

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
April 8, 2025

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Jerry Ulmen, Kristie Blackford, Mercy Padgett and Dave Schuler
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter
Operator: Brian Blackford
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 3/25/25: Jerry
Second: Dave Passed

Checks Received at the Meeting: #541 \$66.71 ck# 13984 #502 \$200.00 ck#12374 #571 \$180.00 ck # 1703

Old Business:

#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. 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. 1/14/2025 ~ Dennis is still waiting. 2/11/2025 ~ David will follow up with the 705. 4/8/2025 ~ Continued.

12/10/2024 ~ MT Rural Conference registration is out. Conference dates are 3/12/25-3/14/25. 3/25/2025 ~ Board thought it was a good conference. Closed

#672 ~ was questioning his water usage. His December usage was over 20,000 gallons. Brian did check the meter 12-13 days ago with the wife. Brian verified that the when the water was shut off there was no meter reading. The board reviewed his annual billing and Brian suggested changing his meter tomorrow. 2/25/2025~ Brian changed the meter. 3/11/25 ~ meter has been changed. We are monitoring usage.

The homeowner at #525 has been out of town for the last 2-3 months. He had extremely high-water usage while they were gone. Mercy suggested that we install a new meter and follow it for the next 60 days to see what is going on. They will be gone off and on over the next few months. 3/25/2025 ~ New meter was installed. We will observe the usage for the next 60 days, but the outstanding flat rate needs to be paid.

3/25/2025~ Dennis and Jerry have gone down the Credit Union to get Mercy added. 4/8/2025 ~ Kristie has been at the credit union. Still waiting for Dave and Mercy.

New Business:

Dennis signed for the \$67,000 loan on Saturday and then then there was confusion on who and how to complete, so it was re-signed by Dennis and Jerry tonight. Arny will email.

Bookkeepers Report:

8/27/24~ An email was sent asking about the attachments we should be sending with the emailed bills. 10/22/24 ~ Arny has provided Christy a paper list. He is working on an electronic list.

3/11/2025 ~ We made \$1600 on the \$57,000 CD at the credit union that can be rolled into the next maturity. Motion to roll into a 7month cd at 3.85%. 3/25/2025~ Arny will complete with the signed meeting minutes. 4/8/25 ~ 7 month CD has been purchased. Closed

3/11/2025 ~ Black Mountain rolled out a new program which allows for auto-pay in house vs the Paystar payments.

3/25/2025~ there is a \$100 monthly fee to GHCWD plus a per transaction for online payments thru Black Mountain.

4/8/2025~ The \$1.95 is a Black Mountain Fee and there is a Credit Card fee of 3.25%.

Motion to discontinue looking into this service: Mercy
Second: Kristie Passed

3/11/2025 ~ We received a bill from Great West to MJD Contracting for the polyphosphate's installation from November 2024. Motion to reopen the loan and add this bill to our loan passed at the previous meeting. 3/25/2025 Arny is working on this.

#594 Homeowner has sold to another owner. There is a renter on the property.

The following bills were read for approval:

Northwestern Energy	\$	1,777.25	PH # 1	
Northwestern Energy	\$	925.20	PH # 2	
AT & T	\$	106.84	Monthly Cell Phone Service	
Energy West	\$	34.82	PH # 2	
Energy West	\$	76.91	PH # 1	
Associated Business Systems	\$	324.50	Envelopes	
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	8.75	5 locates	
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet	
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$	155.00	QuickBooks & Payroll	
Brian Blackford	\$	1,164.60	Operator's Wage	
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.52	Director's Fee	
Gary Humble	\$	249.70	Wages, Mileage, Misc	
Mercy Padgett	\$	138.52	Director's Fee	
Arnold Schandelson	\$	1,125.87	Bookkeeper's Wage	
David Schuler	\$	108.52	Director's Fee	
Royce Shipley	\$	150.28	Wages, Mileage, Misc	
Christina Walter	\$	362.91	Secretarial Wage	
	\$	6,903.14		
# 5007	Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 5008	Cassandra Hembree	\$	5.63	Refund of Deposit #636
		\$	144.15	

Transfer from Main to Bond Repayment: \$6,000.00

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

Delinquents: Payment is due 4/07/2025 Termination is 4/9/2025. No Terminations this week.

Treasurer's Report:

Kristie has reviewed the "paper" side of the paperwork. 3/25/2025~ Kristie is working on organizing and reviewing.

Operator's Report:

- PH # 1 Distribution pump 1 Variable Speed Drive (VSD) is non-operational. Cascade Electric came out 4/8/2025 and stated "Repair is outside their scope". Nash Electric out of Helena is assisting.
- PH #1 Distribution system extension pipes were added between Distribution pump and check valve. This should hopefully extend the working lives of the check valves closest to the distribution pumps.

Upcoming Absences: Kristie and Brian will be out 4/22/2025

Motion to adjourn at 7:54
Second: Mercy
Kristie Passed

Dennis Peppenger
President

Christy Walter
Secretary