

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

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Mercy Padgett, and David Schuler
Conducting: Mercy Padgett
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter
Operator: Excused
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
Guest: Mike Carroll
Bob Quay

The Public Meeting began at 6:50 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Dennis
Second: Dave Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 6/24/25: Dennis
Second: Dave Passed

Checks Received at the meeting: #571 ck # 1707 \$100.00

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. 5/13/2024 ~ Dave and the homeowner updated the posting. 6/24/2025 ~ the price has been reduced to \$15,000 and Dennis will get an advertisement with MT Rural Water. 7/8/2025~ Dennis will get the info to MT Rural Water.

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. 5/13/2025 ~ Kristie talked to the homeowner and reviewed the usage. The usage prior to meter change is drastically higher than the usage after the change. Kristie proposed that the homeowner will pay the monthly fees and to charge the usage for 2024 (the previous year) plus 20%. Arny will determine how to properly adjust this and report at the next meeting. 6/10/2025 ~We will make a decision on this after the June meter reading. 7/8/2025~ Homeowner attended the meeting to discuss. The board and homeowner discussed. Motion to have homeowner pay \$13.77: Dave

Second: Dennis Passed
Homeowner will have this included this with his July bill. Closed

#518 Royce left a message stating that his valve is non-functioning and would like to have that fixed. 6/10/2025 Brian was excused. Will follow up with him at the next meeting. 7/8/2025 ~ Brian has changed the meter. Closed

Brian has found a replacement for Gary. His name is Ed Taylor. Dennis, Dave and Jerry approved and he has been hired. Closed

Annual Budget Meeting will be August 8/12/2025. 7/8/2025 ~ Brian, Kristie, David and Arny crunched the budget. We will be increasing across the board 5%.

New Business:

#706~ Homeowner is questioning the usage on the July bill. His bill reflected usage of over \$800. This was a clerical error in meter reading. We will correct this. Closed

Bookkeepers Report:

#634 ~ homeowner is questing her water usage while she was gone. 5/27/2025 Arny provided usage to Brian to review. Brian reported that she had a leak in Jan. 6/10/2025 ~ We will need to follow up with Brian on this.

Army talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. Army has tried to schedule a meeting with the Wipfli. 7/8/2025~ Army is working on getting this scheduled.

Army has talked to Cascade County regarding the delinquent balances. Army has the format they want the information provided. We will have this prepared for the 8/26/2025 meeting so we can have this at the Cascade County by 9/1/2025.

Bond payment went thru without a problem.

#667 is still questioning his water usage. He is asking to have his meter replaced.

#662 - we received a notice from the credit union that their June check bounced.

The following bills were read for approval

# 5018	Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.53	Director's Fee
		\$	138.53	
Nash Electric		\$	4,502.65	Repair of Variable Speed Drive on the dist pump
AT&T		\$	99.87	Monthly Cell Phone Service
Wendy Weissman CPA		\$	160.10	QuickBooks & Payroll
KDS Networks		\$	54.95	Monthly Internet Service
Montana State Fund		\$	454.30	Workman's Comp
Energy West		\$	24.39	PH # 1
Energy West		\$	24.93	PH # 2
McAfee		\$	829.99	1 year subscription
Brian Blackford		\$	1,142.94	Operator's Wage
Kristie Blackford		\$	138.53	Director's Fee
Alice Christensen		\$	517.16	Mowing
Gary Humble		\$	221.41	Director's Fee
Mercy Padgett		\$	138.53	Director's Fee
Arnold Schandelson		\$	973.87	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler		\$	108.53	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley		\$	212.93	Wages, Mileage, Misc
Christina Walter		\$	362.93	Secretarial Wage
		\$	9,968.01	

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

Delinquents: Payment was due 7/7/2025 Termination is 7/9/2025.

#648 \$836.26 # 650 \$308.67

Treasurer's Report: Excused

Kristie is working on filing and reviewing accounts.

Operator's Report: Excused

- Energy Lab report came back with good results.
- Brian introduced Ed Taylor to the board as our new meter reader.

Upcoming Absences: Dave will be out 7/22

Motion to adjourn at 7:52 Dennis
Second: Dave Passed

Mercy Padgett
President

Christy Walter
Secretary