



# **County of Los Alamos**

## **Minutes**

### **Board of Public Utilities**

1000 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

*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*

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Wednesday, May 20, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, B&C Rm #110

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**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, May 20, 2026. Vice Chair Matt Heavner 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.

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The following board members were in attendance:

Present - 6: Members Heavner, Stromberg, Nakhleh, Hollingsworth, Shelton and Laurent

Remote - 0:

Absent - 1: Member Gibson

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Others in attendance in Chambers:

Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Mr. Alvin Leaphart, County Attorney

Ms. Cristella Valdez, 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

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager - Finance & Administration

Ms. Abbey Hayward, Public Relations Manager

Ms. Kathy Casados, Executive Assistant

Mr. Jeddediah Bedo, IM Technical Support Specialist

Ms. Marlene Wilden, Reporter, Exchange Monitor

Mr. Tom McCrory, Citizen / EM-LA

Mr. David Powell, Citizen

Mr. Tom Messing, N3B

Mr. Joel Hebdon, N3B

Ms. Stephanie Fountain, N3B

Mr. Brian Hancer, N3B

Ms. Kristin Henderson, N3B

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher, N3B

Mr. Tahir Rana, DOE

Ms. Catherine Lepp, NMED

Ms. Caitlin Martinez, NMED GWQB

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**Zoom participants:**  
**Sue Barns, ESB Liaison**  
**Randall Ryti, Council Chair**  
**Alaa Aly**  
**Alexander Tafoya**  
**Amanda Kennedy**  
**Becky**  
**ccns**  
**Dan Jones**  
**David Hampton**  
**Edwin Worth**  
**Gina Joiner**  
**Jeff**  
**Jeffrey Silvera**  
**Jen Payne**  
**Joe Ritchey**  
**Kylian Robinson**  
**Linsey Hurst, Local 7076**  
**Lt. Gov/Envir. Director San I Pueblo**  
**Maire O'Neill**  
**Matt**  
**mlbishopllc**  
**Peter Dillon**  
**Robert Reine (DOE)**  
**Seattle**  
**Shelly Wilson**  
**Siona Briley**  
**terrymichalske 147**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for public comment on the Consent Agenda or those not otherwise included on the agenda.

The following individuals spoke:

1. David Powell
2. Tom McCrory

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

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

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Gibson**

**3.a. Statement Regarding Closed Session**

Vice Chair Heavner requested a member volunteer to read the statement.

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Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Stromberg seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve the following statement for inclusion in the minutes: "The matters discussed in the closed sessions on May 6, 2026 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."

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The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver

NO - 0:

ABSENT: Member Gibson

#### **4. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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Member Stromberg 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, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver

NO - 0:

ABSENT: Member Gibson

- 4.a. Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes for April

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the minutes of the April 1 and April 15, 2026 meetings as presented.

- 4.b. Award of Bid No. 26-61 for the Tank Piping Upgrades Phase 2 Project to NM Underground Utilities, Inc. in the Amount of \$607,890.00 plus Applicable NMGRT

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend the award of Bid No. 26-61 for the Tank Piping Upgrades Phase 2 Project with the base bid amount of \$528,600.00 plus a 15% contingency in the amount of \$79,290.00, for a total project amount of \$607,890.00, plus applicable NM gross receipts tax to NM Underground Utilities, Inc. and forward to County Council for approval.

- 4.c. Approval of Changes to the Department of Public Utilities Rules & Regulations - Fee Schedule

I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the changes to the Department of Public Utilities Rules & Regulations - Fee Schedule as presented.

#### **5. PRESENTATIONS**

- 5.a. Presentation by DOE EM Los Alamos Field Office (EM-LA) and N3B: Update on the Hexavalent Chromium Campaign and Current Status on the Interim Measures

Ms. Stephanie Gallagher, EM-LA Public Affairs introduced the presenters. Mr. Joel Hebdon, N3B Deputy Program Manager for Environmental Remediation, introduced the

topic. Mr. Brian Harcek, EM-LA Director, Quality and Regulatory Compliance, presented. Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Nakhleh
2. Member Stromberg

**No action was taken on this item.**

## **6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 6.a.** 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

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager 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 Nakhleh

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

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**Member Nakhleh moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend Council adopt 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.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Gibson**

## **7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

- 7.a.** Approval of Department of Energy / Los Alamos County Electric Resource Pool Budget for Fiscal Years 2027 and 2028

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

1. Member Heavner

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Member Stromberg moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of the 2027-28 Resource Pool budget as presented and forward to the County Council for their review and approval.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Gibson**

**7.b. Approval of Budget Revision 2026-73**

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager presented. Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the Board; there were none. He then called for Public Comment, there was none. He then called for further discussion or a motion.

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**Member Hollingsworth moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities approve Budget Revision 2025-64 as presented and forward to Council for consideration and approval.**

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**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**YES - 4: Members Hollingsworth, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Heaver**

**NO - 0:**

**ABSENT: Member Gibson**

**8. BOARD BUSINESS**

**8.a. Chair's Report**

Vice Chair Heavner reported:

1. Council reappointed him to the BPU for another five year term.
2. On May 14 he, Mr. Shelton and Mr. Olbrich attended the Foxtail Fox ground breaking in Farmington

**No action was taken on this item.**

**8.b. Board Member's Reports**

Member Nakhleh reported that he attended the Boards & Commissions meeting on May 14th.

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

1. Member Nakhleh

Mr. Dennis Astley provided an update on the power outage that occurred over the weekend: Vice Chair Heavner provided an opportunity for comments or questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Nakhleh

2. Member Hollingsworth
3. Member Stromberg

**No action was taken on this item.**

**8.d. County Manager's Report**

Ms. Anne Laurent provided these highlights from the recent Council Meetings and Work Sessions:

1. The Atomic Fiber Broadband Groundbreaking was a success. Four internet providers will provide service to County customers.
2. The Longview Drive realignment project was approved by Council; work will take place in the summer.
3. The first summer concert is scheduled for May 22.
4. The Trinity Drive realignment project from Oppenheimer to 20th Street is progressing.
5. The EV charger installation at Mesa Public Library is delayed for two weeks due to early voting.
6. A groundbreaking ceremony for Fire Station 4 is planned.

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

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Hollingsworth

**No action was taken on this item.**

**8.e. Council Liaison's Report**

Vice Chair Herrmann provided updated on the recent Council meetings and Work Sessions. 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. Sue Barns reported that the ESB recently

1. Heard a presentation on the statewide nm climate action plan.
2. Heard a presentation regarding marketing for the climate action plan.
3. Discussed a draft ordinance to ban single use plastic bags within 90 days.

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

**No action was taken on this item.**

**8.g. General Board Business**

There was none.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**8.h. Board Expenses**

There were none.

**No action was taken on this item.**

**9. STATUS REPORTS**

**9.a. Status Reports for April**

Mr. Shelton commented that April data was not available from Risk so it will be presented at the June regular meeting.

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

- 1. Member Stromberg
- 2. Mr. Moseley
- 3. Member Nakhleh
- 4. Mr. Shelton

**No action was taken on this item.**

**10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

**10.a. Tickler File for June -September**

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

- 1. Member Nakhleh

**No action was taken on this item.**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**No action was taken on this item.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.**

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**APPROVAL**

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**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 5/20/26**

**Utilities Manager's Report**  
**May 20, 2026**

1. The Primary Elections continue. For June 3<sup>rd</sup> BPU Work Session, we will be meeting in Room 330.
2. For White Rock Sub-Station, Sambros completed rerouting the conduits to allow for the caisson installations. R&M Construction is getting rebar cages delivered and drilling of the caissons will plan for the end of next week. For the tie line, the installation is complete and the only remaining item is programming the recloser control that we are waiting for to receive information from our consultant.
3. For Elk Ridge, the old gas distribution system has been cut, capped and purged. Even after months of notices and door hangers, there were two homes that did not complete their cutovers, and DPU staff were told their plumbers are getting inspections completed and will get their connections completed to the new system.
4. New Mexico Gas is planning to hydrotest 7 to 8 miles of high-pressure gas line from Santa Fe to Los Alamos. This will require NM Gas to set up what they call a virtual pipeline. Basically, liquified natural gas will be trucked daily from Texas and released at an upstream station from Los Alamos while hydrotesting occurs. LANL's combustion turbine will need to remain offline during this period because of the volume of gas that it uses. The virtual pipeline will be in operation from mid-June to mid-August. Staff will work to schedule additional power that the CT was planned to provide.
5. Recruitment status: The current vacancies are Electrical Distribution Engineering Manager, Senior Engineer, Associate Engineer, Management Analyst, Energy and Water Conservation Coordinator, GWS Superintendent, GWS Trainee, and Engineering Aid for utility locates.
6. The plumbers and pipefitting union's contract expires on June 30, 2026, and negotiations are complete and the terms are being written up into an agreement. Staff will bring this to BPU on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and Council on June 9<sup>th</sup>.
7. For the ECA, Kutak Rock has the last rounds of edits from Los Alamos to review and then they will turn these redlines over by weeks end back to DOE/NNSA for a final review. After this step, we will be bringing the ECA to BPU hopefully at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for approval.
8. The sub-grant agreement for the Jemez Fire Protection Project was received today. This work will cover the electrical underground lines and removal of the overhead lines.
9. Attended the groundbreakings for Atomic Fiber and Foxtail Flats. These are major milestones in implementing these two large projects. DPU has received the \$17 million letter of credit required as part of the construction of Foxtail Flats. This project is well underway with mobilization of equipment required for installation of the solar panels.

10. Wrote a letter of support to San Ildefonso Services on a \$10 million federal grant to construct a test geothermal well across from Totavi Gas Station in Guaje Canyon. If the well proves feasible then we could pursue a PPA with San Ildefonso to serve local RTC power to meet future power needs.
11. For Chromium Plume, The Environment Department missed our published deadline for their presentation, and I ask to move to June 3<sup>rd</sup> work session. The interim measure remains turned off.
12. For the NMED's sanitary survey items, all is complete except for the Sycamore housekeeping curb to prevent undermining at the tank base. NMED has additional questions that need to be addressed before a solution can be implemented.
13. For PFAS class action lawsuit, staff provided well pumping data to the law firm. There is training to attend early next month.
14. Held a water production tabletop exercise with LANL. This tabletop exercise was a productive discussion and helped identify where our procedures differ and how we need to better communicate and coordinate going forward.
15. Held a water needs meeting with NNSA/DOE. SWEIS with expanded supercomputing and water needs for the Chromium plume has basically all LANL's water rights allocated and potentially more to allocated to meet this expanded mission. We will be analyzing this with the 40-yr water plan and DPU continues to work to receive federal funding for a well at Overlook Park.
16. The extended electrical outage on May 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in Los Alamos was primarily due to an underground fault across from the Aquatics Center parking lot. This over current situation caused a cascading event of multiple outages throughout Los Alamos. Dennis Astley has been investigating the cause of the cascading effect further with our consultant. I will ask him to report what he has learned to date.