

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528**

**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
December 10, 2025**

Board Members present: David Schuler, Dennis Peppenger, Kristie Blackford & Jerry Ulmen
Conducting: David Schuler
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter
Operator: Brian Blackford
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
Guests: Ashley Liedle
Tom & Bridgett Edmonds
Susan Bersuch

The Public Meeting began at 7:00 pm

Motion to open the meeting: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 11/12/25 we did not have a quorum 11/12/2025: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Motion to accept the minutes of 11/26/25: Dennis
Second: Jerry Passed

Checks Received at the meeting:

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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. 6/24/2025 ~ the price has been reduced to \$15,000 and Dennis will get an advertisement with 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 8/26/2025 ~ Townsend Electric may have someone interested in the generator. Brian will follow up tomorrow. 10/8/2025 ~ Nothing new

Mercy has indicated that she will be submitting a letter of resignation. She was appointed to fill Collette's position. She turned in her keys but we are waiting on written notice 10/22/2025. 11/12/2025 ~ Still waiting. 12/10/2025~ We have received Mercy's letter of resignation as of 11/29/2025. Dave did post on the website with a deadline of 1/27/2026. This will be for the remainder of Collette's term thru 5/2027.

Northwestern Energy notified us to put a power pole on the property in the easement. Board discussed the underground lines. Motion was approved the line for Northwestern Energy. **CLOSED**

The board discussed implementing a late fee for customers who do not make their payment by the end of the month and is doing research on this matter. Under MCA7-13-2301 Paragraph 3 Charges and penalties are authorized for water systems. This will be discussed in more depth during future meetings. 11/12/2025 ~ City of GF charges 1.5% late fee until the bill is paid in full. There is a termination schedule. Sun Prairie charges \$25.00 after 31 days and \$25 every month until paid in full. Cascade (town) terminates after 90 days and does not reconnect until the bill is current. 12/10/2025~ Dave supplied the board with more cities and towns policies on late fees. The board needs to review this further and update accordingly.

Dave brought in the necessary documents for people wanting to file for the 3 board positions up for election 5/5/2026. Filing dates are open from Jan 2 2026 thru Feb 4 2026 with approximately a filing fee of \$20.00. **CLOSED**

Dave will be retiring from TSA on 12/31/25. Because of this TSA is changing Dave's schedule and he will be coming in late. **CLOSED**

New Business:

Dave brought to the attention of the board that anyone who is unable to attend a meeting needs to contact the president that they will be unable to attend.

Motion to move our meetings back to Tuesday's as of 12/23/2025: Jerry
Second: Dennis Passed

Dave followed up with Brian regarding the chlorine numbers. Brian said we are looking good.

Bookkeepers Report:

Arny talked to the auditor and we need to do an audit this year. 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. 10/8/2025 ~ Arny has been in touch with Clayton and most of the audit will be done electronically. Wendy Weissman has agreed to help Arny with some of the new requirements. 10/22/2025 Audit will start. April 2026

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. 8/26/2025 ~ #691 will be turned over to the county. That property is owned by #645. Christy will get a letter out to #645 for \$1,865.00 9/9/2025~ #645 called Arny questioning the bill. He was told that as the property owner, the bill stops with him if his tenant is not paying. Arny told him to attend tonight's meeting and he did not show up. 9/24/2025 ~ Mercy and Dave signed the letter going to the county tonight. 10/8/2025 ~ Arny needed signatures from all board members. He will submit tomorrow hopefully. 10/22/2025 CLOSED 11/12/2025 ~ #645 attended the meeting questioning the charge on their taxes. The board will review. 12/10/2025 ~ Homeowners attended and discussed with the board the situation. Homeowner was not aware of the water bill being delinquent since the bill was being mailed the second address. No one knows where that mail is going, nothing has been returned to GHCWD. He homeowner has requested that the tap be permanently terminated. Motion to forgive the entire amount the debt and terminate the tap: Jerry

Second: Dennis all in Favor 2 Against 2 Did not pass

Motion to terminate tap #691: Kristie

Second: Dennis all in favor 4 Passed

Motion to remove the request to Cascade County as of today and work with the homeowners to collect the outstanding balance: Dennis

Second: Jerry Passed

Homeowners will attend the 12/23/2025 meeting to complete payment plan. We will supply a letter to be signed by the homeowners and board stating they will pay \$25.00 until the bill is paid off.

#525 now has a high usage while he was on vacation. We did install a new meter earlier this year.

#567 sent in \$100 and will be sending in \$200-300 monthly going forward.

The following bills were read for approval:

# 5027	Void	\$ -	
# 5028	Anderson Backhoe	\$ 12,417.80	Excavation on 57th Ave & 47st
# 5029	Gerald Ulmen	\$ 138.53	Director's Fee
		\$ 12,556.33	
SAM renewal		\$ 599.00	2-year renewal
Brian Blackford		\$ 1,395.04	General Manager Wage
Kristie Blackford		\$ 138.52	Director's Fee
Arnold Schandelson		\$ 973.87	Bookkeeper's Wage
David Schuler		\$ 108.52	Director's Fee
Royce Shipley		\$ 329.46	Wages, Mileage Misc
Christina Walter		\$ 362.92	Secretarial Wage
KDS Networks		\$ 54.95	Monthly service
Utilities Underground Locate		\$ 8.75	5 locates
Townsend Controls & Electric		\$ 3,135.82	VFD Troubleshoot
Wendy Weissman CPA		\$ 270.70	QuickBooks & Payroll
USA Environmental		\$ 275.00	Asbestos Report
Northwestern Energy		\$ 1,550.85	PH #2
AT&T Wireless		\$ 102.04	Monthly service
Hawkins		\$ 40.00	Cylinder rental
11/25/2025		\$ 9,345.44	

City of Great Falls	\$ 26.00	Water Samples
Energy West	\$ 61.00	Water Samples
Utilities Underground Locate	\$ 3.50	2 locates
Northwestern Energy	\$ 566.13	PH #1
Northwestern Energy	\$ 1,596.12	PH #2
12/10/2025	\$ 2,252.75	

Claim Forms:

Arny Schandelson \$5.00	Property Tax Filing
Ed Taylor \$160.80	Wages, Mileage Misc for November billing

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

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing to report.

Operator's Report:

- Brian has tried to reach out to Butch to find out when he can re-install the rebuilt distribution pump at PH #1. Seals have been received and the second pump should be installed in a week. 10/22/2025 Still haven't heard anything from Butch. Dennis will reach out to him and follow up. **11/12/2025 ~ Dennis told Butch that we need 1 pump right away to get PH #1 back in service.**
- #665 has a decent leak. Brian was not able to find it in the snow. Anderson Backhoe was able to find the pinhole leak.
- Northwest Energy has updated our meters to electronic meters.
- Brian will contact Anderson Backhoe to remove the tap at #691.

Motion to adjourn at 8:25: Jerry
 Second: Dennis Passed

David Schuler
 President

Christy Walter
 Secretary