

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Nov 24, 2024**

Board Members present: Dennis Peppenger, Dave Schuler, Kristie Blackford, Jerry Ulmen  
Conducting: Dennis Peppenger  
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter  
General Manager: Brian Blackford  
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Dave  
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 11/12/24: Jerry  
Second: Kristie Passed

**Checks received at the meeting:** #502 \$200.00 ck# 12340 #639 \$600.00 ck # 312 #541 \$67.66 ck # 13944

**Old Business:**

#603 ~ was asking about opting out of the water district and the pros and cons of that. 10/8/2024 ~ Brian has received a text from the home owners requesting to withdraw from the Gore Hill Water District. 10/22/2024 ~ Dennis is going to contact Montana Rural Water to find out what the current procedure is for someone to be removed from the district. 11/12/2024 ~ Dennis provided the procedures from MCA to all board members. This will be sent to the homeowners as well. The account must be brought current prior to them submitting the letter asking to be removed. 11/26/2024 ~ The homeowners served us a petition for withdrawal from the district along with check # 109 for \$100.00. Christy will file with the county on 12/3/2024. 12/10/2024 ~ Christy has filed the petition with the county. She wrote up a notice to be posted on the website, bills, and newsletter. Christy will look into the cost of posting in the Tribune.

#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. 11/26/2024 ~ Dennis has heard nothing from Grant. The generator is currently working. Kristie and Brian will also advertise on Facebook Marketplace. 12/10/24 Nothing to date

The 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month is 12/24. We will hold that meeting on Monday 12/23/2024. Jerry will not be able to attend on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**New Business:**

MT Rural Conference registration is out. Conference dates are 3/12/25-3/14/25.

Brian mentioned that the Cola increase is 2.50% effective Jan 1, 2025.

**Bookkeepers Report:**

8/27/24~ # 580 sent an email asking about the attachments we should be sending with the emailed bills. Arny and Christy will get an email list together to and will send out the CCR and Quarterly Newsletters. We will continue to send out enclosures in bulk emails blind copied to those who received emailed statements. 9/10/2024 ~ Arny will provide Christy a list. 10/22/24 ~ Arny has provided Christy a paper list. He is working on an electronic list.

**Audit is complete.** 10/8/2024 ~ Arny heard from Cyd stating that we do not need to have a 2023-2024 audit. This will be every other year audit. 11/26/2024 ~ Arny talked to the representative from the state and he will send Arny a list of companies that could provide audit services.

#625 was hung with Payment due 11/25 Term 11/27. \$ 257.34 (current bill plus \$100.00) 12/10/2024~ cash of \$120 was received 12/2/2024.

Arny has paperwork from the credit union to update the signatures for the board members. We had board member's sign. 11/26/2024~ The credit union is requesting that the minutes officially stating that Colette Phillippe was authorized to sign for Gore Hill. We also need to state that at least by Mercy Padgett and Lori Eby are no longer employed by Gore Hill.

11/26/2024 ~ #509 stated that they paid \$137.00 several months ago that we have never received. Brian talked to the homeowners tonight and they will repay and additional \$35 from the billed amount in each of Jan, Feb, Mar and April 2025.

The following bills were approved for payment:

Energy West	\$	55.13	PH # 2
Energy West	\$	48.56	PH # 1
City of Great Falls	\$	26.00	Water Test
Northwest Pipe Fittings	\$	361.98	Supplies
AT&T Wireless	\$	111.18	Monthly service
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,474.54	PH # 1
Northwestern Energy	\$	954.03	PH # 2
Hawkins, Inc	\$	1,152.28	Chlorine & Freight
Energy Labs	\$	456.00	Lead and Copper Testing
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly service
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	6.88	4 locates
Brian Blackford	\$	1,084.79	General Manager Wage
Kristie Blackford	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Gary Humble	\$	218.99	Wages, Mileage Misc
Arnold Schandelson	\$	989.56	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler	\$	108.52	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley	\$	257.67	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina M Walter	\$	378.38	Secretarial Wage
	\$	<b>7,877.96</b>	

# 4993	Colette Phillippe	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
# 4994	Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
		\$	<b>277.04</b>	

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

**Delinquents:**

Payments are due 12/9/2024 Termination will be 12/13/2024 #665 \$305.55

**Treasurer's Report:**

Nothing to Report. Kristie finally has access to Black Mountain but has not had an opportunity to review.

**General Manager's Report:**

- 2 bottles on the lead and copper sampling were rejected. They have been retested.
- We passed the lead and copper. Results are available on the DEQ website.
- PH #2 is down. We will either need Cascade Electric or Aqua Source to check, Brian is estimating this will cost more than \$500.00. Brian is hoping to have this fixed within the next 2 days. Board Approved
- Brian would like to purchase 2 more suction hoses from Northwest Pipe due to our existing hoses failing. Board Approved.
- Emergency repair on #585 required a courtesy shut off. Curb box was nonfunctional and had to be replaced at district expense. Leak on customer side of the tap was also repaired at customer expense.

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

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Dennis Peppenger  
 President

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Christy Walter  
 Secretary