



# **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, January 14, 2026

5:30 PM

Municipal Building, Council Chambers

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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, January 14, 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:

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

**Remote - 0:** Member Heavner

**Absent - 0:**

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**Others in attendance in Chambers:**

Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann, Council Liaison

Mr. Thomas Wymann, Assistant County Attorney

Mr. James Alarid, 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

Mr. James Martinez, Senior Engineer

Ms. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager

Mr. Richard Valerio, Business Operations Manager

Mr. Perry Rutherford, IM Technical Support Specialist

**Zoom participants:**

Ms. Sue Barns, ESB Liaison

Mrs. Melissa Dadzie, Chief Financial Officer

#### **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 asked board members for amendments to the agenda, discussion or a motion. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson moved that item 8.a.1. be moved up to occur after Approval of the Agenda.
2. Member Nakhleh moved that item 4.e. be moved off of the Consent Agenda. Chair Gibson stated that it would be heard under Business before the AMT presentation.

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

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

**YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**8.a.1.**

**Introduction of Council Liaison to the BPU**

Chair Gibson introduced Council Vice Chair Ryn Herrmann. Vice Chair Herrmann stated that she began her term as BPU Liaison early so that former BPU Liaison Suzie Havemann could spend time with her new grandchild. Board Members shared a few words of welcome.

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

Chair Gibson asked board members for amendments to the consent agenda. He stated that there was a minor change to the minutes from the December 10th meeting which were distributed and are also attached. There were no comments from other board members. He then called for discussion or a motion.

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

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

**YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

**4.a.**

**Approval of Board of Public Utilities Meeting Minutes - December 2025**

**I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.**

**4.b.**

**Approval of Amendment No. 2 to AGR22-68 with Molzen Corbin for Engineering Services for the Water Production Facilities Electric and Mechanical Upgrades Phase I Project.**

**I move that the Board of Public Utilities approve Amendment No. 2 to AGR22-68 for the Purpose of Additional Engineering Services associated with the final Engineering Design during Construction, Construction & Contract oversight, Closeout Documents, and Commissioning of the Wells. This Amendment is solely for the approval to extend the Services Agreement to December 31, 2026 with no adjustment to the Agreement Amount.**

**4.c.**

**Approval of Budget Revision 2026-34 for Task Order No. 3 with Souder Miller & Associates under AGR22-67b for Potable Water Storage Tank**

Inspection and Maintenance Services

I move that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of Budget Revision No. 2026-34 in the amount of \$70,433.00, for Task Order No. 3 with Souder Miller & Associates under AGR22-67b for required potable water storage tank inspection and maintenance services, and forward to Council for approval.

- 4.d. Award of Bid No. IFB 26-24 for the Purpose of the Guaje Canyon and Bayo Booster Fiber Optic Line Installation with **TSI Tower, Inc. in the Amount of \$559,395.00** plus Contingency and Applicable Gross Receipts Tax

I move that the Board of Public Utilities Recommend Approval of Award of Bid No. IFB 26-24 for the Purpose of the Guaje Canyon and Bayo Booster Fiber Optic Line Installation with TSI Tower, Inc. in the Amount of \$559,395.00 and a contingency in the amount of \$83,910, for a total of \$643,305.00, plus Applicable Gross Receipts Tax and forward to Council for approval.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

None scheduled.

No action was taken on this item.

**6. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- 6.a. Affirmation of the Incorporated County of Los Alamos Open Meetings Resolution No. 26-01

Chair Gibson summarized the Resolution. He then provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board and staff; there were none. Chair Gibson also 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 affirm Incorporated County of Los Alamos Resolution No. 26-01; A Resolution Establishing Minimum Standards of Reasonable Notice to the Public for all Meetings of the Council, County Boards, Commissions and Other Public Bodies Created by the State and Those Appointed by the Council (Collectively "Appointed County Committees.")

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The motion passed by the following vote:

YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson

NO - 0:

**7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

- 4.e. Approval of Services Agreement AGR26-15 with Armystick, LLC in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Water Systems Mechanical Devices Rehabilitation Service and Support

Mr. Philo Shelton presented. A copy of the agreement was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Nakhleh

2. Member Gibson

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

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**Member Stromberg moved and Member Nakhleh seconded that the Board of Public Utilities recommend approval of Services Agreement No. AGR26-15 with Armystick, LLC in the amount of \$1,000,000, plus applicable gross receipts tax, for the purpose of the Water Systems Mechanical Devices Rehabilitation Service and Support and forward to Council for approval.**

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

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**YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

7.a. Annual Asset Management Teams (AMT) Presentation

Mr. James Martinez, Senior Engineer presented. A copy of his presentation slides was included in the meeting packet. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

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

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

**8. BOARD BUSINESS**

8.a. Chair's Report

Chair Gibson introduced reported on:

1. The funeral for former Utilities Manager Chris Ortega.
2. An upcoming Tour of Combustion Turbine at LANL -asked for interest from other board members. Member Stromberg expressed interest.
3. Official statistics from LANL came out for January. He summarized the report.

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

8.b. Board Member's Reports

The following board members reported:

1. Member Heavner mentioned information on Balcony Solar that he previously shared with the board. He asked if there was information in the upcoming NM State Legislative Session. Mr. Shelton stated that he is following the topic and will report back when he has more information.
2. Member Heavner was the BPU representative for the audit committee for Fiscal Year 2025. He summarized his involvement and shared kudos to everyone involved in the audit.
3. Member Hollingsworth asked Mr. Shelton some questions regarding Balcony Solar. Mr. Shelton responded.

**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 Hollingsworth
2. Member Stromberg
3. Mr. Olbrich
4. Member Gibson

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

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

Ms. Anne Laurent reported that:

1. She was scheduled to presented the County Year in Review at Sala on January 15, 2025.
2. Public Information Officer Julie Williams-Hill extended her retirement date by a month. Mr. Dave Krueger has recently been hired as the new PIO. He is currently with the Valles Caldera. He begins employment on February 2nd so there will be some overlap with Ms. Williams-Hill.
3. Met with Council Leadership and San Ildefonso Pueblo leadership regarding restarting monitoring of the Hexavalent Chromium Plume. This will an ongoing area of concern in terms of federal funding.
4. Los Alamos County State Legislative Dinner scheduled for on Friday, January 16th.
5. NM Counties Legislative Conference next week, LAC Finance will once again receive a Budget Award for Excellence.
6. She reviewed topics from the January 14th Council meeting.

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

1. Member Gibson
2. Mr. Shelton

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

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

Vice Chair Herrmann provided highlights from the January 14th Council Work Session. Chair Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth
2. Ms. Laurent
3. Member Gibson

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

**8.f. Environmental Sustainability Board Liaison's Report**

Ms. Barns provided highlights from the December ESB meeting. She also noted that there is still one vacancy on the board and asked the board to share this information with anyone that may be interested. Chair Gibson 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**

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

**8.g.1. Election of Board of Public Utilities Chair and Vice Chair for Calendar Year 2026**

Chair Gibson explained that the board is required by Ordinance to elect a chair and vice-chair annually in January. He then reviewed the process to be followed which was also outlined in the meeting packet. He provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. There were none.

**Chair Gibson called for nominations for Chair:**

**1. Member Hollingsworth nominated Member Gibson; he accepted.**

**Chair Gibson called for other nominations; there were none. He then called for a motion.**

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**Member Nakhleh moved and Member Hollingsworth seconded that the Board close nominations and elect Member Gibson as Chair.**

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

**YES - 5: Members Hollingsworth, Heavner, Nakhleh, Stromberg, and Gibson**

**NO - 0:**

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**Chair Gibson then called for nominations for Vice Chair:**

**1. Member Nakhleh nominated Member Stromberg; he accepted.**

**2. Member Gibson nominated Member Heavner; he accepted.**

**Chair Gibson called for other nominations; there were none. He then called for further discussion; there was none. Chair Gibson then called for a vote.**

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**Roll call vote for Vice Chair:**

**Member Hollingsworth voted for Member Heavner**

**Member Heavner voted for Member Heavner**

**Member Nakhleh voted for Member Stromberg**

**Member Stromberg voted for Member Stromberg**

**Member Gibson voted for Member Heavner**

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**Member Heavner was elected Vice Chair by a vote of 3 - 2.**

**8.h. Board Expenses**

None scheduled.

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

**9. STATUS REPORTS**

**9.a. Monthly Status Reports for November & December 2025**

Chair Gibson opened the floor for comments and questions on the status reports. The

following individuals spoke:

1. Member Gibson
2. Ms. Gentry
3. Member Stromberg
4. Mr. Shelton

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

## **10. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS**

Tickler File for January to March 2026

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

1. Member Stromberg requested that Balcony Solar be added.
2. Mr. Shelton asked the members if they would like another presentation on the Final EV Fleet Plan; members agreed.
3. Mr. Shelton asked the members if they would like a presentation on the Mozart Waste to Energy Technology; members agreed.
4. Mr. Wyman made a comment.

Chair Gibson requested that he and Vice Chair Heavner meet with the Utilities Manager within the next few days to review the tickler; they were all in agreement.

**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 7:37 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**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

(in agenda order):

- 4.a. Draft #2 - BPU Regular Session Minutes 12/10/25
- 8.c. Utilities Manager Report 01/14/26



# BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

## ADDITIONAL MEETING DOCUMENTS

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Additional or revised information or documents are often distributed to members at the meetings.  
Whenever possible, this informational cover page will accompany those documents.

<b>MEETING DATE</b>	January 14, 2026 - Regular Meeting
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	8.a. Chair's Report
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	B - Draft BPU Regular Session Minutes – 12/10/25
<b>NEW OR REVISED?</b> Is this a revision that is different from what was in the agenda packet, or is it something entirely new?	REVISED (Changes are in <a href="#">blue font</a> )
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION</b> If you have a new or revised recommended motion for the Board, enter it here.	NONE
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b> Please VERY BRIEFLY explain the purpose of this information or document.	Corrected document attached.

**7. DEPARTMENT BUSINESS (continued)**

**7.a. DPU Conservation Program Update**

Ms. Abbey Hayward, DPU Water & Energy Conservation Coordinator presented. Gibson provided an opportunity for comments and questions from the board. The following individuals spoke:

1. Member Hollingsworth

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

**7.d. DPU Quarter 1 Report for Fiscal Year 2026 (Jul-Sep)**

Ms. Cathy D'Anna, Public Relations Manager was absent. So, Mr. Philo Shelton, Utilities Manager reviewed the report, which was included in the meeting packet.

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

1. Member Gibson
2. Mr. Moseley

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

**8. BOARD BUSINESS**

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

Chair Gibson reported the following:

1. He was able to preview the New Mexico Climate Action Plan which will be released soon.
2. A draft of the ECA should be available soon. [Chair Gibson formed a working group to review the ECA that will consist of Member Gibson and Member Nakhleh.](#)

The following individuals also spoke:

1. Member Stromberg
2. [Member Nakhleh](#)

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

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

There were none.

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

**8.c. Utilities Manager's Report**

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

1. Member Stromberg
2. Member Gibson
3. Member Hollingsworth

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

[Correction from Chair Gibson 1/14/26 ----->](#)

**Utilities Manager's Report**  
**January 14, 2026**

1. T&D completed the design for the installation of the new transformer. ED staff with procurement staff are finalizing the bid documents for the steel cased caisson foundation for the transformer. Once this foundation is constructed, we can finalize the schedule to complete this transformer installation. The new transformer's containment vessel and the transformer are ready to ship. For the tie line with LANL, we placed the transformer and LANL has cleared the environmental requirements. LANL is adding two more poles to their side of the project, and they are surveying in these locations this week and obtaining locates to dig in the poles. Hopefully next week LANL will begin construction on their half of the project. On the County's side, the basalt excavations for the new poles are complete except for one spot that needs more excavation. Finally, DPU has received a signed and recorded copy of the mutual aid agreement with PNM.
2. For Elk Ridge, CID's Mobile Home section has issued 60 green tags, and they are now scheduling 20 per week. The challenge right now is having the homeowner present to make the final connections to the new system. We discussed with Elk Ridge having Cartwright available after work hours or on Saturdays when homeowners are present to make these final connections. Elk Ridge has submitted as built and easement drawings for DPU's review.
3. Recruitment status: DPU hired a Customer Care Specialist last month and she quit within two weeks of hire, so we are starting over with this recruitment. Sam Martinez accepted the Electric Distribution Superintendent position, and we are currently recruiting for his replacement. The Deputy Utility Manager for Electric Distribution, and Engineering Project Manager for Electric Distribution are still being handled by an outside employment recruiter. Held initial interviews for a Senior Management Analyst. Other openings are for an Electrician, Water Operator, and Engineering Aid for utility locates. Finally, James Alarid submitted his retirement notice and his last day will be in the middle of March.
4. NNSA Albuquerque procurement office did deliver a draft final ECA with terms and conditions on December 19, 2025. The ECA working group consisting of Chair Gibson, Member Nakhleh, Thomas, Ben, Joann, Nick, Richard, and I have held two meetings to review the document and staff meet once with NNSA on some revisions and staff is still working on additional comments and revisions to the document such as a contract amount and methods to reduce risk to LAC rate payers. Barring another government shutdown, hopefully we can wrap up the agreement in final form by early February to present to BPU at their regular meeting.
5. The Jemez Fire Protection Project phase II segment is nearing completion and if we have warm weather next week, then the last segment will be paved over. We issued a change order to add electric pull boxes to the project, so we are ready to pull wire this spring. When snow and weather changes do occur this portion of the project will have to go into a winter suspension. Pajarito LLC reimbursed DPU \$1 million in compliance with the development agreement.

6. For Foxtail Flats the final COD has again moved back to June 18, 2027. This leaves 12 calendar days of float remaining in their contracted schedule. Partial mobilization has begun with construction of the access road, site preparation and obtaining final geotechnical tests. Full site mobilization is scheduled for April 30, 2026.
7. For UAMPS, I got reelected as chair of the CFPP since the DOE close out work is yet to be completed. It is anticipated it could take six more months. The Geothermal projects are still on hold because both projects need transmission access from Pacific Corp.
8. For Chromium Plume, James Alarid and I have attended several Working Group meetings. As part of the adaptive site management process, NNSA is looking to restart the interim measure with one extraction well at 60 GPM and use land application. While this is allowed under our water rights there are some steps that N3B will need to take before this option is exercised. A second phase may be consider using PM-3 well as a reinjection site. This will require more discussion and a work plan before this option is considered and build a replacement well. NMED is still scheduled to present on March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
9. The 18-inch water production line in Two Mile Canyon where there is a leak at the bottom of this canyon, staff is finalizing a work plan with LANL for access and repair of this line. This will be a difficult project to repair because of access to the canyon bottom. Staff are working with our on-call contractor to cost the project, and a task order and budget revision will be forthcoming.
10. DPU has completed 18 out of the 36 items identified for correction in the once every 5-years sanitary survey on our drinking water system. Our on-call contractor is doing further tank diving assessments before we can scope the tank cleanings.