

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
February 24, 2026

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Dave Schuler, Kristie Blackford, Susan Bersuch
Conducting: Dave Schuler
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter / Ashlee Liedle
Operator: Brian Blackford
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
Guest: Tom Edmonds | Jan Jones
The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Dennis
Second: Kristie Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 2/10/2026: Dennis
Second: Kristie Passed

Checks received at meeting: #652 \$500.00 Ck#434 | #652 \$91.00 Ck#4441 | #559 \$88.50 Ck#4794 | #539 \$500.00 Ck#1056 | #691 \$25.00 Ck#1886

Old Business:

The board discussed implementing a late fee for customers who do not make their payment by the end of the month and is doing research on this matter. Under MCA7-13-2301 Paragraph 3 Charges and penalties are authorized for water systems. This will be discussed in more depth during future. 1/27/2026 ~ Dave suggested a flat rate. 2/24/2026 – Discussion about add a flat rate vs percentage. Kristi suggest holding until accounting software is running smoothly. Motion to set a flat \$10.00 late fee to be applied to past due balances on the last day of the month: Dennis

Second: Susan 2 yes 1 no Passed CLOSED

This will be effective June 1, 2026. This will be included in the March newsletter. This will also be included in monthly statements. Arny requested clarification on deadlines for billing and late fee being applied.

1/13/2026 ~ Dave reviewed the cost involved with pit installation and the fee schedule. He has adjusted our fee schedule for inflation. We have until 2027 to make our website ADA compatible. Everything has to be scanned so it can be accessed by all. 1/27/2026 – This will be followed up on 2/24/2026. 2/24/2026 – Dave still working on ADA compliance for the website. Fee schedule inflation update recommended pit install \$3,000 from \$2,000 other fees will also be increase based on inflation. Dennis recommended updating to cost will be based on estimates at the time of a request.

2/10/2026 – Need to assign a board member to monitor the email (Gmail). The board assigned ownership of the Gmail inbox to the secretary. Ashlee to create label for board members to easily identify emails that require their attention.

New Business:

2/24/2026 – District Bi-Laws are being updated to be ADA compliant. This includes the minutes, quarterly files, balance sheets, and financials. Dave requested Profit and Loss sent as a PDF to get documents updated to ADA.

#639 Wanted to say thank you to Brian for working with her to troubleshoot her high water usage.

2/24/2026 – Ashlee to be paid \$20.00 an hour for Jan/Feb: Kristi
Second: Dennis PASSED

2/24/2026 – Dennis questions if district should charge customers for requested meter changes. Brian recommended that if change proves defective meter that fee is not applied to customer billing.

Bookkeepers Report:

10/8/2025 ~ Arny has been in touch with Clayton at Wipfli and most of the audit will be done electronically. Wendy Weissman has agreed to help Arny with some of the new requirements. 10/22/2025 Audit will start April 2026. 2/10/2026 Clayton will send Arny information to upload to the portal.

12/10/2025~ #525 now has a high usage while he was on vacation. We did install a new meter earlier this year. Special Termination we did receive 2 checks from the homeowner. 1/13/2026 ~ The homeowner was here to discuss his bill. We will do an internal audit based on his questions and concerns. 2/10/2026 homeowner does not want to pay any past due balances until internal audit is completed. Arny completed internal audit and notification will be sent to

homeowner regarding the balance. 2/24/2026 – Army completed a complete audit and did not identify any billing discrepancies. Kristi to complete a second review.

2/10/2026 - QB having difficulties balancing the new wells. Army is going to make an offsetting entry per Wendy Weissman.

2/10/2026 - #705 had zero usage meter reading. Brian completed a second reading that was not zero. Meter is scheduled to be changed.

2/10/2026 - #556 requested a name change. Army to verify reason for change.

2/24/2026 - #625 check returned. NSF Fee of \$34.00 will be applied to monthly bill. CLOSED

2/24/2026 – Request to pay payroll taxes when due to mitigate risk of late fees or penalties. As part of the payroll approval this is included to be paid. CLOSED

2/24/2026 – Going forward profit loss will be handed out the 1st meeting of the month for the previous month. CLOSED

The following bills were read for approval:

AT&T Wireless	\$ 102.22	Monthly Service
Immense Impact	\$ 635.00	Annual Subscription & ADA Compliance Annual Support
HAWKINS	\$ 40.00	Chlorine Cylinder
	\$ 777.22	

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

Delinquents: Payments will be due 3/9/2026, termination will be 3/11/2026

# 542	\$ 79.00	# 598	\$ 88.00	# 648	\$ 1046.00	# 678	\$ 108.00
# 550	\$ 78.00	# 612	\$ 91.00	# 660	\$ 126.00	# 681	\$ 108.00
# 556	\$ 79.00	# 646	\$ 147.00	# 665	\$ 126.00	# 687	\$ 172.00
# 571	\$ 82.00	# 689	\$ 108.00	# 525	\$ 178.00	# 625	\$ 224.98

Treasurer's Report: Kristi to connect with black mountain to get access this week. We need to review finance software and decide system that will be used for billing.

Operator's Report:

- PH # 1 down due to leak in distribution pump causing the loss of prime and pumping issues. Brian will work with Butch when parts come in. 2/24/2026 Still waiting on parts.
- #639 – Brian reviewed meter reads to verify water usage.
- #705 meter inspected no issues observed
- Verified if mileage was increased for meter readers to \$0.725 approved by board. Increase was approved.

Upcoming absences:

Jerry Feb 12 - March 6

Motion to adjourn at 8:26: Dennis
Second: Susan Passed

Dave Schuler
President

Ashlee Liedle
Secretary