



LOS ALAMOS

County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*Jeff Johnson, Chair; Carrie Walker, Vice-chair; Paul Frederickson, Stephen McLin and
Kathleen Taylor, Members
Tim Glasco, Ex Officio Member
Harry Burgess, Ex Officio Member
Christine Chandler, Council Liaison*

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

5:30 PM

1000 Central Avenue
Council Chambers

REGULAR SESSION

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, August 15th at 5:30 p.m. at 1000 Central Ave., Council Chambers. Board Chair Jeff Johnson was absent. Board Vice-chair Carrie Walker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present 4 - Vice-chair Walker, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member McLin and Board Member Taylor

Absent 1 - Board Member Johnson

Deputy Utility Manager for Electric Distribution Rafael De La Torre attended for Mr. Glasco. Deputy County Manager Steven Lynne attended for Mr. Burgess.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comment on items on the Consent Agenda and for those not otherwise included on the agenda. Members of the public gave the following summarized comments:

1) Mr. Phil Gurskey, 223 El Viento - He has one of the newer meters. The meter riser and box on his house had a catastrophic failure and the Fire Department is conducting an investigation. He does not know at this time if the meter itself was the issue, but he suggested the Board delay approval of a contract for Advanced Metering Infrastructure until the Fire Inspector's report is completed. Even if the meter was not the cause, he recommends an evaluation of the safety of the bases and risers be conducted prior to the installation of new meters or contract approval.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. McLin moved that the agenda be approved as presented. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Vice-chair Walker, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member McLin and Board Member Taylor

Absent: 1 - Board Member Johnson

4. BOARD BUSINESS

4.A. Chair's Report

Ms. Carrie Walker reported on the following items:

1) Ms. Walker is schedule to attend the Boards and Commissions luncheon in September.

4.B. Board Member Reports

Board members had nothing to report.

4.C. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. De La Torre provided a written report, which is included in the minutes as an attachment. Mr. De La Torre was asked to expand on some of the billing issues discussed during the report. Public Relations Manager Ms. Julie Williams-Hill and Business Operations Manager Ms. Cathy D'Anna also provided additional information about the billing issues.

4.D. County Manager's Report

Mr. Lynne had nothing to report.

4.E. Council Liaison's Report

Ms. Christine Chandler was absent. No report was given.

4.F. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report

Ms. Susan Barns provided a written report, which is included in the minutes as an attachment.

4.G. General Board Business

4.G.1 10808-18

Planning for Upcoming Board of Public Utilities Annual Boards & Commissions Presentation to Council on September 25th, 2018

Presenters: Jeff Johnson and Board - Commission or Committee Member Carrie Walker

Ms. Walker presented this item in Mr. Johnson's absence. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

On September 25th, 2018, the Board of Public Utilities is scheduled to give its annual Boards & Commissions presentation to Council. The agenda will be a presentation of 2018 Department and Board initiatives and actions. The Board was asked to provide input to the Chair for possible topics for the presentation. The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

The following actions were identified for follow-up:

1) When Mr. Johnson presents information about the sewer rate increase and other rate

increases, Mr. McLin would like for him to include and address comments and concerns expressed by the public.

4.G.2 [11024-18](#) Review of Any Proposed Changes to the Board of Public Utilities Policies and Procedures Manual

Presenters: Board - Commission or Committee Member Carrie Walker

Ms. Walker presented this item in Mr. Johnson's absence. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

The Board was asked to provide any proposed changes to the Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM). The Board will affirm the PPM at the September meeting.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary. No changes to the PPM were requested.

4.H. Approval of Board Expenses

There were no expenses.

4.I. Preview of Upcoming Agenda Items

4.I.1 [11076-18](#) Tickler File for the Next 3 Months

Presenters: Board of Public Utilities

No additional items were identified for the tickler.

5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

5.A [10955-18](#) Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-288, An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Article III, Section 40-201 and 40-202 of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Pertaining to the Sewage Service Rate Schedule and Determination of Charges

Presenters: Bob Westervelt

Deputy Utility Manager of Engineering Mr. James Alarid presented this item. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

In July, the Board heard a preliminary presentation of the proposed sewer rate increase presented for approval at this meeting. After discussion, the Board indicated they were prepared with the information provided to move forward with the public hearing on this item in August. The ten-year forecast for the sewer utility presented with the FY2018 budget included a series of incremental rate increases to generate revenues needed for current operations and to build cash reserves necessary for future infrastructure replacements, most notably the needed replacement for the White Rock waste water treatment facility. Several alternatives have been considered as to timing of that plant replacement and financing alternatives. The scenario adopted by the Board included an 8% increase in FY18 and another in FY19, with declining increases in years following.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comments. Members of the public gave the following summarized comments:

1) Mr. Brady Burke, 2310 39th Street - Mr. Burke noted that for the past six years, the Department has requested and received 8% increases on the sewer rate. During Council's approval of the previous sewer increase last year, he commented that the justification should be tied to replacing the White Rock Waste Water Treatment Plant and the money should be used for that. He doesn't believe that has happened. He is concerned about what he sees is a pattern of rate increases to increase the cash reserves rather than to fund projects, after which, the public could see a reduction in rates. He recommended the Board vote no on the rate increase.

Mr. McLin moved that the Board of Public Utilities approve Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-288 as presented and forward to Council for adoption. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Vice-chair Walker, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member McLin and Board Member Taylor

Absent: 1 - Board Member Johnson

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. McLin moved that the Board of Public Utilities approve the items on the Consent Agenda as presented and that the motions contained in the staff reports be included in the minutes for the record. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Vice-chair Walker, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member McLin and Board Member Taylor

Absent: 1 - Board Member Johnson

6.A 11074-18 Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes

Presenters: Board of Public Utilities

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the meeting minutes of July 18th, 2018 as presented.

6.B 10915-18 Approval of Budget Carryovers from FY2018 to FY2019

Presenters: Bob Westervelt

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve Budget Revision 2019-07 for carryovers from FY2018 to FY2019 and forward to Council with a recommendation for approval. I further move that the budget revision be included as an attachment in the minutes for the record.

6.C AGR0586-18 Request for Consent to Assignment of Agreement for Services Agreement

AGR17-01 Changing the Assignment from Diversified Data Processing & Consulting Inc. (DivDat) to Diamond Marketing Solutions Group, Inc.

Presenters: Tim Glasco and Bob Westervelt

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the Consent to Assignment of Agreement for Services Agreement AGR17-01, changing the assignment from Diversified Data Processing & Consulting Inc. (DivDat) to Diamond Marketing Solutions Group, Inc., and forward to Council for approval.

7. BUSINESS

- 7.A AGR0576-18** Approval of Services Agreement AGR19-912 with Ferguson Incorporated in the Amount of \$5,559,458.00, Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Equipment and Services, Approval of the License and Technical Support Agreement with Sensus Incorporated, and Approval of Related Budget Revision 2019-04.

Presenters: Bob Westervelt

In the absence of Mr. Bob Westervelt, Deputy Utility Manager for Electric Distribution Mr. Rafael De La Torre, presented this item. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

This contract is for equipment, supplies, installation, software, and project management services for implementation of a systemwide advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). The system will provide accurate, near real time read capability for electric, water, and gas services for DPU customers. DPU began considering implementation of AMI several years ago as the capabilities of the available systems improved in response to the development of more complex pricing models which began to emerge, primarily in the electric industry, in the early 2000s. The DPU conducted a pilot deployment as part of the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development (NEDO) Project in 2012 through 2014. While the project was limited in scope and distribution, the Department did learn and realize the impact advanced metering could have on its systems and business model and made the strategic decision to explore the business case for system-wide deployment. In 2015, the Department engaged Power Systems Engineering, a consulting firm specializing in electric grid modernization and utilities metering systems, to conduct a business case analysis for full implementation of advanced metering in all of the metered services (electric, gas, and water) system wide. The study identified both economic benefits and non-economic benefits, both of which have been considered in the decision to move forward.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comments. Members of the public gave the following summarized comments:

1) Phil Gurskey, 223 El Viento - With regards to Mr. Gurskey's comments during the public comment period of the meeting, he did not feel that Mr. De La Torre's discussion during this item was either accurate or representative of what happened in his situation. He feels that any catastrophic failure that happens, either in the riser or meter, is 100% unacceptable. He does not believe an acceptable answer to the problem is that it doesn't happen very often. He was offended at the implication that the failure could have been his fault and feels the Department should do better due diligence to assess the safety of the installations.

2) Brady Burke, 2310 39th Street - Looking at the \$6.5 million cost for implementation, a fourteen year return on investment, and coupling that with other rate increases, he believes the Department needs to be able to show the community that it is saving money by spending money. Even though the Department is not for-profit, it doesn't need to spend all the money collected. The community is entitled to expect the government to work efficiently and reduce costs where it can. Given the rate increases, he questions how the Department can do this project without showing how money is being saved. Additionally, he is concerned about the disruptions in service and interruptions the changes will cause.

During discussion, Mr. McLin called for the question. As there was no motion on the floor at the time, Ms. Walker could not call for a vote; however, she did end discussion and asked if any member would like to make a motion.

Ms. Taylor moved that the Board of Public Utilities approve Services Agreement AGR19-912 with Ferguson Incorporated in the amount of \$5,559,458.00, plus a contingency in the amount of \$971,946.00, for a total of \$6,531,404.00, plus applicable gross receipts tax, and forward to Council for approval. She further moved that the Board of Public Utilities approve execution of the License and Technical Support Agreement between the Incorporated County of Los Alamos and Sensus, Incorporated, funding for which is included in and payable through the Ferguson agreement. She further moves that the Board of Public Utilities approve budget revision 2019-04 and forward to Council for approval. She further moved that the budget revision be included in the minutes as an attachment for the record. The motion died due to lack of a second.

8. STATUS REPORTS

8.A 11075-18 Status Reports

Presenters: Board of Public Utilities

The following informational status reports were provided to the Board in the agenda packet:

- 1) Electric Reliability Update
- 2) Safety Report

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Walker opened the floor for public comment on any items. There were no comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL

Board of Public Utilities Chair Name

Board of Public Utilities Chair Signature

Date Approved by the Board

Budget Revision 2019-07 Utilities Carryovers

Board of Public Utilities August 15, 2018

Council Meeting Date: August 28, 2018

	Fund/Dept	Munis Org	Revenue (decrease)	Expenditures (decrease)	Transfers In(Out)	Fund Balance (decrease)
1	Joint Utilities Fund - Water Prod Otowi 2 Pipeline	54285699- 8369		\$ 1,130,000		\$ (1,130,000)
2	Joint Utilities Fund - Elec Prod Abiquiu Jib Crane	51185199- 8369		\$ 140,000		\$ (140,000)
3	Joint Utilities Fund - Elec Dist LA Switchgear Substation	51285299- 8369		\$ 334,000		\$ (334,000)
4	Joint Utilities Fund - Finance Customer Care Center Remodel	51285930- 8369		\$ 277,000		\$ (277,000)
5	Joint Utilities Fund - Finance Management Audit	51285930- 8369		\$ 50,000		\$ (50,000)
6	Joint Utilities Fund - Finance Customer Care Center Remodel	54185420- 8369		\$ 40,000		\$ (40,000)
7	Joint Utilities Fund - Wastewater SCADA Upgrade & Maint	55185525- 8833		\$ 80,000		\$ (80,000)
8	Joint Utilities Fund - Water Prod LA Reservoir	54285645- 8369		\$ 16,700		\$ (16,700)
9	Joint Utilities Fund - Water Prod Non Potable SCADA Upgrade	54285645- 8369		\$ 20,000		\$ (20,000)
10	Joint Utilities Fund - Water Prod Non Potable SCADA Upgrade	54285645- 8369		\$ 75,000		\$ (75,000)

Description: The purpose of this budget revision is to carry over budget authority to FY2019. Details for each carryover request are included in the staff report.

Fiscal Impact: The net fiscal impact to the Joint Utilities Fund in FY2019 is to increase expenditures and decrease Fund Balance by \$2,162,700.

ATTACHMENT
OFFICER REPORTS
SUBMITTED AT THE MEETING

Manager's report for August 15, 2018, Utilities Board Meeting:

1. **EL Vado Trunnion Seal Repair** was completed last week by Voith, the manufacturer of the turbine. We consider this work as warranty work which is the responsibility of the contractor who performed the refurbishment project. We will request reimbursement of the cost which will be approximately \$85,000. We will also evaluate any quality issues that were found on the parts that were removed and discuss alternative actions with our Attorney's office. We will probably not have enough flow, or the required lake levels, until early 2019 to put the plant back online.
2. **Work on the Otowi Well #2 is progressing slowly.** Last week the steel casing was installed to 700 feet depth which stabilized the layer of basalt which has caused difficulty over the last 4 months. A second layer of basalt has been encountered and is currently being drilled through at a depth of 830'. We are reviewing a change order from the contractor for costs associated with months unanticipated drilling due to unknown conditions. DPU will review the request and evaluate the future of the project. We will be presenting a recommendation for additional funding and/or a recommended path forward with the project in an upcoming meeting.
3. **Golf Course Water Break:** A 16" diameter water transmission line between Diamond and Arizona broke midway between the two roads this past weekend; repairs were completed by Sunday morning around 1:30 AM. The break is still under investigation but we suspect it was due to *water hammer* or *pressure surge*. We lost over 1 million gallons of water with the break resulting in low water pressure in the North Community, North and Barranca Mesas and the LA Middle School. We did receive calls about the water discoloration after the water line break. The water appeared milky white as the system is re-pressurized and the oxygen in the pipes is released (as the customers use water). The water clarity is back to normal.

Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) liaison report

Susan Barns, ESB Liaison *8/15/2018*

Recent activities of the ESB include:

- Approval of recommendation for Environmental Services to purchase and utilize Recycle Coach, a web and mobile app to help with education and schedule information about solid waste services available to residents. Program now goes to County Council for approval.
- Review of the new yard trimmings roll cart program. Adjustment to the new recycling and yard trimmings roll cart pick up schedule has been challenging for some residents. Despite this, Los Alamos recycled four more tons in July than before the schedule change, and also diverted 95 tons of yard trimmings in the first month. Additional tan carts are being delivered to residents this week.

Tomorrow night's meeting topics will include:

- Review of the Environmental Services FY18 4th Quarter Budget Report
- A presentation by the LA High School EcoClub on plastic bag fees
- An update on the yard trimmings roll cart program



BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

ADDITIONAL MEETING DOCUMENTS

Additional or revised information or documents are often passed out to the Board at the meetings.
Whenever possible, this informational cover page will accompany those documents.

MAKE 20 COPIES OF ANY DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET, AND RETURN TO JAIME KEPHART PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

MEETING DATE	8/15/2018
AGENDA ITEM	4.C. Utilities Manager Report
DOCUMENT TITLE(S)	Update on the Munis System & Utilities
FROM	Rafael De La Torre, Deputy Utility Manager for Electric Distribution and Acting Utilities Manager
NEW OR REVISED? Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet or is it something entirely new?	New
RECOMMENDED ACTION If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	<u>N/A</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Mr. De La Torre presented this information during the manager's report.

UPDATE ON THE MUNIS SYSTEM AND UTILITIES

August 15, 2018

Los Alamos County went live on July 1, 2018 (start of the new fiscal year) with the new Munis ERP software system which included utility billing.

BILLING DELAYS

- As of August 6 - July utility bills have been mailed to all DPU customers.
 - We intentionally held bills for the first half of July to ensure that the data transferred correctly from the old system (Cayenta) into the new system (Munis), and that bills were calculating correctly the amount charged to each customer. (Staff was very focused on the dollar amount billed).
 - We began sending bill files to our bill-print vendor to be printed and mailed on July 23rd. Because we didn't hear from the vendor that there were any problems, we incorrectly assumed that bills were being mailed.
 - The vendor later told us that they ran into complications printing the bills at the current location in Las Vegas, Nevada. They transferred the files and the supplies to their Michigan office. They also needed to retool their equipment in Michigan to print the bills with the new file format and color specifications.
 - Bills began to drop in the mail on August 3rd. (It took seven days for bills to arrive from Michigan to Los Alamos, New Mexico).
 - To speed up delivery of future bills, DPU has requested the vendor to print the bills with black ink only – which can be handled at the Nevada office. This will actually reduce the price slightly of printing the bill and speed up the turn-around time.
- Because the bills were delayed – DPU is waiving all late fees until we can get back onto a regular billing schedule

LOS ALAMOS DPU APP (SUSPENDED) - view utility account balances, bills and make payments on line of on smart mobile devices.

- Coinciding with the billing software change, staff has been working through a conversion for its Los Alamos DPU App so that it points correctly to the new software while maintaining history from the previous software.
- Therefore, Los Alamos DPU app is not registering any utility account activity post-July 1 and it is not allowing payments.
- We will be testing the reworked Los Alamos DPU app on Monday, August 20 and hope to have it fully functional before the end of August 2018.
- In the meantime, we made arrangement for customers to be able to make payments through the Paymentus website with a credit card, debit card, or e-check. There is no fee to process a payment this way. The website is: <https://ipn.paymentus.com/rotp/LACU>

UTILITY BILL PRESENTATION

- We thank our customers for scrutinizing the bills and pointing out various anomalies that we are currently working with the Munis Tyler Forms team to fix these.
- I am pleased to report that the changes are more with the bill presentation, as opposed to the dollars charged for the commodity used.
- The corrections are as follows:
 - A. **Service Period:** The bills incorrectly printed that the service period was from **May 1 to July 20**. However, the bill actually covers the period from the last meter read to the current meter read (unfortunately – most customers had 40 or more days in this period – so it may appear that their bill is larger than normal).
 - B. **Electric:** For large electric customers – While the “**Demand**” and “**Demand Rate**” did not appear on the bill, it was calculated correctly and included in the charge to the customer.
 - C. **Gas:** Bill is not showing the pro-rated charge for each billing rate during the billing period. However, the total on the actual bill is correct.
 - D. **Water:** Everything above 8,000 gallons was bumping up to the Tier 2 charge of \$5.29 rather than the \$4.98. This caused an overcharge of \$0.31. This has been

corrected. The Tier 1 rate will now be applied to 8,999 gallons (to comply with the tiered water rate code).

- E. **Graphs:** Several customers have asked that we apply a “measurement” on the Y axis of the graphs.
- F. **Water Graph:** The “*current*” bar is pulling data from “current meter read” less the “previous meter read” which is in hundred gallons. The graph is then multiplying it by 1000 (since we bill in thousand gallons). In the example bill: $1041 - 874 = 167$. Thus 16,700 gallons, but it is being graphed as 167,000 gallons. We have changed the parameters of the graph to pull the data from the “Usage” column. In the example, the “Usage” column is 16, therefore 16,000 gallons.
- G. **Auto-pay customers:** For customers who have signed up for “auto-pay,” the bottom portion of the bill indicates, “Make Checks Payable to:” ... This has been changed to state “Do Not Remit Payment” for ACH customers only.

ACH CUSTOMERS (Customers signed up for Auto-Pay)

- Our standard practice is to transfer funds from a customer’s specified checking or savings account 20 days from the bill date.
- Because of the delay that resulted in mailing the July utility bills, we postponed drafting the balance due from customers’ checking or savings accounts until they had an opportunity to receive and review their bill.
- Earlier this week, we sent a letter out to those customers who would have already had their funds transferred by now. We notified them that we would be drafting those funds this Friday, August 17th, unless we heard from them that the dollar amount or the date was a problem.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- We need to acknowledge that several members of our staff have worked tirelessly before, during and after this conversion. They have given up evenings, weekends, and holidays to make this go as smoothly as possible.

- The Customer Care Center has been fielding numerous phone calls, emails, and walk-ins. Yesterday we had approx. 1700 phone calls.
- The Customer Care staff, is listening and responding to each customer's concern – but they are only five people. Some calls are being missed.
- For the most part, customers have been very understanding. We appreciate and thank them for their patience.



County of Los Alamos

Customer Care (505) 662-8333, customer care@lacnm.us
Pay your bill online: <https://rebrand.ly/DPUmyaccountportal>

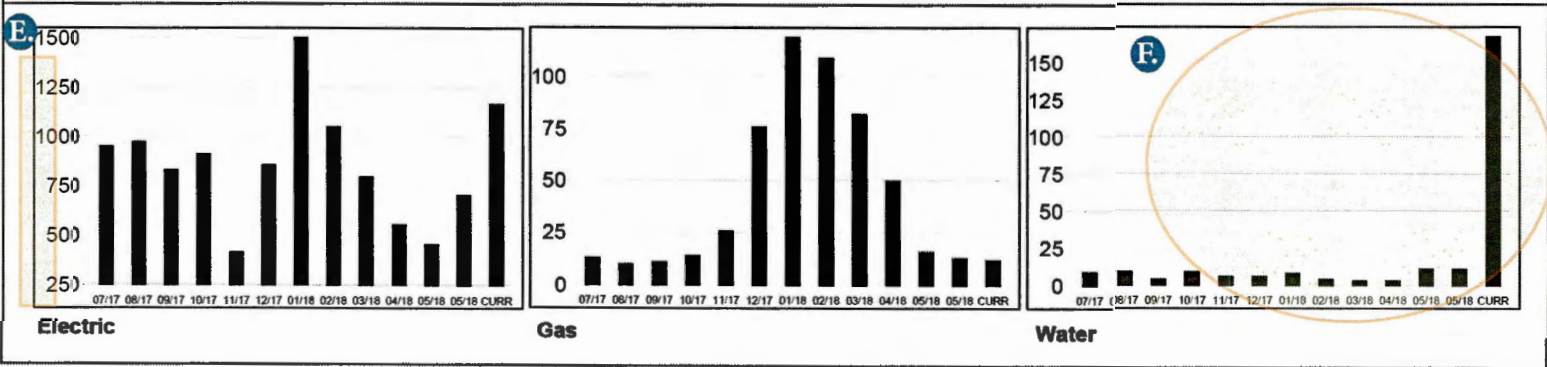
BALANCE DUE

Customer Name: [Redacted]
Service Address: [Redacted]
Bill Number: [Redacted]

Cycle 12

Bill Date	07/23/2018
Due Date	08/17/2018
Service Period	05/01/2018 to 07/13/2018
Customer ID	[Redacted]
Account Number	[Redacted]
Previous Balance	0.00
Payments	0.00
Current Billing Amount	345.90
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE	345.90

Description	Meter	Read Type	Previous Meter Reading	Current Meter Reading	Demand	Demand Rate	Multi.	Usage	Commodity Rate	Charge	
ELECTRIC	KWH	A	22960	24128	B.		1	1168	0.115200	134.55	
	Service Charge									12.00	
	Total									146.55	
GAS	THERM	A	3233	3248			1	13	C.	0.340000	4.42
										0.370000	4.81
	Service Charge										9.50
	Total										14.28
WATER	KGAL	A	874	1041			1	16	D.	4.980000	39.84
										5.290000	37.03
										6.320000	6.32
	Service Charge										9.42
	Total										92.61
SEWER							1				
	Service Charge										47.45
	Total										47.45
REFUSE							1				
	Service Charge										25.00
	Total										25.00
7.3125% Electric and Gas GRT											11.76
5.0% Water, Sewer and Refuse											8.25



THIS MONTHS MESSAGE:

✂ Detach and return the portion below with your payment ✂



COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS
PO BOX 99
LOS ALAMOS, NM 87544-0099

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED



Bill Date	07/23/2018
Customer ID	[Redacted]
Account Number	[Redacted]
BALANCE DUE	345.90
Due Date	08/17/2018
Enter Amount Paid	
Low Income Family Assistance	
Enter Contribution in Excess of Bill	



Make Checks Payable to:
COUNTY OF LOS ALAMOS
PO BOX 99
LOS ALAMOS, NM 87544-0099

00006382019800001661800000345900



BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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MEETING DATE	8/15/2018
AGENDA ITEM	5.A. Public Hearing for Sewer Rate Ordinance 02-288
DOCUMENT TITLE(S)	Open Forum Responses
FROM	Julie Williams-Hill, Public Relations Manager
NEW OR REVISED? Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet or is it something entirely new?	New
RECOMMENDED ACTION If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	<u>N/A</u>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Attached are the public comments from the County's online Open Forum

Board of Public Utilities to Consider Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the August 15th Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

All Statements sorted chronologically

As of August 13, 2018, 10:54 AM



Open Forum is not a certified voting system or ballot box. As with any public comment process, participation in Open Forum is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

Board of Public Utilities to Consider Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

*The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the August 15th Board meeting.
Do you have any feedback for the Board?*

As of August 13, 2018, 10:54 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	64
All Statements:	14
Minutes of Public Comment:	42

This topic started on July 26, 2018, 12:40 PM.

~~Board of Public Utilities to Consider Proposed Sewer Rate Increase~~

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the August 15th Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 10, 2018, 6:08 PM

I don't see a need for the rates raised when they just were last year.

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 5, 2018, 10:39 PM

I thought I read this is to help replace the White Rock sewer plant? Is it going into a special fund to guarantee that is how it is used? What is the advantage to having money set aside for this project? when is the replacement going to happen? Is this really what it is being used for? I think the need for this rate increase should be explained better. Increasing the base rate can place more hardship on limited income residents because you cannot control this aspect of the bill through personal choices (conservation).

Name not available (unclaimed)

August 4, 2018, 9:31 AM

The utilities are constantly at the board on increasing the cost. I don't believe we should increase the sewage.

Name not shown inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

July 28, 2018, 6:49 PM

The draft ordinance as published on the LA County website is incomplete: Under Section 40-202, (a) lists how residential charges will be calculated using Section 40-203. This is not included in the published copy. "For calculation of charges under 40-203, the volume measurement for residential customers will be 1,000 gallons times the number of occupants of the residence." This statement leaves the door open for additional charges based on the three months winter usage volume. Please complete the ordinance before holding the Board meeting and sending this incomplete ordinance to the Councilors.

Dann Alison inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

July 28, 2018, 7:43 AM

The rate at which one consume water has only a small bearing in sewer. Six months per year we are watering. Why isn't the rate based more accurately on the consumption seen during winter. I don't understand the overall billing scheme as it stands.

Name not shown inside WHITE ROCK (registered)

July 27, 2018, 2:14 PM

Continually reducing services and raising rates is absurd. This needs to stop NOW. Vote NO

David North inside LA SENDA (registered)

July 27, 2018, 11:35 AM

~~Board of Public Utilities to Consider Proposed Sewer Rate Increase~~

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the August 15th Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

As one of the minority on a septic system, I have no direct interest. But I suspect those who will have to pay this bill might be interested to see how much of the increase is related to the wastewater system used at the golf course, etc -- or at least how much that costs. Is there any connection between the sewer charges and the pipeline to the ski hill? Overall, the rates seem to be in line with costs in other areas, especially as older systems wear out all over the country.

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 27, 2018, 11:14 AM

I am an older single woman who lives in White Rock. Currently, the sewer portion of my utility bill is approximately 25 percent of my bill. I live in a small, recently built, energy-efficient home. My yard is xeriscaped in the front- I have not used any water in the small front yard- and I water a small portion of yard in the back (approximately 300 square feet). I can manage most of the other parts of my spending, keeping my total bill to about 150 dollars per month. I don't use trash hauling every week- I can get by with my recycling cart being used once a month or once every 5 weeks. The garbage roll cart goes out once every two weeks. The sewer bill is one part of my utility bill that I can't control, and I feel that the amount I pay for sewer is already high. Please consider my opinion when you make this decision.

Alex V inside ASPEN - WALNUT (registered)

July 27, 2018, 8:50 AM

Sewage fees are already \$47! My biggest complaint is the fixed service charges. Having to pay \$73 before any usage is maddening. If DPU needs to fund improvements, I actually don't mind paying a higher rate, *for what I use*, and sewage charges should be related to water usage. I think it used to be like that, with lower sewer rates in the summer to account for outdoor watering. I am out of town for extended periods and my overall utility usage is pretty low, so paying almost as much in fixed service fees as my actual usage just seems wrong and super unfair. Build the actual cost into the rates and get rid of the fixed service fees.

1 Supporter

Name not available (unclaimed)

July 27, 2018, 7:28 AM

Will there be compensatory lowering of electric rates with installation of solar/carbon free resources? The rising utility rates are proving a drain on fixed income residents.

Name not shown (unverified)

July 27, 2018, 7:03 AM

There should be a better background statement for this. Not enough information. How much is the anticipated debt service? What is the cost basis for this rate change?

Name not shown inside WESTERN (registered)

July 27, 2018, 7:02 AM

Board of Public Utilities to Consider Proposed Sewer Rate Increase

The Board of Public Utilities will consider a proposed sewage rate increase at the August 15th Board meeting. Do you have any feedback for the Board?

This is absolutely Ridiculous!. Residents recently had a significant sewer rate increase of around 30% to pay for White Rock sewer repairs and this past year, water rates went up. Recycling services went down. Stop gouging the resident of LA to accomodate mismanagement of costs. Why haven't we used GRT money to support any of this?

1 Supporter

Name not shown inside NORTH COMMUNITY (registered)

July 27, 2018, 6:47 AM

Vote NO. DPU cannot continue to raise rates.

1 Supporter

Name not shown inside NORTH COMMUNITY (registered)

July 27, 2018, 5:29 AM

Residential rates for water and other charges have already gone up recently. It is unacceptable to increase residents further. Increase commercial to make up the difference. They will be able to handle the increase more than low income and elderly residents.

1 Supporter
