

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: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 3/12/24: Collette
Second: Jerry Passed

Checks received at the meeting: #502 \$200.00 ck # 12249

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. 1/23/2024~ Dave had emailed Joel questioning the timeline on the poly phosphates. We have been told "just a few weeks" since September. 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. 3/26/24 ~ Nothing from Joel. Arny has the ARF completed and will email this in week.

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. 3/26/24 ~ Dennis reported that the Lead and Copper rule has changed. We will need to inventory and report by August 2024. Royce and Brian will work on this.

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. 3/26/2024 ~ there is a lot to review and the board members are still reviewing.

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. 3/26/2024~ Dave was refunded for 5 years and we are good until 2029.

New Business: No New Business

Bookkeepers Report:

We see positive changes with these statements. A few issues with the bill statements are being fixed. 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. 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. Kristie and Dennis and Arny will go down on Monday 3/18 @ 9:00 to talk to Stockman's Bank. 3/26/2024 ~ Brian, Kristie and Arny met with Stockman's Bank. They need personal information for each signer. We have to list each signer and their title.

Those signers will be:

Dennis Peppenger	Vice President/Director	Dave Schuler	President/Director
Jerry Ulmen	Vice President /Director	Kristie Blackford	Treasurer /Director

Colette Phillippe Vice President /Director

The board will need to choose which program they want to go ahead with.
3/26/2024 ~ Arny reported that the Black Mountain accounting fee will be about \$600.00. We currently pay Wendy \$145.50 for QuickBooks. We do not need to change financial institutions (credit union/bank) to stay with QuickBooks. It was decided that the board needs Arny to do some further research and provide them with more information next meeting.

The following information was read for approval:

Energy West	\$	71.83	Pump House #2
Energy West	\$	57.82	Pump House #1
Local Government Services	\$	110.00	AFR Penalty
Hawkins	\$	30.00	Chlorine Cylinder
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Samples
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,153.21	Pump House #2
AT&T Wireless	\$	111.06	Monthly service
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly service
Hawkins Inc	\$	159.54	Vertex CSS & Freight
	\$	1,774.41	

Transfer from Main Checking to Bond Repayment: \$5,964.00 Audit Payment

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

Delinquents:

Arny asked for clarification on delinquents. Payments will be due April 8, termination will be April 10

# 648	\$ 612.04	# 650	\$ 209.51	# 665	\$ 115.04	# 672	\$ 59.79
# 691	\$ 625.78	# 717	\$ 81.91	# 564	\$ 115.94	# 598	\$ 196.89
# 625	\$ 787.24	# 650	209.51	# 645	\$ 125.65	#	\$

The following account(s) is off: #691 \$625.78

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. 3/26/24~ Brian had Steve dig up the chlorine line at PH# 2. The line is good. After ruling out any problems in the chlorine injection system and reviewing the initial well test number, we will need to use more chlorine than our old well to achieve the same level of free chlorine.
- Brian reached out to the Senus distributor about getting a new charger for our meter readers reader wands. He is waiting for a response.
- Brian met with Aqua Source at the water conference and they will be emailing us cost for a spare well pump and check valves. This will provide us with spares as needed and to space out the cost for our preventative maintenance.

Motion to adjourn at 8:05: Colette
Second: Kristie Passed

David Schuler
President

Christy Walter
Secretary