

**LAMAR UTILITIES BOARD
MINUTES OF THE UTILITIES BOARD MEETING
July 14, 2026**

The Lamar Utilities Board met in regular session at 12:00 p.m. with Chairman Thrall presiding.

Present: Jay Brooke, Doug Thrall, Patrick Leonard, Jill Bellomy, Elmer Grett, Kirk Crespin, Lance Clark, Houssin Hourieh, Lisa Denman, Linda Williams

Absent: Leala Owen

Minutes of Previous Meeting – June 23, 2026

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Grett seconded to approve meeting minutes of June 23, 2026.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett

Voting No: None

Purchase Orders 2025-05686 thru 2025-06073

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve purchase orders 2025-05686 thru 2025-06073 in the amount of \$628,920.92.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett

Voting No: None

Payment of Bills

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to approve payment of bills: Vouchers #56667 through #56706 for a total of \$219,647.57.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett

Voting No: None

Consider Approval of Bid #2085 – Raptor Protection and Line Materials

Boardmember Brooke moved and Boardmember Leonard seconded to award Bid #2085 – Raptor Protection and Line Materials to Western United in the amount of \$19,082.42.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett

Voting No: None

Due to Tyler System Conversion there will be No Report on the January, February, March, April or May Financials

System Operating Report

Superintendent Hourieh reported that due to the Tyler system conversion, they are unable to provide an accurate total connected meter count.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that the line crew replace a 40 ft. wooden pole with a class II ductile iron pole that was damaged by high wind on the east end 25kv circuit at Cty. Rd. JJ and 26.5. The crew completed the upgrade of 3 phase, 4kv circuit between 5th and 6th St. from Park to Chestnut St. The upgrade included replacing a 40 ft.

wooden pole, installing a 25 kva pole mount transformer, fiberglass crossarms and reconductoring the circuit with No. 4 ACSR wire. The crew is also in the process of installing 1000 ft. of underground, 25kv circuit that will power 1000 kva 277/480 V service to the new McClave School.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that with Renew Energy on site, the crew completed the replacement of the wind turbines yaw puck system. The process takes about 5 hours for each turbine. Each turbine has 18 pucks that work with the yaw bearings.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that Linear Labs continues to monitor and collect data on T-2. They are planning on installing the new plc code on July 15th which will help improve efficiency and faults mitigations.

Superintendent Hourieh reported an outage on July 8, 2026 at 7:12 p.m. for about 11 minutes due to a direct lightning strike between Lamar and LaJunta, the outage impacted the southern end of Lamar.

Superintendent Hourieh reported that the transformer that you had given permission to send in to change from delta/wye to wye/wye rewind. When the company opened it up they found that it was a disc design and due to this it will cost more to change. This now makes the rewinding cost as much as a new transformer. They can build a new transformer for \$286,000.00. He is asking for direction on how to proceed.

Boardmember Leonard moved and Boardmember Bellomy seconded to purchase the newly re-built transformer in the amount of \$286,000.00 and have the other sold.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett
Voting No: None

Superintendent Hourieh reported that there will be a public hearing for the Clay Creek, LLC Lamar Solar Project on July 15, 2026.

Mayor Crespin gave a response to the Board from City Council meeting on Monday night. Due to some questions that have risen on the legality of a department under the City of Lamar holding something unless they get something in return, this is a questionable thing. They are not saying whether it is right or wrong but something that they feel needs to be asked about. There were some comments last week that there were some concerns of things happening in a retaliation form. Council felt that these needed to be addressed as well and make sure that these concerns were taken care of as well. Council also stated that the right for Council to use, utilize, assign or budget the \$350,000.00 as they see fit has been in question for the last two years. Due to all of these reasons City Council voted to turn down LUB's proposal, direct City staff to work with JVA and CDPHE and continue applying for Lamar's water discharge permit, and authorized the Mayor and City Administrator to continue discussion with LUB and CDPHE and no ARPA settlement will be committed without further City Council approval and they asked for the City to engage in an independent special municipal council to advise the City Council on the questions that have been asked. Mayor Crespin is of full support of getting an independent attorney because he feels that it is unfair for Attorney Clark to be caught in the middle as he represents both entities. Mayor Crespin provided a copy of a letter to all in attendance that is going to be sent to CIRSA for their opinion prior to engaging independent council. He did state that he was

going to submit to CIRSA but would like to include any input from LUB to include in the letter.

Mayor Crespín also informed the Board that Southeast Colorado Power (SECPA) had made a proposal about 1 ½ years ago on wanting to buy Lamar Light & Power. Mayor Crespín had spoken with Superintendent Hourieh about SECPA's proposal at that time. At the direction of the Council the City staff and Mayor signed an NDA on behalf of the City of Lamar with SECPA attorneys along with hiring outside Council for the City of Lamar. Part of the process of selling a public utility is that it has to go on the ballot and the citizens need to vote for or against the sale. Also SECPA had approved covering half of the expense of getting an appraisal of what the true cost value of Lamar Light & Power is. Council is in hopes that LUB will be willing to work with the City during the appraisal period. Houssin voiced his concerns with SECPA and Tri-State Generation.

Chairman Thrall also stated that he was also not in favor of the SECPA proposal, signing of the NDA and retaining outside Council.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Boardmember Leonard moved and, Boardmember Grett seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Voting Yes: Brooke, Thrall, Leonard, Bellomy, Grett

Voting No: None

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Linda Williams – City Clerk

Doug Thrall – Chairman