

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

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

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 9/10/24: Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Checks received at the meeting: #625 Cash \$215

Old Business:

3/12/24 ~ Dave reported from Joel on 2/27/2024 that MJD is six weeks out on equipment for the Poly Phosphates. 9/10/2024 ~ the activation date is 9/19/2024. Joel is working with Chemical Montana to complete this. 9/24/2024~ Brian worked with MJD today. Everything is set up except the signal wire that would turn on the poly ortho phosphate pump when the well pump turns on. They are waiting on Ad Edge to respond to their questions to resolve the problem. There will be an additional annual expense of approximately \$5,500.00 based on 19 million gallons billed annually.

Jerry mentioned that because of the excessive water flooding the homeowner on the east side of Pumphouse 1 has had pump his septic twice and needs to have another pumping. The board approved paying for the next pumping, the homeowner will provide us with the statement for that pumping. 7/9/2024 ~ homeowners will have the third pumping once the ground dries out. 8/27/2024~ Septic was pumped on Saturday 8/24. Jerry will get a copy of the invoice for that pumping.

Per Dennis's request there will be a Board Members Only meeting immediately following the 9/10/2024 meeting. Since Colette was unable to attend 9/10 or 9/24 this has been postponed to 10/1 at 7:00.

#603 ~ was asking about opting out of the water district and the pros and cons of that.

New Business:

#705 ~ Homeowner was questioning what the status of the generator was. He offered to help us sell the generator. He was confused on how the minutes read regarding the generator. He stated that he read that a motion to sell the generator was passed on 5/28. Why hasn't it been sold yet. He also offered to help write up a pilot study on whether we could remove the water restrictions and how the district could sustain that.

#597 ~ was wondering about the odd and even watering days with the smaller amount of people watering on their days. He mentioned that the even days are "shorted" 2 days during the summer watering times. He was wondering if watering day restrictions could be removed to generate additional revenue on the basis that those people who are not watering are not going to start watering on the odd day.

Motion to discontinue water restrictions for one year: Dave
Second: Kristie

This was tabled until 9/24 until we had all 5 board members are present.

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

8/27/2024~We will need to send the county the delinquent accounts and amounts due to turn people over to tax billing. We need to get those numbers together by the next meeting (9/10) 9/24/2024 ~ Arny needs to call and verify.

5/14/2024~ The gal who was doing our Audit went on emergency maternity leave. 7/23/2024 ~ Clayton told Arny that the audit is in review. He doesn't know why we need another audit 24-25. Arny will call DNRC and verify. The board is under the impression an audit is needed each fiscal year. 8/27/24 ~ Nothing new to report. 9/24/2024 ~ **Audit is complete.** Arny discussed the findings: 1) Bookkeeper is paying the bills prior to board approval. Could be resolved with an update to the bylaws or pending our bills until after our 2nd and 4th meetings. 2) Segregation of duties – 2 part time employees handling incoming payments with treasurer review. No resolution because we do not have personnel for necessary segregation 3) they didn't like our filing system. Arny has updated. 4) Account reconciliation

Motion to start approving bills on Tuesday and paying on Wednesday: Kristie
 Second: Jerry Passed
 Arny is working on finding out if we need an additional audit prior to calendar year end 2024. Brian will make some inquiries. The question is "did we spend less than \$750,000 this year".

#625 has not made a payment since June 2023. Current balance due is \$1,605.01 for water. That does not include the money that we forwarded her in 2020 for the leak. She will be hung on 7/29/2024 5:00 pm if we have not received this partial payment with termination on 8/1/2024 along with another turn on fee. 8/13/2024 ~ \$1,000.00 cash was received on 8/6/2024. 8/27/2024 ~ current payment due \$200.00 9/24/24 ~ we received \$215 cash at tonight's meeting.

The following bills were reviewed:

Energy Labs	\$	504.00	Testing
Hawkins	\$	40.00	Chlorine Cylinders
Energy West	\$	42.56	PH # 1
Ferguson's Waterworks	\$	391.88	Meter Parts
Energy West	\$	21.28	PH #2
	\$	999.72	

Transfer fm Main Checking to Bond Repayment: \$6,500.00
 Motion to Pay the Bills as Read: Jerry
 Second: Kristie Passed

Delinquents:

Payments are due 9/23/2024 Termination will be 9/25/2024. No termination this week.
 #676 \$176.96 no payment since May. This will be hung 9/25/24

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:

- #509 has a billing issue. 8/27/24 ~ Issue unresolved due to an event like this happening about 18 months ago. No action to be taken until 9/10/2024 at which time we will request resubmittal of payment.
- #621 asked Brian to check usage. She felt that her usage was high. Brian checked for leaks and functioning of the meter. No issues found.

Motion to adjourn at 7:58: Kristie
 Second: Dave Passed

Dennis Peppenger
 President

Christy Walter
 Secretary