

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES  
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022**

**AGENDA**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL:**

George Szigeti, Chairman  
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman  
Ron Pacourek, Member  
Gil Avelar, Member  
Don Armijo, Member

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- a. Regular meeting of March 21, 2022.

**3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: (3 Minute rule applies)**

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Discussion/Action: Quarterly Utility Department Reports. George Szigeti
- b. Discussion/Review: Role and Responsibilities of the Public Utility Advisory Board.  
George Szigeti
- c. Discussion/Action: Sierra Electric Coop's offer to purchase the Truth or Consequences Electric Utility. George Szigeti

**5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD**

**6. REPORTS FROM STAFF**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY OF TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES  
PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD  
MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Regular meeting of the Public Utility Advisory Board of the City of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 405 W. Third, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, on Monday, March 21, 2022 at 3:30 pm.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Szigeti.

**ROLL CALL:**

George Szigeti, Chairman  
Jeff Dornbusch, Vice-Chairman  
Ron Pacourek, Member  
Gil Avelar, Member  
Don Armijo, Member

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Bruce Swingle, City Manager  
Bo Easley, Electric Department Head  
Sonya Renfro, Utility Department Manager  
Dawn C. Barclay, Deputy City Clerk

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vice-Chairman Dornbusch made a motion to approve the agenda. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**a. Regular meeting of February 22, 2022.**

Member Armijo made a motion to approve the February 22, 2022 minutes. Member Avelar seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **4. NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **a. Discussion/ Action: Utility Department report's regarding Service Fees that are not related to Rates or Customer Charges. Sonya Williams, Utility Department Manager**

Sonya Renfro, Utility Department Manager began discussions by reading the suggested rate increases from the Electric and Sanitation Departments. She also added her department's request to raise the service fee on the Williamsburg utility bill from \$1.00 to \$3.50 to start and then implement a possible 5% increase every year thereafter. Ms. Renfro and Bo Easley, Electric Department Head were present to answer any questions from the board.

Other topics discussed were;

- Implementing a standard backhoe fee of \$62.50 per hour as a standard charge for all departments.
- Reconnect fees increase.
- Electric Department: Equipment charges would apply to setting a pole, running new wire, and line extensions.
- Inconsistencies between departments, regarding what is considered city responsibilities vs customer's responsibilities to and from the meters.

After some discussion, the board would like to see the following from each department;

- One backhoe price averaged out between each city department.
- Any Ordinance and/or Resolution pertaining to said fees including connections fees.
- Water Departments proposed equipment rate increase report.
- Copy of Williamsburg Ordinance pertaining to the \$1.00 fee.
- Possible raising the proposed labor fee charge of \$35.00 to a higher amount. It was brought to the board's attention there is a 2-hour minimum charge on the labor fees.

**Chairman Szigeti made a motion to table this topic until the above information requested is available to be presented at one time. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **5. REPORTS FROM THE BOARD:**

**There were no reports from the board.**

#### **6. REPORTS FROM STAFF:**

Bruce Swingle, City Manager wanted to address a few items, the first being Ordinance 664. It is still on hold before it goes to the City Commission for approval. There were some issues after a mock entry was posted to the billing software as a test run. A net metering for solar customers was the sample that was posted, but the results showed it was not a success. There will be a utility auditor visiting the utility department who specializes in the software program "Tyler" to help sort out some of these program issues. Mr. Swingle went on to update the board about the north transformer, it will be arriving a little sooner than expected, with hopes of having it installed before the summer season begins. Next, he spoke about the Downtown Water Project. The City has put out a "Request for Proposal" and is just waiting on the completion of the bidding process with the anticipation of starting the project in May 2022. Mr. Swingle last noted that the quarterly reports will be presented at the next scheduled Public Utility Advisory Board meeting in April.

Sonya Renfro reminded the board the City Sewer rates average will be going up next month.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Public Utility Advisory Board, Chairman Szigeti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Pacourek seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.

**PASSED AND APPROVED ON THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2022.**

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**George Szigeti, Chairman**  
Public Utility Advisory Board

**City of Truth or Consequences Utility Office**  
**January, February, March 2022**

**Number of Active Accounts- 3825**

**Total Utilities paid- \$2,305,046.32**

**Current Electric Cost Adjustment- .0414 per KWH**

**Number of delinquent Accounts- 20**

**Delinquent notices- 480 per month**

**Red Tags- 120 per month**

**Total amount in Arrears- \$31,748.73**

**All receipts from January, February, March 2021- \$2,232,051.62**

**All receipts from January, February, March 2022- \$2,305,046.32**

**Total increase- \$72,994.70**

**Billing issues- Due to an error in the Billing process, some accounts on Cycle A (accounts starting with 1) were billed for an additional 10 days. This was actual usage used by the customer just for a longer period of time than the average billing period. For anyone that this affected you will not be penalized, we can do a bill correction and the extra days will go onto the next billing or you can pay the amount and be billed for less days next month. Please note that all billed usage was used by the account holder. This didn't affect all accounts on this billing cycle and will be straightened out by the next billing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, and we would like to thank the customers who came to us to help with this issue and for their understanding.**



**City of Truth or Consequences**  
**ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT**  
 505 Sims Street  
 Truth or Consequences, New Mexico 87901  
 (575) 894-6673

## QUARTERLY REPORTS

<b>DECEMBER 2021</b>		
SOURCE	TOTAL PURCHASED	COST
SSA Solar of NM 4	183,814	\$16,039.41
Tri-State- Wheeling Sales	6,000 kW	\$34,708.02
Western Area Power Administration	6,051 kW & 1,036,844 kWh	\$44,583.14
Sierra Electric Cooperative Inc.	2,867,198 kWh	\$226,242.73
		<b>\$321,573.30</b>

<b>JANUARY 2022</b>		
SOURCE	TOTAL PURCHASED	COST
SSA Solar of NM 4	228,510	\$19,939.23
Tri-State- Wheeling Sales	6,000 kW	\$35,336.05
Western Area Power Administration	6,051 kW & 1,177,652 kWh	\$46,323.53
Sierra Electric Cooperative Inc.	2,955,169 kWh	\$233,184.29
		<b>\$334,783.10</b>

<b>FEBRUARY 2022</b>		
SOURCE	TOTAL PURCHASED	COST
SSA Solar of NM 4	267,010	\$23,361.53
Tri-State- Wheeling Sales	6,000 kW	\$35,524.91
Western Area Power Administration	6,051 kW & 950,408 kWh	\$43,514.79
Sierra Electric Cooperative Inc.	2,581,915 kWh	\$203,731.84
		<b>\$306,133.07</b>

<b>MARCH 2022</b>		
SOURCE	TOTAL PURCHASED	COST
SSA Solar of NM 4	360,040	\$31,886.77
Tri-State, Wheeling Sales- <b>Invoice not received yet</b>	6,000 kW	-
Western Area Power Administration	6,051 kW & 1,022,321 kWh	\$44,403.64
Sierra Electric Cooperative Inc.	2,128,702 kWh	\$164,696.65
		<b>\$209,100.29</b>

<b>DECEMBER 2021-APRIL 14, 2022</b>	
TOTAL DELIVERED	
Service Consumption	13,675,857 kW
Demand Consumption	16,891
Revenue	\$2,015,835.36



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# SOLAR CUSTOMERS	TOTAL CAPACITY
75 Completed	-
22 Pending Completion	-

PROJECTS	STATUS
Aerial Med. Voltage Distribution	Bixby Electric is waiting on poles, project to begin soon
Substation Transformer	Completed
Car Charging Station	On hold
Roundabouts	Project expected to begin in August
White Sands Building	Completed
NM State Veteran Center Service Upgrade	Waiting on transformer
Sacred Winds	Contractors are about to begin hanging fiber.
Williamsburg Interstate On/Off Ramp	We will be moving 4 poles, project is expected to begin in July.
Dollar General- Broadway & Corona	Waiting on engineers to begin the project.
NM State Veterans Center-	Building 6 700 square foot buildings, no projected start date as of now.

#### DIVISION 4. - PUBLIC UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD

##### Sec. 2-271. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this division, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Public utilities* means the electrical utility, the water utility, and the sewer and garbage facilities furnished by the City.

(Code 1962, § 2-8-3)

**Cross reference**— Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

##### Sec. 2-272. - Established.

There is hereby established a Public Utility Advisory Board, referred to in this division as the Board, consisting of five members. In addition to the five members, the City Manager shall be an ex officio member. The Chairman of the Board will be elected by the appointed five members.

(Code 1962, § 2-8-1)

##### Sec. 2-273. - Appointment.

The members of the Board with the exception of the City Manager shall be appointed by the City Commission. The original members shall serve staggered terms and thereafter there shall be appointed by the City Commission members of the Board who shall serve for a two-year term. The terms of the members of the Board shall expire on June 30; provided, however, that any member of the Board shall continue to hold his office until his successor is appointed and qualified. The City Commission shall appoint at least one person with an electrical utility background, one person with a financial background, and a general contractor as members of the Board. If such qualified persons are not available or willing to serve, then the Commission shall appoint other competent persons to serve.

(Code 1962, § 2-8-2)

##### Sec. 2-274. - Powers and duties.

- (a) The Board may recommend general rules and policies of the municipal utility systems. The Board shall recommend rates and charges for electric power and energy, water or sewer utility service, or garbage collection service furnished by the City and shall recommend conditions of service applicable to the furnishing of such utilities.
- (b) The Board may recommend line extension policies to be followed by the municipal electric utility system and extension policies for municipal water and sewer utility services.
- (c) The Board may prepare and recommend an annual budget for the utility systems of the City conforming to the requirements of the ordinances of the City authorizing the issuance of electric, water, and sewer revenue bonds.
- (d) The Board may review from time to time all the rates and charges for electric, water, sewer, and garbage services furnished by the City and may submit the results of such review to the City Commission.
- (e) The Board may recommend to the City Commission any major extensions and improvements, not otherwise provided for by the City Commission, required to be made to or in connection with the utility systems, and not otherwise provided for in the annual budget. The Board shall include in such recommendations any engineering studies and other data obtained or prepared in connection with such proposed extensions and improvements.
- (f) The Board may endeavor to establish a comprehensive plan establishing the requirements of the City's utilities systems over the next ten-year period.
- (g) The Board may establish a procedure for setting rates for the utilities of the City which will guarantee a return sufficient to maintain the utility systems, expand them to meet growing needs, improve them to function in a modern manner, and



guarantee a reasonable return on the City's investment therein.

- (h) The Board is authorized to use the facilities of the City offices and shall have access to all records pertaining to the utilities of the City; provided, however, the Board shall not be authorized or empowered to expend any funds of the City or create any indebtedness on behalf of the City without the prior approval of the Commission.
- (i) The Board shall meet regularly at least once each month on a regular date to be designated by the Board; provided, however, that a special meeting may be called at any time by written request to the Chairman of the Board by three members or on call by the Chairman of the Board with the written consent of all members of the Board. All meetings whether regular or special shall be open to the public as provided by the laws of the state. Three members shall constitute a quorum, and no action can be had in the absence of a quorum present.
- (j) A vacancy shall be deemed to exist upon the resignation of any member of the Board, by his death or inability to act, or by removal of any member by four-fifths vote of the City Commission. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive, regular meetings of the Board, without excuse, shall be deemed to have resigned his office.
- (k) The members of the Board shall serve without compensation.
- (l) The Board shall appoint one of its members as Assistant Chairman and a Secretary to act as such at the pleasure of the Board. The Board shall adopt rules and regulations governing its proceedings.
- (m) The Board shall prepare reports of its activities and submit these reports and any recommendations for consideration by the Commission at least bimonthly at the second Commission meeting in the reporting month.
- (n) The Commission may furnish such administrative and clerical assistance to the Board as is reasonably necessary to accomplish its function.

(Code 1962, § 2-8-4)

Sec. 2-275. - Reserved.

**Editor's note**— Section 1 of Ord. No. 657, adopted Aug. 14, 2014, repealed § 2-275, which pertained to term limits, and derived from Ord. No. 643, § 1, adopted Oct. 22, 2013.

Secs. 2-276—2-290. - Reserved.