

**GORE HILL COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
**406-761-6528**  
**Minutes of the Public Board Meeting**  
**March 9, 2021**

Board Members present: David Schuler, Jerry Ulmen, and Kristie Blackford  
Conducting: David Schuler  
Recording Secretary: Christy Walter  
General Manager: Brian Blackford  
Bookkeeper: Lori Eby – on phone  
Guest: Michael Cunningham  
Guest: Cassie Tigges

The Public Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

Motion to accept the minutes of Feb. 23, 2021: Jerry  
Second: Kristie Passed

**Checks Received at the Meeting:** #502 \$100.00 ck# 11823 #539 \$57.08 ck#832

**Old Business:**

We need to start the process of putting in 2 new wells. Pat is very concerned about a cave in. 2/9/2021 ~ site assessment has been completed. We will have a Sanitary Survey this year. 2/23/2021 ~ Joel was here to clarify some issues with our water rights and water permit. We *should be* able to complete a Municipal Well Replacement form and pay a \$200 fee and be good. We may have to go thru a Water Right Change Process, that could take 2-3 months. There is some question is about our district boundaries and the water right permit states it was for domestic use not municipal use. If we need to change these, it is outside Great West's scope of work and would increase their fee an estimated \$5,000 to \$7,000. There is more investigation needed, but Joel wanted to bring this to our attention. Design is almost completed and should be submitted to DEQ within the next week or so. 3/9/2021 ~ Conference Call was 3/1. Application has been changed for our water rights is in the works. Lori forwarded the map on 2/26. Joel will forward info to Lori for her to send to Josh Campbell for our site title opinion. Our coverage payment is going down from \$31,000, but Lori is not sure how much. DEQ is working on it. Next call is 4/14/21. The board will need to vote on the rate increase during a public meeting where the members can question and comment. The public meeting will be after we receive bids from contractors.

2/23/21 ~ #625 the now single homeowner has asked us to renegotiate the contract. After much discussion it was decided on \$75 per month plus the monthly payment. She will come back next meeting to sign the new contract. 3/9/21 Lori has the contract modification ready to be signed. 3/9/2021 Cassie was here and sign the modification.

**New Business:**

Newsletter is due the end of March. Jerry will work on that.

We received a waiver from DEQ for Inorganic Chemicals. This waiver is in effect thru 12/31/2028

**Bookkeepers Report: On Phone**

5801 43<sup>rd</sup> ST SW has contacted Lori to inquire about joining the district. The original RID was not paid. Lori explained that the tap fee is \$3,000 and the cost to join is \$4,842. Michael Cunningham was in tonight and said he will send us a check.

#582 is up for sale

#624 had a fire and the water is off.

#653 did pay, but his check was stale dated and had to be resubmitted.

1/12~ #729 – home sold. 1/26/2021 Sale fell thru. 2/9/2021~ property has not sold yet. He had a leak.

3/9~ #729 had another high bill

#664 may have a leak

#631 did have a leak

Lori didn't do delinquents today because last Tuesday was too early in the month.

CCR needs to be go out with April month end billing so we stay in compliance with the project.

The map & contact info needs to be updating for Underground Utilities Locates

Our insurance has indicated before that the districts needs some kind of contract with Steven Anderson. The board needs to explore something like a "call when needed" contract that can be renewed each year.

MT Rural Water conference is May 19-21. We should see applications soon?

The following checks were read for approval:

# 4632	USPS	\$	715.00	14 Rolls of Stamps
# 4633	Brian Blackford	\$	17.79	Oil & Postage
		\$	732.79	
BP# 49585942	AT&T	\$	109.76	Monthly Cell Phone
BP# 49677654	Energy Labs	\$	22.00	Testing
BP# 49677655	KDS Networks	\$	38.95	Internet
BP# 49862077	Northwestern Energy	\$	995.44	PH # 1
BP# 49862076	Northwestern Energy	\$	869.95	PH # 2
		\$	2,036.10	

Transfer fm Const Sav to Main: \$17,636.17      Project Engineer Progress Payment

Motion to pay these bills as read:      Jerry  
Second:      Kristie      Passed

**Treasurer's Report:**

Excused. Lori was able to tell us that as far as she knew everything was good.

**Delinquents:**

Payments are due 3/15/21. Termination will be 3/16/2021.

# 534 \$ 60.89      # 691 \$ 17.57      # 729 \$ 300+

**General Manager's Report:**

- PH# 1 roof damage on filter house and 1 shed. Approx \$1500 to repair. This will be completed in warmer weather.
- Siding on the Cisterns MUST be replaced this year. Brian will try to get a bid from Mark Wennas.
- #631 Needed water shut off. This should be the first pit replaced if/when we start replacing pits.
- DEQ site survey was on 3/2/2021. No major issues. Inspector was impressed how thoroughly we track our system loss.
- PH #1 chlorine injector had a calcium carbonate chunk. Brian took the injector apart removed obstruction. Injector is now performing normally.
- Brian would like to purchase 10 Sensus meters to have on hand
- Brian asked Joel from Great West to look into the cost effectiveness of an air source heat pump compared to our existing baseboard heaters.

Motion to adjourn at 8:03 pm:      Jerry  
Second:      Kristie      Passed

---

David Schuler  
President

---

Christy Walter  
Secretary