



County of Los Alamos

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

DRAFT Minutes

Board of Public Utilities

*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 15, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

Public Participation ~ in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82180323960>

1. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Chair Gibson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Members of the public were notified of the ability to participate and provide public comment in-person, remotely, or via email.

The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 4: Members Gibson, Stromberg, Nakhleh, and Shelton

Remote - 1: Member Heavner

Absent - 2: Members Hollingsworth and Laurent

Others in attendance in Chambers:

Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Mr. Juan Rael, Deputy County Manager

Mr. Thomas Wymann, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. James Martinez, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering

Mr. Clay Moseley, Deputy Utility Manager - GWS Services

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. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager

Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

Mr. Zachary Parlman, IM Technical Support Specialist

Mr. Jesse Freedman, LANL

Zoom participants:

Ms. Shannon Blair, ESB Liaison

Ms. Angelica Gurule, LAC Sustainability Manager

Ms. Analy Castillo, Stantec

Mr. Josh- Schacht, Stantec

Ms. Joni Arends, CCNS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson 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

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

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Nakhleh, Stromberg, Heavner, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Member Nakhleh moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented and that the motions in the staff reports be included in the minutes for the record.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Nakhleh, Stromberg, Heavner, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

4.a. Approval of BPU Meeting Minutes for March

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the meeting minutes for March 5th and 19th, 2025 as presented.

4.b. Approval of a Purchase Order for the Purchase of a UV Disinfection System from Trojan Technologies in the Amount of \$177,400.00 plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax for the Los Alamos Wastewater Treatment Plant

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the purchase of a UV Disinfection System from Trojan Technologies in the amount of \$177,400.00 plus applicable gross receipts tax for the Los Alamos Wastewater Treatment Plant.

4.c. Award of Bid No. IFB 26-25 for the Purpose of the Piedra Loop Underground Replacement Project with Bixby Electric in the Amount of \$1,182,877.44, plus Applicable GRT for a Term of 4.5 Months

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the Award of Bid No. IFB 26-26 for the Purpose of the Piedra Loop Underground Replacement Project with Bixby Electric in the Amount of \$985,731.20, and a 20% contingency in the amount of \$197,146.24, for a total of \$1,182,877.44, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax and forward to Council for approval.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.a. Recognition of Thomas Wyman, Assistant County Attorney

Chair Gibson thanked Mr. Wyman for his service on behalf of the board and expressed congratulations on his retirement. Mr. Shelton presented Mr. Wyman with a Certificate of Appreciation and Integrity Coin on behalf of the DPU and BPU.

No action was taken on this item.

5.b. Annual LANL Presentation

Mr. Jesse Freedman, Utility Program Manager for Los Alamos National Laboratory presented. A copy of his presentation slides were included in the meeting packet.

Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Nakhleh
2. Mr. Shelton
3. Member Gibson
4. Mr. Olbrich
5. Member Stromberg
6. Mr. Moseley
7. Member Heavner

No action was taken on this item.

5.c. Presentation of the Final Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan

Ms. Angelica Gurule, LAC Sustainability Manager announced that County Council approved both plans at their regular meeting on March 17, 2026. She then introduced Ms. Analy Castillo and Mr. Josh Schacht of Stantec. Ms. Castillo and Mr. Schacht presented remotely over Zoom. A copy of their presentation slides were included in the meeting packet.

After the first part of the presentation on the Final Fleet Conversion Plan, Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Heavner
3. Mr. Shelton

After the second part of the presentation on the Community-Wide EV Charging Plan, Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Ms. Gurule
2. Member Stromberg
3. Ms. Castillo
4. Member Gibson
5. Mr. Shelton

No action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

Chair Gibson 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. 02-380; An Ordinance Amending the Department of Public Utilities' Water Service Rate Schedules, Chapter 40, Article III, Sections 40-171, 40-173 and 40-175, and adding new Sections 40-176, 40-177, and 40-178 to the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code

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

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Mr. Shelton
3. Mr. Martinez
4. Mr. Moseley
5. Member Gibson

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

Member Gibson stated "I introduce, without prejudice, Incorporated County of Los Alamos Code Ordinance No. 02-380 and ask the staff to assure that it is published as provided in the County Charter."

7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson reported that:

1. Council modified the procedure for the Utilities Manager Performance Appraisal. The Council Liaison will be liaison for closed session on reviews and there will be no need for separate closed sessions with Council;
2. that the Utilities Manager's first review will take place on May 6. After some discussion, the closed session was tentatively scheduled for after the work session;
3. for the May 20 regular meeting Chair Gibson will be absent, and Vice Chair Heavner will be remote, Member Stromberg volunteered to serve as the Acting Chair (in person);
4. the Council working group for charter changes reported back to council last week. There was a recommendation for the successive term limits to be increased from two to three. Council also considered clarification of Article 5 Utilities "Compensatory" versus "Profit" language;
5. he will be presenting once again to the League of Women Voters.

Chair Gibson provided the opportunity for comments or questions from the board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.b. Board Member's Reports

The following board members reported:

1. Member Heavner shared information on how to access data on EVs from NM-DMV.

No action was taken on this item.

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Philo Shelton reviewed his report which was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

8.d. County Manager's Report

Ms. Laurent was absent. Mr. Juan Rael, Deputy County Manager, provided these highlights from the recent Council Meetings and Work Sessions:

1. A date has been set for the community Atomic Fiber kickoff. It will be on May 12 at the Visitor Center in White Rock. This is also the date of the County Council Work Session in White Rock. The BPU is invited to attend;
2. on April 15 the Public Works team installed first ever green bicycle striping plan for a couple streets;
3. the NM-DOT roadway resurfacing project on NM Hwy-4 is set to start in May, but no official date has been set.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg

No action was taken on this item.

8.e. Council Liaison's Report

Vice Chair Herrmann reported that:

1. the April 7 Regular Session passed consent approval of several Utilities projects;
2. Spartan Construction is working on the Fire Station 4 replacement project;
3. the Council received a Citizen's Petition from a Girl Scout's Troop requesting a for a four-way stop at North Road;
4. and on Saturday, April 18 from 10 am - 2pm Earth Day celebrations are happening at PEEC.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.f. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report

Ms. Shannon Blair reported that:

1. the ESB will participate in Earth Day at PEEC on Saturday;
2. there will also be a celebration for County staff next Wednesday, April 22 in the Muni

Building lobby;

3. in March the ESB heard a presentation from Mozart on their concept for a waste to energy plant. She recommended that BPU members watch the video of the presentation;
4. at the ESB meeting on April 16, the ESB will discuss the NM Climate Action Plan, Climate Marketing and Engagement Plan.

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

8.g. General Board Business

Chair Gibson introduced this topic with the advice of Mr. Wyman, County Assistant Attorney. Since the Foxtail Flats groundbreaking ceremony will take place on May 12 which is before the next regular meeting, Chair Gibson suggested that because Member Heavner expressed an interest in attending that the Board consider approving travel expenses. He then called for discussion for a motion.

Member Gibson moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board approve travel expenses for Member Heavner to attend the Foxtail Flats Groundbreaking Ceremony on May 12 in an amount not to exceed \$800.00.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Nakhleh, Stromberg, Heavner, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

8.h. Board Expenses

No action was taken on this item.

8.h.1. BPU Training Opportunity: APPA National Conference, June 26 - July 1, 2026

This item was initially discussed at the March 18, 2026 regular meeting. Members Gibson and Hollingsworth expressed interest in that time, but needed to check their schedules. Member Gibson asked that it be included in this agenda for possible action.

The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson would like to attend. Suggested increasing the dollar amount since Boston is a high cost area.

Member Nakhleh moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve travel expenses for Member Robert Gibson to attend the 2026 APPA National Conference in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.

The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Nakhleh, Stromberg, Heavner, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

9. STATUS REPORTS

9.a. Status Reports for March 2025

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the status reports. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson

No action was taken on this item.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

10.a. Tickler File for May - August

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the tickler.

1. Member Gibson
2. Ms. Casados
3. Mr. Shelton

CORRECTIONS TO TICKLER:

1. Member Gibson - reschedule the Review of the 10-year Budget Plan from May 20 to June 3.
2. Member Gibson - reschedule ED Undergrounding from May 20 to June 3.

NEW ITEMS FOR TICKLER:

1. Mr. Shelton confirmed that DOE EM-LA will provide an update on the Chromium Interim Measures and Final Remedy on May 20.
2. Member Gibson - noted that EDAM is scheduled for September. Would like to keep it visible on the Parking Lot.
3. Member Gibson - suggested a review of DPU Electric costs vs APPA data and AWWA
4. Member Gibson - suggested a Mozart presentation for the BPU. Mr. Shelton stated that he spoke to representatives and they are not ready to give a technology presentation at this time. He suggested that the item be placed in the Parking Lot.

No action was taken on this item.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on any topic. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

APPROVAL

Board of Public Utilities Chair

Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

(in agenda order):

8.c. Utilities Manager Report 4/15/2026

Utilities Manager's Report

April 15, 2026

1. The Primary Elections begin next month. For May 6th and June 3rd Work Sessions we will be meeting in Room 300 and for May 20th regular meeting we will meet in the Board and Commissions room 110.
2. For White Rock Sub-Station, Sambros is rerouting the conduits to allow for the caisson installations awarded to R&M Construction. We are still confirming the schedule with R&M Construction but plan to begin the first full week of May. For the tie line, the installation is complete and the only remaining item is programming the recloser control.
3. For Elk Ridge, all but four homes have cut over to the new gas system. DPU is making plans to purge the gas line for the first week of May.
4. Recruitment status: James Martinez was promoted to the Deputy Utility Manager for Engineering, Abbey Hayward has accepted the Public Relations Manager Position starting April 28th, and Paula Nelson was promoted to the Senior Management Analyst who oversees customer care center, billing, and collections. These are all internal promotions, and we will be seeking to fill their vacancies. Staff are in the interview process for the Water Production Superintendent. Other open recruitments are for a Lineperson, Electrical Associate Engineer, Electrical Engineering Manager, GWS Superintendent, GWS Trainee, Summer Engineering Interns, and Engineering Aid for utility locates.
5. The plumbers and pipefitting union's contract expires on June 30, 2026, and we have begun negotiation for this contract renewal.
6. GWS, Wastewater, and the Hydro Electric teams are exercising the alternative work schedule for the daylight savings time this year with 4-ten-hour days.
7. Weekly meetings are being held with DOE/NNSA on the negotiations to renew the new ECA. Kutak Rock has been assisting with this effort, and we have scheduled a BPU working group meeting for April 30th to review the progress of these negotiations. Exeter, DOE's consultant, has estimated the contract value at \$424 million for the first ten years and the second ten-year contract value at \$593 million for a total contract value of just over \$1 billion.
8. The Jemez Fire Protection Project finally received a notice of award for FEMA funding, and staff has submitted the requested revised construction cost estimate. FEMA has acknowledged receiving the revised cost estimate but has yet to issue a notice to proceed because they are still held up in the DHS shutdown. The remaining work is estimated to cost \$3.5 million with ~\$2.65 million of federal funding from FEMA. Finally for Phase III, the pump house and control work is currently out for bids with today as the last day for questions and bid opening is scheduled for next Thursday.

9. For Foxtail Flats, the formal groundbreaking is scheduled for the morning of May 12th. Foxtail Flats requested consent and assignment of the lease with Ute Mountain Ute to separate it from the PPA. The lease is held with Foxtail Flats and the PPA is held with Foxtail Flats 2. There are no other changes to the PPA.
10. For UAMPS Geothermal projects, Rodatherm has completed half of the drilling and continues with the second half of the horizontal drilling to be completed in June. There is still no update on transmission access for both projects.
11. For Chromium Plume, EM-LA requested to make a presentation to BPU on May 20th. The interim measure remains turned off.
12. For the 18-inch water production line repair in Two Mile Canyon, the Army Corp does not require a permit. Staff are now working on scheduling potholing to verify site conditions and receiving a task order quote from DPU's on-call contractor and preparing a budget revision to present to BPU.
13. Souder Miller has completed all but one item on the tank cleanings and corrections project for NMED's sanitary survey items. They are on-site this week completing the last item with the tank foundation repair at Sycamore. NMED has given DPU an extension until the end of this month, which we will safely meet this deadline. We do anticipate some additional follow-on work with tank coatings because some of the tank cleaning identified corrosion areas.
14. No updates to report this month on the PFAS settlement class action suits.
15. For the vertical switch gear project, LANL notified us that they had to suspend work pending completing some other emergency work and they plan to resume work next month.
16. Held a site walk with Forest Service and State Historic Preservation Office and five of the six parcels have no issues or mitigation requirements. The one parcel by the cemetery has many archeology resources that would be difficult and costly to mitigate. We are exploring reducing the acquisition area to only include the access road to the lift station and excluding the sensitive areas around the cemetery.