1000 Central Avenue
Los Alamos, NM 87544

County of Los Alamos

Minutes

Board of Public Utilities Work Session

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, June 3, 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, June 3, 2026. Chair Gibson 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.
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The following board members were in attendance:
Present: 5 - Members Heavner, Stromberg, Gibson, Shelton and Laurent
Remote 1 - Member Nakhleh
Absent: 1 - Member Hollingsworth
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Others present in Chambers:
Ryn Herrmann, Council Vice Chair & BPU Liaison
Cristella Valdez, Assistant County Attorney
James Martinez, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering
Dennis Astley, Acting Deputy Utility Manager - Electrical Distribution
Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply
Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration
Abbey Hayward, Public Relations Manager
Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant
Bernadette Martinez, Human Resources Manager
Caitlin Martinez, NMED / Presenter
Michael Petersen, NMED / Citizen
David Hampton, Citizen
Tom McCrory, EM-LA / Citizen
John Evans, EM-LA / Citizen
Lisa Hampton, Citizen
Zachary Parliman, IM Senior Technical Support Specialist

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Zoom participants:
Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager
Randall Ryti, Councilor
Beth Beloff, NM-CIC / Presenter
Christian Casillas, CSCNM / Presenter
AV Booth
Angie28
Barbara Calef
ccns
Elena F
Emily Piltch
Jason Martinez
Jeff Steinborn
Joel Hebdon
Kenna
kking
Kylian Robinson
LAC-iPad
Linsey Hurst, Local 7076
Maire O'Neill
R.Mtz San I DECP
Santiago Rodriguez, NMED
Siona Briley
Siona Brile (Sigh-Own-Ah)
Stefanie Fountain

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

Chair Gibson called for a volunteer to read the motion.

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Member Heavner moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities suspend their procedural rules for the June 3, 2026 work session so that formal action could be taken.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 0:
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on items not otherwise included on the agenda. There was none.

No formal action was taken on this item.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Gibson called for amendments to the agenda, discussion or a motion. There were no amendments or discussion.

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Member Heavner moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board approve the agenda as presented.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 0:
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.a. New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Update on the Hexavalent Chromium Plume

Mr. Shelton introduced presenter Ms. Caitlin Martinez, Water Resource Professional with the NMED Ground Water Quality Bureau. Mr. Michael Petersen was also present in Council Chambers. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Nakhleh
3. Member Heavner
4. Member Gibson
5. Mr. Shelton
6. Ms. Laurent

No formal action was taken on this item.

4.b. Presentation of On Bill Financing Program and Possible Action

Ms. Angelica Gurule, Sustainability Manger and Ms. Abbey Hayward, Public Relations Manager presented. Ms. Gurule introduced Ms. Beloff with the New Mexico Climate Investment Center (NM-CIC) and Mr. Christian Casillas with the Coalition of Sustainable Communities New Mexico (CSCNM) who were present over Zoom. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Gibson
3. Ms. Beloff
4. Mr. Casillas

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. Chair Gibson then asked for further board discussion. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Gibson

Chair Gibson then asked the board to consider the motions provided in the meeting packet.

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Member Heavner moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities direct staff to pursue the On-Bill Financing program and return to the Board with additional program details.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 3: Members Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 1: Member Stromberg
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS (none scheduled)

6. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

6.a. Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UAPP), Local Union No. 412, Covering the Period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration and Ms. Bernadette Martinez, Human Resources Manager presented.

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

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. Chair Gibson called for further board discussion or a motion.

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Member Stromberg moved and Member Heavner seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the County of Los Alamos and the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters (UAPP), Local Union No. 412, for the Period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031 and forward to County Council for approval.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 0:
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

6.b. Approval to Execute a Power Purchase Agreement in an Amount not to Exceed $4,725,000 Plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax, to supply power and energy to the Los Alamos Power Pool for the Month of July 2026

Mr. Ben Olbrich, Deputy Utility Manager - Power Supply presented. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Heavner

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. Chair Gibson then called for further discussion or a motion.

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Member Heavner moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve a Power Purchase Agreement with a yet-to-be determined provider, competitively selected not later than June 26, 2026, in an amount not to exceed FOUR MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($4,725,000.00) plus applicable gross receipts tax, for the purpose of supplying power and energy to the Los Alamos Power Pool for the month of July 2026 and forward to Council approval.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 0:
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

6.c. Annual Review of the Utilities Assistance Program (UAP)

Ms. Joann Gentry, Deputy Utility Manager - Finance & Administration presented. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Heavner
2. Member Gibson

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. Chair Gibson then called for further discussion or a motion.

No formal action was taken on this item.

6.d. Department of Public Utilities Quarterly Report for Fiscal Year 2026 - Quarter 3

Ms. Abbey Hayward, Public Relations Manager presented. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Heavner
2. Mr. Astley
3. Mr. Shelton
4. Member Stromberg

No formal action was taken on this item.

6.e. Approval of Budget Revision 2026-80 for FEMA Grant to Fund the Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project - Electrical Undergrounding in the Federal Share Amount of $2,632,746.18 and accept sub-grant agreement DR-4652-0006-NM

Mr. James Martinez, Deputy Utility Manager - Engineering presented. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:
1. Member Gibson
2. Mr. Shelton

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment; there was none. Chair Gibson then called for further discussion or a motion.

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Member Heaver moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board recommend approval of Budget Revision 2026-80 (Attachment C) for a FEMA grant to fund the Jemez Mountain Fire Protection Project - Electrical Undergrounding in the Federal share amount of $2,632,746.18, available through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under FEMA-DR-4652-NM; the non-federal match requirement is $842,770.27 for a total project cost of $3,475,516.45. Member Heavner further moved that the Board recommend Council accept New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management (DHSEM) sub-grant agreement DR-4652-0006-NM and authorize the County Manager to sign this agreement in Attachment B.

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The motion passed by the following vote:
YES - 4: Members Stromberg, Nakhleh, Heavner, and Gibson
NO - 0:
ABSENT - 1: Member Hollingsworth

7. BOARD BUSINESS

7.a. Initial Review of the Board of Public Utilities Annual Presentation to County Council

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

1. Member Heavner
2. Member Stromberg

No formal action was taken on this item.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for public comment on any topic; there was none.

No formal action was taken on this item.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 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