secretary