County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

DRAFT Minutes

Board of Public Utilities Work Session

LOS ALAMOS

Robert Gibson, Chair; Matt Heavner, Vice Chair
Eric Stromberg, Charles Nakhleh and Jennifer Hollingsworth, Members
Philo Shelton, Ex Officio Member
Anne Laurent, Ex Officio Member
Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 **5:30 PM** **Municipal Building, Council Chambers**

Public Participation ~ in person or https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87563449773

1. CALL TO ORDER

This work session of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Vice Chair Heavner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to attend and provide public comment either in person or over Zoom.
The following board members were in attendance:
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Present: 5 - Members Heavner, Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Shelton and Laurent
Remote 1 - Member Gibson
Absent: 1 - Member Stromberg
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Others present in Chambers:
Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison to the BPU
Mr. Thomas Wymann, Assistant County Attorney
Mr. Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electrical Distribution
Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply
Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration
Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant
Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager
Ms. Paula Nelson, Management Analyst
Mr. Jedidiah Beddo, IM Technical Support Specialist

Zoom participants:
Mr. Robert Gibson, BPU Chair
Ms. Catherine Vollmer, Great Blue
Ms. Sofia Vigeant, Great Blue
Ms. Joni Arends, CCNS
Mr. Nicholas Nelson, Power Systems Supervisor

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for public comment on the Consent Agenda or those not otherwise included on the agenda. There was none.

No action was taken on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice Chair Heavner called for amendments to the agenda, discussion or a motion.

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Member Nakhleh moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh and Gibson
NO - 0:

3.a. Action to Suspend Procedural Rules for Work Session

Vice Chair Heavner called for discussion or a motion.

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities suspend their procedural rules for the April 1, 2026 work session so that formal action may be taken.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh and Gibson
NO - 0:

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Heavner called for amendments to the consent agenda, discussion or a motion.

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Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh and Gibson
NO - 0:

4.a. Approval of Bid No. 26-37 for the East Rd 14” Water Transmission Line Project in the amount of $1,762,570.88

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the Award of Bid No. IFB 26-37 for the East Rd 14” Water Transmission Line Project to NM Underground Utilities, Inc. with the base bid of $1,264,299.00, Bid Alternate A-1 in the amount of $309,425.00, and a 12% contingency in the amount of $188,846.88, for a Total Project Amount of $1,762,570.88, including NMGRT and forward to Council for approval.

4.b. Award of Task Order No. 15 under AGR22-18e with R&M Construction for the Purpose of Drilling Five Piers in the White Rock Substation for the Transformer Replacement Project in the Amount of $463,657.50, add a 10% project contingency of $46,366 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 90 Days.

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend Award Task Order No. 15 under AGR22-18e with R&M Construction for the Purpose of Drilling Five Piers in the White Rock Substation for the Transformer Replacement Project in the Amount of $435,400.00, add a 10% project contingency of $43,540.00, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Term of 90 Days and forward to Council for approval.
I further move that the Board recommend Budget Revision 2026-58, forward to Council for approval, and include a copy in the minutes for the record.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.a. Annual Update: Results of the Voice of the Customer Survey

Ms. Sofia Vigeant of GreatBlue Research presented. The 2026 Report of Findings was included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Ms. Catherine Vollmer, Great Blue
4. Mr. Philo Shelton

No action was taken on this item.

5.b. Overview of County Council's 2026 Strategic Leadership Plan

County Manager Anne Laurent presented and Council Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann was available for questions. A copy of the current plan was included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Member Nakhleh
4. Member Heavner

No action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Vice Chair Heavner reviewed the procedure for introduction of ordinances. He also noted that Council cannot make substantive changes after an ordinance is introduced but it is allowed for the BPU. He also stated that an introduction of ordinance only requires any voting board member to read the introduction. It does not need to be seconded since there is no vote taken.

6.a. Introduction of Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-379; An Ordinance Amending Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-151, and 40-152 of the Code of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Pertaining to Gas Service Rates.

Ms. Joann Gentry Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration presented. Copies of the code ordinance and presentation slides were included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Member Nakhleh
3. Member Hollingsworth
4. Mr. Shelton
5. Member Heavner

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for public comment.There was none. Vice Chair Heavner then asked the board for a volunteer to introduce the code ordinance.

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Member Nakhleh stated "I introduce, without prejudice, Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-379 and ask the staff to assure that it is published as provided in the County Charter."

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7. BUSINESS

7.a. Annual Update: Electric Reliability Plan (ERP) for FY2027

Mr. Dennis Astley, Deputy Utility Manager - Electric Distribution presented. Copies of the Electric Reliability Plan and his presentation slides were included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Member Heavner

No action was taken on this item.

7.b. Biannual Update of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. A copy of the IRP Implementation Update was included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Member Nakhleh
3. Member Heavner

No action was taken on this item.

7.c. Plug-in / Balcony Solar Systems: Key Information

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. Copies of the 2026 Plug-In Solar Presentation and the Plug-in Solar Safety Whitepaper were included in the meeting packet.

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Nakhleh
2. Member Heavner

3. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

7.d. American Public Power Association (APPA) Financial and Operating Ratios

Mr. Philo Shelton, Utilities Manager presented. Copies of these documents were included in the meeting packet:
A - APPA Financial & Operating Ratios
B - APPA Rept on Financial & Operating Ratios
C - Rept on Financial & Operating Ratios Summary

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. There were none.
-OR- The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Mr. Richard Valerio
3. Member Hollingsworth

No action was taken on this item.

7.e. Announcement of Board of Public Utilities Vacancy

Vice Chair Heavner presented. Copies of these documents were included in the meeting packet:
A - BPU Vacancy Ad
B - BPU Vacancy Brochure

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for public comment on any topic. There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

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APPROVAL

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Board of Public Utilities Chair

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Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant