

# BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017, AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

## OPERATIONS

BTU General Manager Gary Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents and no vehicle incidents for the month of December. Mr. Miller stated that BTU will complete a new safety perception survey this spring to help redirect the safety program to meet current needs.

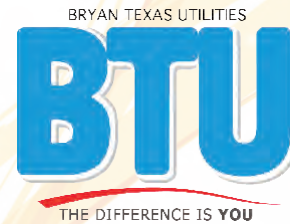
## GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Miller informed the BTU Board that TXDOT is set to begin work on the Boonville Road street lighting project partially funded by BTU.

## TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION REPORT

The SAIDI (System Average Interruption Duration Index) and SAIFI (System Average Interruption Frequency Index) report for the month of December was presented. Mr. Trimble stated the outages with the longest duration were due to a blown fuse in the Rural system and an equipment failure in the City system.

**SAFETY: For Work. For Home. For Life.**



## BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: [ContactBTU@btutilities.com](mailto:ContactBTU@btutilities.com)

[www.btutilities.com](http://www.btutilities.com)

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.



[facebook.com/BryanTexasUtilities](https://facebook.com/BryanTexasUtilities)



[twitter.com/BTU\\_BryanTX](https://twitter.com/BTU_BryanTX)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. Paul Turney, Chairman

Mr. David Bairrington, Vice Chairman

Mr. Bill Ballard, Secretary

Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

Mr. Carl L. Benner

Mr. Flynn Adcock

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

Mr. Art Hughes

## GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Miller

## GROUP MANAGERS

Randy Trimble

David Werley

## DIVISION MANAGERS

James Bodine

Bill Bullock

Shawndra Curry

Ken Lindberg

Vicki Reim

Scott Smith

James Tanneberger

Wes Williams

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

## CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer

Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

## Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects (979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down (979) 822-3777

Distribution/Line Design (979) 821-5770

## WEBSITE BENEFITS

At BTU, we want to make managing your utility account easy and convenient. That's why we've made it possible to accomplish most of your business online, from the comfort of your home. Here are a few things you can do from your computer or smartphone through the BTU website.

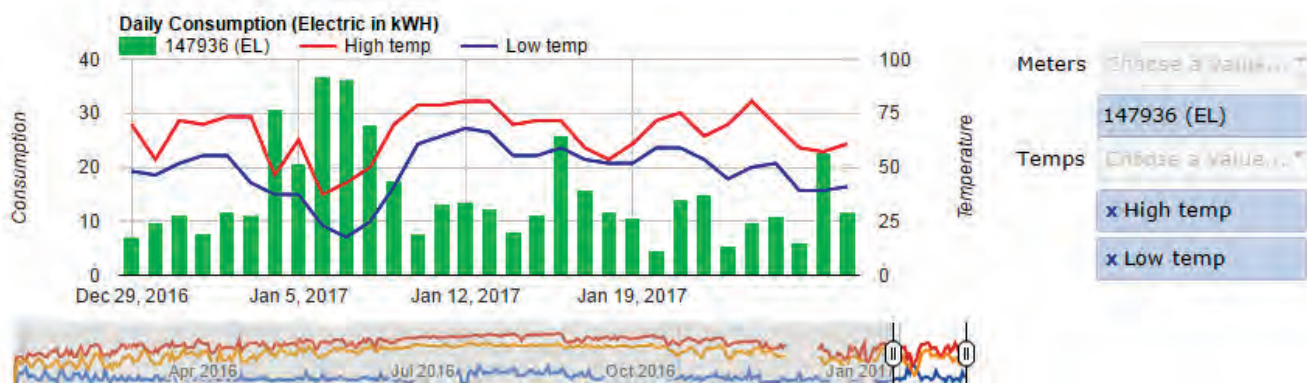
### BTU WEBSITE:

- Apply for both residential and commercial services, and transfer existing services.
- Check on the status and locations of outages with the Outage Management System.
- Find information on our SmartHOME program.
- Report street light outages.
- Create an online login to see and conduct business on your account.
- Make online payments.
- Find a payment location near you.

### WITH A BTU ONLINE ACCOUNT YOU CAN:

- Sign up for paperless billing. Receive your bill via email, along with any BTU inserts, rather than getting a paper copy in the mail.
- View your consumption history. Daily and monthly consumption graphs are available for both water and electric services! *See the sample graph below for details.*
- View your payment history.
- Sign up for recurring payments. Take the stress out of bill pay by signing up for automatic bank draft!
- Update your contact information.

### DAILY CONSUMPTION GRAPH



You can adjust the date range on the chart above by using the date slider. You can also see the consumption for a specific day by moving your mouse over the respective bar. Please note that, generally, consumption totals are for each day. Occasionally, consumption totals will include more than a 24 hour period. This is determined by when the meter readings are received.



# BTU BOARD SPOTLIGHT BUPPY SIMANK

by Kala McCain / Photo by Ryan Stout

**FATHER, HUSBAND, BUSINESS OWNER, BOARD MEMBER, AND ELECTED OFFICIAL. BUPPY SIMANK IS COMMITTED TO SERVING THE BRYAN COMMUNITY.**

**F**or nearly four decades, Buppy Simank has been a member of the Bryan community and his passion for serving others is evident in all aspects of his life.

A graduate of Bryan High School, Buppy serves as a City Councilmember, as the Council's BTU board liaison, and as a member of countless civic boards including the Bryan ISD - City of Bryan subcommittee, and the Health Board, just to mention a few. His active participation in these ventures along with being a husband, father, grandfather and successful business owner is just a way of life for Buppy. And it is a life that he credits having to local first responders.

Buppy is a race car fanatic - it has been his go-to hobby since his days at Bryan High. In 2011, he had been at races all weekend and was in a rush to get one of his cars unloaded. Even though his racing friend had offered him help, he opted to do it on his own and it was a decision that nearly cost him his life. While trying to release a pin, the trailer rolled pinning Buppy beneath it. The Bryan Fire Department arrived on the scene and immediately began to care for him. "Without them

getting there so quickly, I wouldn't have made it," Buppy shared about his accident. "So I'm a big supporter in making sure that they are well-trained and have the tools they need... you couldn't ask for a better group to represent and keep us safe." While his heart was already invested in serving the community, this life changing event brought about a fervent desire to do more. And do more is exactly what he does.

Buppy serves as a member of the Bryan City Council, an elected position. While he says that he didn't necessarily have a plan to run for Council, it was an opportunity he saw to make a positive impact. "... it is time well spent," Buppy stated. "And to me, as long as I feel like I'm making a difference, that is the most important thing." He was then appointed by the Council to serve as the Bryan City Council's BTU Board liaison. Even though he is not a voting member of the BTU Board, this position plays a vital role in facilitating open communication between the City Council and the Board.

It is safe to say there are a number of reasons that come to mind as to why Buppy was selected to serve as the City Council's BTU Board liaison, but one in particular is his perspective as the son of a successful power plant operator. Buppy's father was the tenth

employee hired as part of the Texas Municipal Power Agency (TMPA), giving him a front row seat to witness the ever-changing industry locally. His father served an important role in the day-to-day operations of the local coal powered plant and would later become a go-to employee to provide expertise and knowledge in ensuring the power plant continued to operate, even after his retirement. That being said, it is fair to say Buppy has been around the electric utility industry his whole life.

And he has seen firsthand some of the major changes the energy industry has undergone. Coal powered plants are no longer considered the most efficient way to generate power for communities, even though they were the industry standard in the 1980's. Now sources like natural gas, solar, and wind are on the table to increase energy and cost efficiency while meeting the community's energy demand. With a growing community like Bryan, the demand steadily increases. Recently, the Bryan City Council approved the purchase of new property for infrastructure expansion; a decision that Buppy was proud to support as it lays out the groundwork for future improvements. One of these is the addition of a new substation that will better serve the needs of both residential and commercial customers.



*"I'm honored that the community put their faith in me...and I take the job very seriously because I know people are looking up to me to make the right decisions for them."*

BTU is invested not only in providing reliable service, but in making decisions that positively affect their owners: the customers. The industry has its own energy market that BTU monitors to purchase and sell power daily. "BTU hasn't put all of their eggs in one basket," shared Buppy. As a municipally-owned electric utility provider, this is instrumental in maintaining competitive rates for customers. But at the end of the day, one of the greatest measures of success beyond reliability of service and lower rates is BTU's commitment to safety. "BTU is a municipally owned utility and safety is a priority," stated Buppy. This is evident in steps taken to keep employees and citizens safe through continuing education, on-the-job training, and outreach programs. And this emphasis on safety doesn't stop with BTU; it is an initiative that Buppy takes pride in as a city-wide campaign to maintain community trust and wellbeing. "I'm honored that the community put their faith in me... and I take the job very seriously because I know people are looking up to me to make the right decisions for them." ■

A portrait of Buppy Simank, a man with short brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light pink shirt, and a blue and white striped tie. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an office setting.

**BUPPY  
SIMANK**

# SPRING & SUMMER ENERGY TIPS

Spring is the perfect time to clean up, clear out, and make improvements to your home! It's also a great time to develop some energy saving habits, before the heat of the summer arrives.

Heating and cooling accounts for nearly half of home energy use in the average household according to the U.S. Department of Energy. There is significant savings to be had by making small changes to your routine. Here are a few tips regarding how you can be more efficient with your energy usage this spring:

**Use the sunlight to your advantage! On cooler days, open the drapes and let the sun heat your home for free.**

**Keep your electric water heater on the "warm" setting, which is approximately 120 degrees. Keeping it on the "hot" setting requires it to work harder to get the water to a scalding temperature, which most people don't need.**

**Have your air conditioning unit serviced once in the spring, and again before the winter season. It's also a good time to clear any leaves and other debris away from the outdoor unit that might have collected over time.**

Looking to make some energy efficiency improvements to your home? You may qualify for the BTU SmartHOME incentive! Attic insulation, wall insulation, Energy Star windows, and solar screens are all measures covered by the program. For more information, and the full list of program requirements, visit [btutilities.com](http://btutilities.com).





Cooking outside on the grill keeps the heat out of your home. The oven will raise the temperature of your home, requiring your air conditioner to run longer.



As the weather warms up, utilize ceiling fans. This is an inexpensive way to keep cool. Fans won't make the air colder, but the air movement will make you feel cooler. Hopefully, this will allow you to increase your thermostat setting a degree or two, saving you a little money.

# EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

by Kenneth W. Smith Jr.

## Project Management 101

Matthew Goodson's role as Distribution Project Coordinator requires a unique blend of technical expertise and customer service to help developers get the BTU service they need, when they need it, and in the most efficient way possible.

It was brand new, something that previously didn't exist.

It was rooted in the idea that better customer service and more communication between Bryan Texas Utilities and the developers of large building projects would yield benefits and efficiencies for all the parties involved.

It would require the ability to corral lots of moving pieces and align them to get the most out of the system.

It was a new role at BTU - Distribution Project Coordinator - and it was a role that Matthew Goodson was ready to take on.

Goodson has been with BTU for just over two years. He previously was an Energy Accounts Manager, and before joining BTU he worked with CenterPoint Energy in Houston working as a line designer. That experience made him ready to embark on this new opportunity.

"The responsibilities for my job, primarily, are to take care of any needs that our large developers may have when developing subdivisions or apartment projects or even some large industrial projects," Goodson said. "It's a combination of both residential and commercial projects. We have a lot of apartment projects. We work a lot of residential home developments like Greenbrier, Austin's Colony, and The Barracks in College Station. We are experiencing an incredible amount of growth in the area. It's an exciting time."

There's the scheduling and project management aspects of Goodson's job, which takes time and communication with the developers, but there are other elements that he

**MATTHEW  
GOODSON**

**DISTRIBUTION  
PROJECT  
COORDINATOR**



also oversees, like conduit inspection for underground utilities on these projects.

"There's probably 12 to 15 developers that we work with to help them facilitate their projects and make sure that we're all on the same page when it comes to projected finish dates," Goodson said. "And we try to get those two - our finish date and their finish date - as close together as possible so that they are not waiting on power."

Goodson said that this position was created to help provide better customer service to the developers in the community and also help BTU create better efficiencies within the distribution department. His time as an Energy Accounts Manager helped prepare him for this role because he was able to meet many of the developers and forge relationships with them and other members of the community.

"I think the exciting part about this position, with it being new, is that we're always looking for new ways to be more efficient with our time and resources," Goodson said, adding that, in this role, he's constantly looking for new and improved ways to provide better service to these developers.

It can be challenging, but he's really enjoying it.

"It's a good combination of being in the field and in the office," he said. "So, I really enjoy getting out with our crews, and with developers, and watch all this come out of the ground."



## BRYAN PARKS AND RECREATION

The new spring and summer activity guide is now available online as well as registration for swim lessons, classes, programs, and camps. Plan all your recreational fun at [www.bryantx.gov/parks](http://www.bryantx.gov/parks).

Our parks system covers 43 properties totaling 750 acres. But it's what we do with that turf that's amazing. Sure, we have a bounty of baseball and soccer fields, but we also have inline hockey rinks, splash pads, walking trails, two dozen pavilions for picnicking and reunions, and four terrific pools. You'll even find the unusual. We have a tremendous number of horseshoe pits for amateurs and pros alike. Even handicapped-accessible pits are easy to find. An indoor tennis facility? Ours is the only one in the region. And a family camp out in a park? Yep, under the stars, by the campfire and making s'mores.



## SKATE PARK NOW OPEN

### AT WILLIAMSON PARK IN BRYAN, TEXAS

After almost a year of construction, the Williamson Skate Park is now open to the public! The 17,500 square foot concrete facility offers a wide variety of features with an extensive street course area and two bowls. It also offers challenges to all skaters and bikers!