

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
March 12, 2024

Board Members present: David Schuler, Dennis Peppenger, Kristie Blackford, Jerry Ulmen, 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: Kristie
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of February 13, 2024: Kristie
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of February 27, 2024 (no quorum): Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Checks received at the meeting: #541 \$130.54 ck # 13836 #1002 \$60.70 ck # 1002

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. 3/12/24 ~ Dave reported from Joel on 2/27/2024 that MJD is six weeks out on equipment for the Poly Phosphates.

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

MT Rural Water conference is March 20-22. Dave will not be able to attend, but he asked if the attending board members could look into any loan forgiveness or money available for the project.

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

Dave signed the Release of Information to DNRC thru 6/30/2023 for Gore Hill.

New Business:

Lori provided us with an email from Joel dated 2/14/2024 on how many gallons per minute can be pumped.
Well #3 =135gpm Well #4 = 150gpm. See attached for more information

Lori renewed the SAMS registration which is required for us to receive federal money. This is good for another year.

Arny reported that we will need to change banks to set up Black Mountain Accounting. The credit union is unable to facilitate the necessary information exchange with Black Mountain. Black Mountain has suggested Stockman's Bank – they have worked with them and have no problems with technology exchange.

Motion that a couple board members and Arny to down and talk to Stockman's Bank about opening new accounts: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

Kristie and Dennis and Arny will go down on Monday 3/18 @ 9:00 to talk to Stockman's Bank.

Our website was down for about a week. Our domain name was suspended with Go Daddy. Dave went in and cleaned up the Gore Hill information and tried to pay the bill for 5 years. It ended up that that the transaction was duplicated. Dave is trying to dispute this. At this time we are good for 10 years – until 2034. Website is back up.

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. 3/12/2024 ~ Bill pay will have to change with the credit union, we will have to mail paper checks for those vendors that have not provided us with routing numbers and account numbers.

The following information was read for approval:

Brian Blackford	\$ 1,484.79	General Mgr/Operator Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$ 138.53	Director's Fee
Lori Eby	\$ 529.33	Grand Administrator Wage
Gary Humble	\$ 224.35	Wages, Mileage Misc
Arnold Schandelson	\$ 939.06	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$ 108.53	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$ 221.64	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter	\$ 378.39	Secretarial Wage
Aqua source	\$ 196.00	Webtrol seal & O-ring (replacement)
Hawkins	\$ 599.38	Chlorine Cylinders
Utilities Underground Locate	\$ 13.76	8 locates
	\$ 4,833.76	

Transfer from Admin to Main: \$15,940. Audit Payment

Motion to Pay the Bills as read: Jerry
 Second: Dennis Passed

Treasurer's Report:

Everything is looking good in Quick Books. Nothing to review in Black Mountain because of lack of access.

General Manager's Report:

- 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. 3/12/2024~ Brian believes that we have an issue with the chlorine line at PH #2. Brian is still trying to troubleshoot the integrity of the buried line that runs from the pumphouse to well head.
- Received the DEQ schedule on Lead and Copper for the new wells.
- Jerry and Dennis asked about the abandoning of the 2 old wells. Those had to be pulled and sealed prior to the new wells going into service. We will need to verify with Joel that the proper paperwork has been completed.
- We will need to start a new preventative maintenance cycle of pulling wells/pumps every 4 years.

Motion to adjourn at 8:01: Kristie
 Second: Colette Passed

David Schuler
 President

Christy Walter
 Secretary