

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Feb. 13, 2024

Board Members present: David Schuler, Dennis Peppenger, Colette Phillippe
 Conducting: David Schuler
 Recording Secretary: Kristie Blackford
 General Manager: Brian Blackford
 Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
 Excused absence: Jerry Ulmen, Christy Walter

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting and accept the minutes of February 13, 2024: Dennis Peppenger
 Second: Colette Phillippe Passed

Old Business:

1/9/2024 Lori reported that Joel said the Poly Phosphates should start in the next few weeks. Lori asked Arny to call and see if we could get an extension for filing our Annual Financial Report which was due 12/31/2023. This was for fiscal year 2023. This is part of the audit process and we are waiting for completion. 02/13/2024 A \$55.00 late fee for not turning in the financial report on time. A reminder will be set for next year. Lori responded to the Auditors about the grants and loans. They have access to Quickbooks. We have heard nothing further from them. 1/23/2024~ Dave had emailed Joel questioning the timeline on the poly phosphates. We have been told “just a few weeks” since September. Our district members are asking about this regularly. He has not received anything back from Joel. Brian has emailed Joel multiple times regarding assistance with relocating check valves at PH #1. He has received zero assistance on this matter even though Joel at Great West attested to assist us.

Arny followed up with the auditor regarding the Annual Financial Report.

New Business:

MT Rural Water conference is March 20-22 (correction from last minutes on dates)

Colette has brought up a question about our bi-laws and direct voting. Other board members discussed this issue and clarified the concern she had. Colette has made a motion to update and review our bi-laws. Second: Dennis Peppenger
 Dave will look up on MCA to make sure all laws are accurate. Passed

Bookkeepers Report:

We see positive changes with these statements. A few issues with the bill statements are being fixed. Black Mountain wants to go live with the Accounting for 3/1/2024, Arny would prefer starting when Quickbooks ends. We will need to keep Quickbooks until 3/31/2024. Arny will need to file with ETTPS for filing taxes. Black Mountain says our general ledger accounts don't line up with the Montana Bar system. Black Mountain can convert those for us.

The following information was read for approval:

Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Colette Phillippe	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	179.44	
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	145.50	QB & Payroll & Bank Rec
MT Rural Water	\$	300.00	
Aquasource Drilling LLC	\$	2,712.00	maintenance supplies
Energy West	\$	79.73	PH # 1
Energy West	\$	92.12	PH # 2
Northwestern Energy	\$	2,475.21	PH # 1
Northwestern Energy	\$	2,143.59	PH #2
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Test
	\$	8,485.58	

Direct deposits		
Brian Blackford	\$ 1,484.80	General Mgr./Operator Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$ 138.52	Director's Fee
Lori Eby	\$ 109.79	Grant Admin Wage
Gary Humble	\$ 282.99	Wages, Mileage Misc
Arnold Schandelson	\$ 989.05	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$ 108.52	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$ 329.02	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter	\$ 378.38	Secretarial Wage
	\$ 3,821.07	

Motion to Pay the Bills as read: Dennis Peppenger
 Second: Colette Phillippe Passed

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to review because of lack of access to Black Mountain.

General Manager's Report:

- Printer needs to be serviced. We believe that it needs a drum repair/cleaning. Brian will inquire and determine if it is more economical to repair vs replace.
- Rebuilt multiple components of the gas chlorine system at PH #2. Brian is still working out to determine why PH#2 is using more chlorine than what was used historically to retain the same chlorine residual in our water.

Upcoming Absences:

Collette will be out Feb 22-27
 Christy will be out Feb 13-23.
 Dave will be out Feb 20 - March 3
 Jerry will be out Feb 5 – March 6

Motion to adjourn at 8:03: Dennis Peppenger
 Second: Colette Phillippe Passed

David Schuler
 President

Christy Walter
 Secretary