



County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities

1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

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

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, 3rd Floor, Rm #330

Public Participation: in person or <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85828927209>.

1. CALL TO ORDER

This regular meeting of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities was held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025. Vice Chair Stromberg 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.

The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 4: Members Stromberg, Heavner, Hollingsworth, and Laurent

Remote - 2: Members Gibson and Shelton

Absent - 1: Member Nakhleh

Others in attendance in Chambers:

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration

Mr. Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electrical Distribution

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply

Ms. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager

Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

Ms. Camille Chavez, Senior Office Specialist

Zoom participants:

Mr. Robert Gibson, BPU Chair

Ms. Angelica Gurule, Sustainability Manager

Mr. Pete Mondragon, Fleet Manager

Ms. Analay Castillo, Stantec

Mr. Josh Schacht, Stantec

Mr. Greg Wallingford, Stantec

Ms. Theresa Cull, Council Chair

(attending for Ms. Suzie Havemann, Council Liaison)

Ms. Sue Barns, Environmental Sustainability Liaison

Mr. Philo Shelton, Utilities Manager

Mr. James Alarid, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering

Mr. Clay Moseley, Deputy Utilities Manager - GWS Services

Mr. Thomas Wyman, Assistant County Attorney

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1.a. Statement Regarding Closed Session

Vice Chair Stromberg introduced this item.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the following statement for inclusion in the minutes: "The matters discussed in the closed session held at 8:15 pm on October 1, 2025 were limited only to those topics specified in the notice of the closed session, and no action was taken on any matter during the closed session."

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Vice Chair Stromberg 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 Stromberg called for discussion or a motion.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Stromberg called for discussion or a motion.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the items on the Consent Agenda 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 Hollingsworth, Heavner, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

4.a. Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes - September 2025

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the meeting minutes for September 3rd and 17th as presented.

- 4.b. Approval of Budget Revision No. 2026-17 for the White Rock Substation Project

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the Budget Revision 2026-17 in the amount of \$1,128,000 to be funded from the Electric Production Reserve Fund, for the emergency replacement of the White Rock Substation as presented, and forward to Council for consideration and approval.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- 5.a. Fleet Conversion Plan and Community-Wide EV Charging Plan Update

Ms. Angelica Gurule, County Sustainability Manager introduced the Stantec team and staff that have been working on this project. From Stantec they include Ms. Analy Castillo, Mr. Josh Schacht and Mr. Greg Wallingford. County employees include Mr. Pete Mondragon, Fleet Manager; Ms. Sue Barns, Vice Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Board; and Mr. Mariano Valdez, DPU Engineering Associate. The Stantec team presented and copies of their slides were included in the meeting packet.

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

1. Member Heavner
2. Mr. Schacht
3. Ms. Gurule
4. Member Hollingsworth
5. Ms. Castillo
6. Member Gibson
7. Member Stromberg

No action was taken on this item.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 6.a. Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 739; an Ordinance Novating and Authorizing the First Amendment of a Lease with AT&T Mobility, LLC, for Replacement of Existing Antenna Collocation and Facilities at 280 North Mesa Road, Los Alamos, on the North Mesa Water Tower

Mr. James Alarid, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering presented. A copy of the amendment was included in the meeting packet.

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

1. Member Hollingsworth
2. Member Stromberg

Vice Chair Stromber called for further discussion or a motion.

Member Heavner moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend that Council introduce Incorporated County of Los Alamos Ordinance No. 739; An Ordinance Novating and Authorizing a First Amendment of a Lease with AT&T Mobility, LLC, for Replacement of Existing Antenna Collocation and Facilities at 280 North Mesa Road, Los Alamos, on the Barranca North Mesa Water Tower. There was no further discussion. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

7.a. Application for Grid Resiliency Grant from New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Mr. Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electrical Distribution presented. A copy of the grant matrix was included in the meeting packet.

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

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Member Gibson

Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Heavner seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend staff apply for a grant funding from the State of New Mexico to support construction of the EA-4 electric line replacement and forward to Council for consideration. There was no further discussion.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

8. BOARD BUSINESS

8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson did not have a report.

No action was taken on this item.

8.b. Board Member's Reports

Member Heavner presented. A copy of his written report was included in the meeting packet. Vice Chair Stromberg provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson
2. Member Hollingsworth

No action was taken on this item.

8.b.1 Trip Report - 2025 Climate Solutions Summit

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report

Mr. Shelton reviewed his written report and a copy is attached to the minutes. Vice Chair Stromberg provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Mr. Olbrich
3. Member Gibson
4. Member Stromberg

No action was taken on this item.

8.d. County Manager's Report

Ms. Anne Laurent provided highlights from the October 7th Council Meeting and October 21st Work Session. Vice Chair Stromberg provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

No action was taken on this item.

8.e. Council Liaison's Report

Council Chair Theresa Cull also provided some highlights from the October 7th Council Meeting and October 21st Work Session. Vice Chair Stromberg 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. Sue Barns ESB Vice Chair reported on recent activities. A copy of her written report is **attached** to the minutes.

Ms. Shannon Blair; ESB Chair also provided these notes:

1. The ESB received a presentation on the Turf Study and provided feedback to PRB.
2. The ESB is working to finalize a presentation to County Council in October and will also be giving an update on the plastic bag fee research.

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

1. Member Hollingsworth

No action was taken on this item.

8.g. General Board Business

8.g.1). Discussion and Possible Action on the Council Procedural Rules
Regarding the Utilities Manager Recruitment

Council Chair Cull presented the Council revisions. BPU Chair Gibson presented a revision to that would include language regarding recruitment of the Utilities Manager. Vice Chair Stromberg provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg

Vice Chair Stromberg then called for further discussion or a motion.

Member Gibson moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the following statement be added to the County Council Procedural Rules on page 3, after the "Hire County Manager and County Attorney..." bullet: "According to the County Charter, the Board of Public Utilities shall recruit and appoint a Utilities Manager with formal approval of the County Council." I further move that the recommendation be forwarded to Council for consideration and approval.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

NO - 0:

ABSENT - 1: Nakhleh

8.h. Board Expenses

None scheduled.

No action was taken on this item.

9. STATUS REPORTS

9.a. Status Reports - September 2025

Vice Chair Stromberg opened the floor for comments and questions on the status reports.

The following individuals spoke:

1. Mr. Shelton

No action was taken on this item.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

10.a. Tickler File for October - December 2025

Vice Chair Stromberg opened the floor for comments and questions on the tickler. The following individuals spoke:

1. Ms. Angelica Gurule

No action was taken on this item.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

No action was taken on this item.

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12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

APPROVAL

Eric Stromberg
Board of Public Utilities Vice Chair

November 19, 2025
Date Approved by the Board

Minutes transcribed by: Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

ATTACHMENTS

(in agenda order):

8.c. Utilities Manager's Report 10/22/2025

8.f. ESB Liaison's Report

**Utilities Manager's Report
October 22, 2025**

1. While the failed transformer unit 1 was completely serviced in 2018, the cause of the failure was determined to be low oil. The 12 MVA replacement transformer that can be expanded to 22.4 MVA by adding cooling fans is scheduled for delivery on December 4th. This replacement transformer will meet White Rock's future projected growth as identified in the Distribution System and Electrification Study. The design plans to accept this larger transformer are nearly complete pending by receiving the geotechnical report later this week that is needed to complete the design of its foundation. The line crew completed an access drive to the northeast side of the substation that allowed LANL to remove the jumpers to unit 1. Next week the oil in unit 1 will be drained and a crane will mobilize to remove this transformer. For the tie line with LANL, the transformer is due to be delivered within a week and controls for reclosers within 4 weeks. The concrete pad to accept this transformer is being poured this week and excavation for the poles. Unfortunately, the schedule for LANL's work on their portion of the project is undetermined. Finally, DPU has received a mutual aid agreement form PNM that is under legal review.
2. For Elk Ridge, the gas line installation has reached substantial completion with a few punch list items to complete. However, Yes Communities do not plan to repave their private road until the spring. Cartwright Plumbing has worked out with New Mexico CID's Mobile Home section on receiving inspections and green tags so GWS crew can begin the new meter assembly installations. Until a few of these can be completed, it is difficult to estimate when the gas service cutovers will be completed.
3. DPU received a fourth retirement notice for a Power System Operator this year. Open recruitment currently is for this Power System Operator Apprentice, Deputy Utility Manager for Electric Distribution, Senior Management Analyst, Engineering Project Manager for Electric Distribution and Engineering Aid for utility locates.
4. NNSA Albuquerque procurement office sent us a notice last Friday that their office is now on the federal furlough. Obviously, this will delay the completion of the ECA document.
5. US Forest Service also gave us notice that they are also on federal furlough.
6. Foxtail Flats schedule has slipped again with site mobilization scheduled for 1-30-2026 and proposed full commercial operation date by May 15, 2027.
7. Los Alamos new federal lobbyist is working on how to release the award for the Jemez Fire Protection Project through FEMA. Their new approach is that the project will protect the lab and its national security functions.

8. In coordination with Public Works, I met with a project developer named Mozart who is proposing a waste to energy project on Ohkay Owingeh. This developer wants to accept municipal trash to process into hydrogen and graphene. The scale of the project would service both Los Alamos and Espanola since it needs 200 tons of trash per day, and it would produce enough hydrogen to generate between 8 to 10 MW of energy through a fuel cell.
9. UAMPS held their annual board member retreat in Folsom, CA where CAISO Operations Center is located. We spent half a day touring the facility and learning about its operations. Topics covered were Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM), transmission planning, review of summer operations and tours of their control center and training center. Other activities included UAMPS strategic planning, review of transmission strategic initiatives, annual resource procurement plan, and EDAM procurement policy. I scheduled UAMPS to make an EDAM presentation to BPU's November 5th work session. My board position with UAMPS will end this calendar year with the close out of the CFPP. Next, both the geothermal projects are still on going with UAMPS finalizing PPA's on Rodatherm and Cove Fort II. These PPA's are both subject to transmission access.
10. The Pathway to Zero Natural Gas project has completed an 85-page white paper and I confirmed that they can make a short presentation at the November BPU Work Session.
11. Attended two days of the County's strategic planning sessions. Once Council's Strategic Leadership Plan is adopted, we will schedule an update to BPU.
12. Today, Councilor Ryti, Anne Laurent, James Alarid, and I attended an all-day LANL Chromium Plume Workshop at Santa Fe Community College. Attendees are Environmental Management, Office of State Engineer, NMED, Pueblo de San Ildefonso, NM Indian Affairs Department, and Los Alamos County. This is the first time LAC has had a seat at the table as EM works towards a final remedy. Collectively we established five project goals and worked on the objectives.
13. After receiving the updated waterline easements from LANL where Solid Waste Management Units exists, staff meet with NNSA staff on how to handle unplanned releases due to a water main break. We agreed on how to report it and who will make the repair. Finally, we are going to follow up with a tabletop exercise next year to ensure that all the players who could be impacted by such an event will be involved.

Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison Report – Oct. 22, 2025
Sue Barns, ESB Vice Chair

At last week's ESB meeting, the Board heard an update from our Stantec consultants on the Fleet Conversion and EV Charging plans.

Sustainability Manager Angelica Gurule reported that six new EV chargers are being installed in the Municipal Building parking lot, with completion expected by Dec. 31 despite some rain delays.

Los Alamos County also received an NMDOT grant to install two 150 kW DC fast chargers at Mesa Public Library. Council approved the grant on Sept. 30, and staff are exploring lower-cost alternatives to ChargePoint.

At Tuesday's Council work session, ESB Chair Shannon Blair presented the Board's plastic bag research, annual activity report, and 2026 Work Plan.

Manager Gurule gave a quarterly update on Council's Environmental Stewardship strategic goal, including:

- Metrics for 13 Climate Action Plan (CAP) first-year actions—now tracked on a new sustainability dashboard available on the County Sustainability website.
- Fire Station 4 will be rebuilt as an all-electric facility.
- Electric mowing robots are operating successfully at the Golf Course, reducing emissions, saving fuel and freeing staff time for other projects (and surviving assaults from 12-year-olds).
- ACT electric buses are expected to arrive in Nov. 2026.
- A Sustainability Certification Program is being developed to encourage local businesses to adopt sustainable practices, including water and energy conservation.

Airport Manager Gary Goddard conducted an energy audit of the Municipal Building, leading to upgrades projected to save 15% in energy use—about \$15,000 per month. He is developing automated energy monitoring and planning a similar audit for the Pajarito Cliffs site.

Once again this year there will be a dumpster at Fuller Lodge to collect pumpkins after Halloween, so that they can be disposed of properly and not become food for wildlife or a puddle of squashy goo on your doorstep.

Susan Barns
Vice Chair, Los Alamos Environmental Sustainability Board
Los Alamos Sustainability Alliance