



LOS ALAMOS

County of Los Alamos
Minutes
Board of Public Utilities

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

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, November 15th at 5:30 p.m. at 1000 Central Ave., Council Chambers. Board Chair Jeff Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Present 6 - Board Member Johnson, Board Member McLin, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member Taylor, Board Member Walker and Board Member Glasco

Absent 1 - Board Member Burgess

Deputy County Manager Mr. Steve Lynne attended in the absence of Mr. Burgess.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Johnson 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. Ken Milder 1082 Big Rock Loop - Mr. Milder has been involved with Los Alamos local government for 40 years, including twelve years on the Board of Public Utilities and twelve years on Council. Last night, Council approved an ordinance allowing for the transfer of funds between utility systems. Mr. Milder supported the passing of this ordinance because he recognized the value of being able to transfer funds in this way. However, he cautioned the Board that the ordinance only gives permission, not guidance. He recommended that the Board set up procedures and guidelines for how the ordinance would be applied to minimize the potential for abuse in the future. He explained that he has seen attempts in the past, in other jurisdictions and by Los Alamos County Council, to pressure utilities into using revenues for "pet projects."

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Yes: 5 - Board Member Johnson, Board Member McLin, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member Taylor and Board Member Walker

4. BOARD BUSINESS

4.A. Chair's Report

Mr. Johnson had nothing to report.

4.B. Board Member Reports

Board members reported on the following items:

1) Mr. McLin - Mr. McLin and Ms. Taylor were appointed to the joint BPU/County Council subcommittee. They had a meeting on Thursday, November 9th. The purpose of the committee initially was to promote informal discussion on topics of mutual interest. At the November 9th meeting, the immediate concern was discussing the transfer of gas reserves to support the start of construction of the White Rock Waste Water Treatment Plant (WR WWTP). Mr. McLin clarified that he is not speaking for the whole subcommittee, but is speaking for himself.

Last night at the Council meeting, a Councilor expressed reservations similar to those expressed by Mr. Milder during his public comment. The subcommittee has not discussed those issues in detail, and Mr. McLin can't make any promises about what will come out in the future. He thought Mr. Milder's comments were excellent; he is sure the subcommittee will be discussing those. Mr. McLin thinks that once the funds are transferred, the Board should consider closing down that ordinance to prevent any potential future abuse. There is a concern about that all over, but not a lot of discussion has been held. Everyone is at least tuned into Mr. Milder's concerns.

The subcommittee will meet again on January 10th. The meetings are not binding, and no action is taken in the subcommittee meetings. It is just a way to get a dialogue going between County Council and the Board on mutual topics of interest. One of the topics will be exploring ways to finance the WR WWTP. The Board has talked a lot in the last few meetings about the needs for the WR WWTP. Mr. McLin gets the sense that Council and the Board will want to continue the subcommittee, with perhaps a rotation of membership. Some of the topics discussed at the November 9th meeting were the upcoming Electric Coordination Agreement, the Small Modular Nuclear Reactor decisions that need to be made around March, what will happen with the Power Pool post 2025, the leasing of 30% of the Los Alamos National Lab's (LANL) water rights back to the County to smooth out the operation of water production and the water service agreement contract. It would be nice to have a lot of the thinking done and agreements in place before the Board has to make decisions, but the timing is such that the Board is going to have to move forward on some of these things without having all the details worked out, which may seem to the public to be a little disjointed. Hopefully, the Board can improve communication with the public so that they understand everything.

There was a public meeting on Monday, November 13th to present the Long Range Water Supply plan, which included some interesting discussion about the chromium plume in Mortendad Canyon. Mr. McLin doesn't believe any of the water supply wells are in immediate danger. No contamination has been detected. There seemed to be a little confusion about the plume. Mr. McLin thinks it is probably time for the Board to get another update from LANL on their operations related to the plume.

There are a lot of things for the subcommittee to discuss in the future. He feels that it is very helpful for the Board and Council to communicate in this way. He hopes other members of the Board can become involved in the subcommittee in the future. He is

encouraged by the initial communication between the Board and County Council.

4.C. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Glasco provided a written report, which is included in the minutes an attachment.

4.D. County Manager's Report

Mr. Burgess was not in attendance. Mr. Lynne had nothing to report.

4.E. Council Liaison's Report

Ms. Susan O'Leary was not in attendance. 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 [9798-17](#) Annual Board of Public Utilities Self-evaluation (2017) - Initial Discussion

Presenters: Jeff Johnson

Board Chair Mr. Jeff Johnson presented this item. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

Each year around December, the Board conducts a self-evaluation. This is an opportunity for the Board to have an open discussion about how they want to execute the evaluation.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

The following actions were identified for follow-up:

1) The Board agreed through general consensus to schedule a special meeting to complete the self-evaluation questionnaire. Mr. Glasco and Mr. Burgess will also be allowed to provide input as non-voting ex officio members of the Board.

4.G.2 [10052-17](#) Review of Department of Public Utilities Quarterly Report

Presenters: Tim Glasco

Utilities Manager Mr. Timothy Glasco presented this item. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

The Board requested that the quarterly report be presented each quarter with salient features explained.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

None

4.H. Approval of Board Expenses

There were no expenses.

4.I. Preview of Upcoming Agenda Items

4.I.1 [10089-17](#) Tickler File for the Next 3 Months

Presenters: Board of Public Utilities

No additional items were added to the tickler provided in the agenda packet.

5. PUBLIC HEARING(S)

There were no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

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: 5 - Board Member Johnson, Board Member McLin, Board Member Frederickson, Board Member Taylor and Board Member Walker

6.A [10087-17](#) 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 October 18th, 2017 as presented.

6.B [AGR0529-17](#) Approval of Amendment No. 1 to Price Agreement No. AGR16-4297 with Allied Tree Service and Fencing in the amount of \$80,000.00, for a Revised Agreement Amount of \$275,000.00, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax, for the Purpose of On-Call Services for Electric Power Line Tree Trimming

Presenters: Rafael De LaTorre

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve Amendment No. 1 to Price Agreement No. AGR 16-4297 in the amount of \$80,000.00, for a revised agreement amount of \$275,000.00, and a contingency of \$10,000.00, plus applicable gross receipts tax, for the purpose of On-Call Services for Electric Power Line Tree Trimming, and forward to Council for approval.

7. BUSINESS

7.A [9830-17](#) Update on the Utilities Manager's Action Plan to Address Findings from the 2017 Department of Public Utilities Customer Satisfaction Survey

Presenters: Tim Glasco

Utilities Manager Mr. Timothy Glasco presented this item. The following is the substance of the item being considered.

FINAL - APPROVED

Mr. Glasco introduced the Public Relations Manager, Ms. Julie Williams-Hill, who presented the action plan. The Department of Public Utilities conducted its seventh biennial customer satisfaction survey and presented findings at the August 2017 Board meeting. Staff analyzed the findings to determine where it can improve services with various customer classes to realize the following BPU-adopted goals: achieve and maintain a customer satisfaction score of 3.5 or better and achieve and maintain a net promoter score that is equal to or better than the utility industry average to gauge customer engagement. Accordingly, an action plan was developed with recommendations.

The Board discussed this item and requested clarification where necessary.

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for public comments. Members of the public gave the following summarized comments:

1) Mr. Eric Stronberg, 54 Taos - Mr. Strongberg has lived here for four years. He moved here from Houston. With regards to utilities, Los Alamos is the cheapest place he has ever lived. He believes the rates are amazing, and he is very pleased with the affordability of utilities and the cost of living in Los Alamos. Mr. Strongberg replaced former Board member David Powell in his position at Los Alamos National Lab. He is in charge of the electrical standards there. He thanked Utilities staff for their work.

8. STATUS REPORTS

8.A 10088-17 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) Accounts Receivables Report
- 3) Safety Report

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Johnson opened the floor for public comment on any items. There were no comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

APPROVAL

Jeff Johnson
Board of Public Utilities Chair Name

[Signature] 12-11-17
Board of Public Utilities Chair Signature

December 11, 2017
Date Approved by the Board

FINAL - APPROVED

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ATTACHMENT
OFFICER REPORTS
SUBMITTED AT THE MEETING

FINAL - APPROVED

MANAGER'S REPORT

November 15, 2017

1. Nov. 20th meet with Sandia to kick off new study on battery utilization, to follow up on the previous analysis. Look at economics of using our batteries for our system and make recommendation.
2. Up to 617KW now on rooftop solar. Adding in our 1 MW landfill PV array we are up to 1,617KW of solar energy, or almost 10% of the County's demand. Initial studies by LANL have indicated that we can absorb up to 3MW of solar generation before we could expect to experience significant operational problems, so we are over half way there.
3. Council approved ordinance to allow transfers between utility funds last night. Ordinance will become effective a 30-day appeal period has elapsed, so December 15.
4. KOAT anchor Shelley Ribando reported on her facebook page that our drinking water was contaminated with carcinogenic chemicals. We issued a joint statement Monday with the DOE stating that NO drinking water wells in Los Alamos had any evidence of chromium contamination. The station ran the story on Monday night correcting their earlier erroneous information.
5. Will be meeting with the group, Voices of Los Alamos, on Monday, November 27, 2017, 6:30 PM at the Unitarian Church to discuss the chromium contamination of our groundwater aquifer.
6. Site work began last week on the new Otowi Well No. 2 in Los Alamos Canyon. This will be the first water supply well Los Alamos County has ever constructed.
7. For the second time in less than a month, we experienced a sewer overflow on the sewer line that drops off Barranca Mesa around San Juan and Laguna Streets. There appears to be a break in the sewer line about halfway down the canyon wall. Temporary repairs have been made, and we are attempting to construct a road to the point of damage to make a permanent repair. We are evaluating the line's condition to see if a total replacement is needed.

FINAL - APPROVED

Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) liaison report

Susan Barns, ESB Liaison 11/15/2017

- Anthony Strain gave a presentation on Night Sky Cooling Technology that has been in place at the Eco Station since 2012. The building uses a hydronic primary loop heating system that ties the solar heat collectors together with domestic hot water, radiant heated floors and a backup boiler all under central control. Panels on the roof capture night time cooling which is used to supplement air conditioning, reducing warm season energy use. This highly efficient system received national recognition and may be unique in the U.S.
- The Recycle Fashion Show has been postponed until Spring.
- At this time the County will not pursue a Wildlife Ordinance that would prescribe measures to reduce bear activity. We have formed a Wildlife Subcommittee that will develop a work plan that will incorporate input from all stakeholders.
- A subcommittee has formed to research “Save-As-You-Throw” tiered rate structures, which would allow residents to better control waste disposal costs, while incentivizing recycling and waste reduction.
- Review of the survey done on recycling roll carts shows that about 35% of carts are not being used each week. Environmental Services staff will use these data to improve the efficiency of services.

Tomorrow night’s ESB meeting includes:

- Finalization of the updated Los Alamos County Environmental Sustainability Plan, including progress on water, energy and greenhouse gas emission goals
- Presentation of awards for EcoChallenge participants
- Discussion of collection schedule for the new yard trimmings roll carts (for summer 2018)
- Overview of China’s “National Sword” ban on recycle materials
- Review of Environmental Services FY18 1st Quarter Financial Report