

GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
406-761-6528
Minutes of the Public Board Meeting
Public Meeting
December 23, 2025

Board Members present: David Schuler, Dennis Peppenger, Kristie Blackford
Conducting: David Schuler
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter
Operator: Brian Blackford
Bookkeeper: Arny Schandelson
Guests: 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 12/10/2025: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

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 thru May 2027. She turned in her keys but we are waiting on written notice. 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.

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.

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

New Business:

Cost of living adjustment for 2026 is 2.8%. It was mentioned that when the budget was calculated in July of 2025 it was increased by 5%.

Bookkeepers Report:

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. 10/08/2025 ~ 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 remove the request to Cascade County as of today and work with the homeowners to collect the outstanding balance: 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.

12/10/2025~ #525 now has a high usage while he was on vacation. We did install a new meter earlier this year.

Special Termination: Payments are due 1/12/2026 termination will be 1/14/2026 #525 \$696.19

The following bills were read for approval:

AT&T	\$ 102.37	Monthly Cell Phone
Wendy Weissman CPA	\$ 170.70	QuickBooks & Payroll
Hawkins	\$ 40.00	Chlorine Rental
Utilities Underground Locate	\$ 47.96	locates
	\$ 361.03	
 # 5030 USPS	 \$ 1,170.00	 15 Rolls of Stamp
	\$ 1,170.00	

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

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing new 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.**
- Brian will contact Anderson Backhoe to remove the tap at #691.
- #667 has a leak at his meter pit. Brian provided him a key so he can work on this over the holiday break. He is turning his water on and off as needed.

Upcoming absences:

Dave Feb 9-16

Motion to adjourn at 8:00: Kristie
Second: Dennis Passed

David Schuler
President

Christy Walter
Secretary