

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
August 12, 2025

Board Members present: Mercy Padgett, Dennis Peppenger, Jerry Ulmen, Kristie Blackford
Conducting: Mercy Padgett
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: Dennis Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 7/22/25: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

Checks Received at the meeting: #502 ck#12405 \$200.00 #571 ck #1712 \$131.70 #639 ck#393 \$500.00

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. 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. 07/22/2025 MT Rural water will post it on their website. Dennis and Brian are going to do a trouble shoot on the generator battery. 8/12/2025 ~ nothing new to report

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%. 8/12/2025 ~ Resolutions will be voted on 8/26/2025. Christy thought the annual meeting was 8/26 and that she would have time to address her questions.

#639 had questions about the bill. The board is reviewing this account and our operator is going to review her meter.

The Cascade County commission has sent a notification for a special use permit to build a sports training facility. After researching this property, it is not eligible for use of Gore Hill Water. This does not affect the district. CLOSED

New Business:

#634 is questioning her bill. Brian will take the leak detector to her home Thursday night to check. She was out of state from Nov 2024 to April 2025.

#505 was billed for over 200,000 gallons of water in July. Brian read the meter tonight and

Christy notified the board that she will be retiring as the secretary no later than December 2026. If we find someone earlier, she is more than willing to step down and provide training for the new person.

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. 07/22/2025 634 had contacted our operator and she was instructed to contact the board about the billing and never did.

Arny talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. Arny has tried to schedule a meeting with the WipFli. 7/8/2025~ Arny is working on getting this scheduled. 07/22/2025~ A meeting has been scheduled. 8/12/2025~ Arny has had his first meeting with the auditor and provided documents to the board. It was discussed that the taxes and unemployment can be paid prior to board authorization because those must be paid on the last business day of the month.

Arny has talked to Cascade County regarding the delinquent balances. Arny 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. 8/12/2025~ Christy will gather all of the info for Arny by next meeting.

#667 is still questioning his water usage. He is asking to have his meter replaced. 07/22/2025 Brian is trying to get into contact with customer and the phone number is not current. Brian is going to #667 to contact individual.

The following bills were read for approval

Blackford, Brian	\$	1,142.95	General Manager Wage
Blackford, Kristie	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Humble, Gary	\$	353.06	Wages, Mileage, Misc
Padgett, Mercy	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
Schandelson, Arnold	\$	108.52	Director's Fee
Shipley, Royce	\$	212.92	Wages, Mileage, Misc
Taylor, Edward	\$	195.15	Wages, Mileage, Misc
Walter, Christina	\$	362.91	Secretarial Wage
KDS Networks	\$	54.95	Monthly Internet Service
Hawkins	\$	758.21	Chlorine & Cylinders
Weissman, Wendy	\$	160.10	QB and Payroll
Northwestern Energy	\$	2,012.12	Pumphouse #1
Northwestern Energy	\$	1,822.05	Pumphouse #2
Utilities Underground Locate	\$	7.00	4 Locates
Hawkins	\$	217.07	Sodium Hydrochloride
	\$	7,684.05	
# 5022 Gerald Ulmen	\$	138.52	Director's Fee
	\$	138.52	

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

Delinquents: Payment was due 08/11/2025 Termination is 08/12/2025. No terminations this week.

Treasurer's Report:

Kristie is working on filing and reviewing accounts.

Operator's Report:

- Variable Speed Drives have been malfunctioning. Cascade Electric is scheduled to fix them in August. Cascade Electric is unable to fix. Nash Electric should be out Wednesday 8/13/2025 hopefully. The existing Eaton VFD model SVX9000 is not readily available with no future prospects. A newer model will be installed in its place hopefully.

Communication has been intermittent and challenging with Nash Electric. No other electrical company has been found that can service our Eaton VFD(variable frequency drive).

- The pressure fluctuations are causing the discoloration of the water. Brian hopes he has the distribution pumps set to maintain pressure.
- The problem with low pressure was caused by the loss of one of our distribution pumps and not having the timers that control our distribution pumps for enough hours a day during peak demand. Brian apologized to the board and members that were affected by this.
- Our new meter reader, Ed Taylor, has been instrumental during the disruptions. Brian pointed out that he has been more than willing to help out and has shown a level of understanding beyond his training experience.

Upcoming Absences: Dave will be out 7/22; Kristie will be out August 26, 2025. Mercy will be out August 5.

Motion to adjourn at 8:52 Jerry
Second: Kristie Passed

Mercy Padgett
President

Christy Walter
Secretary