

## Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

### January 11, 2021

#### Presentation of the Safety Leadership Assessment Survey Results

Mr. Gary Miller, General Manager, stated that BTU commissioned a Caterpillar Safety Leadership Survey in the summer of 2020 in an effort to better understand how BTU employees view the effectiveness of BTU management in regard to the safety culture. Ms. Tristina Meche, Caterpillar Safety Consultant, discussed the survey results and indicated that BTU employees perceive BTU management's role in the safety culture with higher regard than industry expectations.

#### Approval of a Contract for the Bryan Armory Demolition Project

The Board approved a contract with Albo Construction, LLC for the demolition of the Bryan Armory Building in preparation for a new BTU Administration Office.

#### Approval of a Contract for Transmission Construction Projects

The Board approved a contract with KV Power, LLC to build various Transmission Construction Projects.



#### 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.

#### Board of Directors

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles, Chairman  
Ms. Rosemarie Selman, Vice Chairman  
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Secretary  
Mr. John A. Bond  
Mr. Paul Madison, Sr.  
Mr. Greg S. Owens  
Mr. Paul Turney  
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio  
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

#### General Manager

Gary Miller

#### Executive Directors

Randy Trimble  
David Werley  
Wes Williams

#### Division Managers

James Bodine  
Nick Cook  
Shawndra Curry  
Ken Lindberg  
Clay Lindstrom  
Vicki Reim  
Gary Massey

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

#### City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager  
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer  
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

#### BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES KIOSKS

BTU Drive Thru – 205 E. 28th St. (Open 24 Hours)  
HEB Grocery – Tejas Center on Villa Maria  
HEB Grocery – Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

#### WAYS TO PAY



CASH



CHECK



CARD

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

#### Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects  
**(979) 821-5700**

Electrical Outage/Lines Down  
**(979) 822-3777**

Distribution/Line Design  
**(979) 821-5770**

# BRYAN ISD STATE ENERGY CONSERVATION OFFICE (SECO) LOAN



*In 2020, Bryan ISD (BISD) received a loan under the Texas LoanSTAR Program administered by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO), a division of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts Office. The Texas LoanSTAR Program finances energy-efficiency projects for state-owned facilities, public school facilities, public institution of higher learning facilities, local government facilities, and publicly tax-supported hospital facilities.*



BISD contracted with an outside consulting firm to identify Utility Cost Reduction Measures (UCRMs) throughout their facilities. The study's purpose was to identify UCRMs which, when implemented, would result in significant energy cost savings for BISD. There were 25 campuses within the district included in the report. UCRMs were identified across four areas: lighting upgrades, energy management system optimization, ventilation control, and power conditioning. The total cost of the UCRMs identified was \$6.2 million, which would result in annual savings to BISD of \$763,908.

"Participating in the SmartBUSINESS program and utilizing the SECO loan allows us to upgrade lighting facilities thereby enhancing the learning environment for our children. These programs allow us to do so in a cost efficient manner which is a win-win for everyone," said Dr. Christie Whitbeck, BISD Superintendent.

The lighting upgrades included in the report were a perfect candidate for BTU's SmartBUSINESS program. The SmartBUSINESS program provides incentive payments to commercial and industrial customers that make energy efficiency improvements which result in a reduction in kilowatt (kW) demand of 20% or more. The lighting upgrades identified in the study had demand savings of over 18,000 kW that would result in annual savings to BISD of \$412,313.

Last fall, BISD submitted a SmartBUSINESS application for lighting upgrades completed at Bryan High School and Rudder High School. The total demand reduced was 551 kW at a cost of \$1.2 million. An incentive payment of \$70,000 was made to BISD, and presented at the October 19, 2020 school board meeting. The remainder of the lighting upgrades will be completed in 2021 and BTU is looking forward to having BISD submit another SmartBUSINESS application later this year.

"Working with BTU through the SmartBUSINESS program has been a very easy process. Bryan ISD was able to receive rebates on energy efficiency upgrades through the SECO loan program and the rebates from BTU helped lower the payback periods and reduce our overall costs of implementing the program," said Paul Buckner, BISD Director of Construction and Energy Management.



SPOTLIGHT

## *John* **BOND**

*Member, BTU Board of Directors*

John “Johnny” Bond is one of Bryan Texas Utilities’ newest board members, appointed by the Bryan City Council in November, 2020. Bond is a great fit for the BTU Board, as he is very familiar with electricity as evidenced by his 46 years of experience in the electrical contracting industry.

A lifelong resident of Bryan, Bond graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School in 1967. He found a job working for an electrical contractor while in high school, and continued working in the electrical industry throughout college. Bond is a member of Fightin’ Texas Aggie Class of 1971, receiving his degree in Finance.





*John and Dianne Bond*

Bond's lifetime in the electrical industry is not the only experience he brings to BTU. He has also previously served as a member of the City of Bryan Electrical Board, the Building and Standards Board, and the Planning and Zoning Board. "I enjoyed the different boards I have served on," says Bond. "It was very interesting to meet with Bryan's citizens and listen to different ideas, interests, problems, and solutions."

Bond's strongest influences in his life were his parents (Reuben and Glenda Bond), his grandparents, and his Christianity. His family ties are still strong to this day, as he lists his greatest achievement as "my wife (Dianne) and I raising two great sons." Johnny and Dianne have been married for 49 years, and their son, Brent, works with Johnny at their electrical company, B&B Electric. B&B Electric was started in the early 1990s by Bond and his business partner, Ben Butler. Johnny and Dianne's other son, Wes, owns a local loan company called Central Texas Loans.

Bond is passionate about his family, and he and Dianne love to get together with family and friends. He is also passionate about "my town, my state, my country, and Jesus Christ." As far as his town, he is optimistic about our area's future. "Bryan has so much to offer. We have seen lots of growth and changes, and I have been fortunate to meet and work for some really good people. I believe we will continue to grow and offer our citizens a safe, prosperous, and pleasant place to live."



*The Bonds with their grandchildren.*

When asked to describe himself in one sentence, Bond replied with a succinct "[I'm] easy going." When he's not involved in his electrical business or board duties, he enjoys several different hobbies. For years, Bond has been playing a popular dominoes game called "42" with a group of up to 20 friends, who draw for partners for a weekly tournament "and we play until we lose." An avid dove hunter, he enjoys hunting white-winged doves with his sons on their lease in the Brazos River bottom, as well as the occasional hunting trip to south Texas. "I love it, but I'm not the best shot. I always have to bring plenty of [shotgun] shells!"

Bond also enjoys being a weekend cowboy, although he doesn't own any cattle himself. "I have been friends for years with two brothers who own cattle, and I enjoy helping them with their herd. They're both in their mid-70's, so I'm the youngster at 72. We traded in our horses for Rangers a long time ago!"

Bond is looking forward to learning more about BTU and how he can use his lifetime of experience to be of service to the board. He understands the future will hold challenges. "I believe we will have tremendous growth in our area. Servicing this growth and keeping up with our present demand for service will present new challenges and opportunities."

# Lake Bryan

BRYAN, TEXAS

## EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS



### THE GOOD LIFE, *Texas style™*

**SWIMMING & BOATING**

**BIKING**

**FISHING**

**EVENTS**

**CAMPING**

**PADDLE BOARD & KAYAKING**

Visit Lake Bryan, your local recreation destination, this spring and summer for exciting adventures! Park improvements have focused on new facilities, increased fish habitat, and more developed mountain biking trails. Last fall, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) constructed new handicap accessible restroom facilities with outdoor showers near the boat ramp. Pipe fencing has also been added throughout the park to increase safety and improve aesthetics.

Lake Bryan is a favorite among nature lovers and anglers in the Brazos Valley. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fertilizes the water annually to improve vegetation and fish habitat. In October, TPWD also stocked Lake Bryan with hundreds of thousands of fingerling length redfish. Lake Bryan is a local favorite for bird watchers and naturalists alike with many trails and spaces to observe wildlife.

Lake Bryan has always been a hub for recreation in the area. BTU has partnered with the Brazos Valley Mountain Bike Association (BVMBA) to construct and maintain many miles of biking trails around the lake. In 2020, the BVMBA rehabilitated old trails on the West Loop and constructed new trails, for a total of more than 20 miles of hiking and biking trails surrounding the lake. Trail maps can be requested at the gate booth. If you prefer water activities, bring the boat out for water skiing, tubing, or wake surfing. Also, try renting paddleboards or kayaks from our partner, Paddle EZ. Visit [paddleez.com](http://paddleez.com) to reserve your watercraft and selected time slot. The self-service station allows each reservation holder to unlock the watercraft and access life jackets and paddles.

Visit Lake Bryan with the family all spring and summer long for outdoor fun! Make sure pets are leashed at all times and no glass containers are brought into the park to ensure the safety of all patrons.





**RV SITES  
WITH WATER/ELECTRICAL  
HOOK UPS**

**125 ACRES OF  
USABLE LAND**

**20+ MILES OF  
BIKE TRAILS**

**829-ACRE LAKE  
WITH A MAX DEPTH OF 45 FEET**



BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM ©



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



[www.bryantx.gov](http://www.bryantx.gov)

**LEARN MORE AT:  
[LAKEBRYAN.COM](http://LAKEBRYAN.COM)**





## Mayor's Downtown Impact Award

The partners in GVBM, LLC took an old, unused building and completely renovated it – bringing life back to a historical space on the west side of Downtown Bryan. Through their investment in the old Bowie School on 26th Street, GVBM showed that with a little bit of love and patience, downtown revitalization is alive and well in Bryan. That's why they were honored with the Mayor's Downtown Impact Award this year.

GVBM had been looking for a space to accommodate their growing business for several years, and once they found the Bowie School space, they knew it was a great option for their needs. By purchasing the property on July 31, 2019, GVBM saved the Bowie School building from demolition after it was condemned. The entire building was abated by early October 2019, and GVBM was able to renovate the building, thanks to the work of talented consultants and craftsmen.

"We are excited to have Bowie's first tenant moved in mid-December, with a second tenant tracking to move in spring 2021," Johanna Gessner said. "These two businesses will be bringing 80 jobs to Downtown Bryan. These tenants and their employees are looking forward to working in this space with such unique character and its proximity to all that Downtown Bryan has to offer. We look forward to filling this space and foresee it having further positive economic impact on the area."

The GVBM partners join the ranks of dozens of other individuals and organizations whose positive impact on revitalization efforts have made Downtown Bryan a destination for everyone in the community.

Mayor Andrew Nelson presented GVBM with the Downtown Impact Award in a video presentation, which was shown at the Jan. 12, 2021 Bryan City Council meeting.

"Downtown Bryan is thriving because of the individuals who have invested their time and talents into making it a place people want to gather," Nelson said. "These efforts continue to be supported by the city through partnerships to promote the vitality of Downtown and the unique variety of amenities it has to offer."

Learn more: [bryantx.gov](http://bryantx.gov)





GET TO KNOW:

## BOBBY GUTIERREZ

*Councilmember, SMD 3*

**Occupation:** Owner of House of Tires and La Pistola Cattle Company

**Family:** I am married to my lovely wife, Becky. I was raised in a large family with 12 siblings.

**Previous experience on boards and commissions with the City of Bryan:**

I have served as Chair of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission and as Chair of the Brazos Valley Economic Development Corporation Board. I also served on the Bryan Business Council, the Biocorridor Advisory Board, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce Board, and the RELLIS Advisory Council. I am a founding trustee of Brazos Valley Cares, a local veterans' charity.

**Why did you decide to run for City Council?**

Bryan has been on the right path for some time now in terms of growth and development, and I wanted to play a part in keeping Bryan growing and thriving. I am very concerned about the impact of the COVID pandemic on our local businesses, families and economy. I want to utilize my strong business background to do all I can to help the community through this trying time.

**What are your priorities in your district?**

I want to ensure residents of District 3 continue to enjoy good, safe neighborhoods, with improved infrastructure such as streets, sidewalks, drainage, etc. I also want to assist in making resources available to small businesses in District 3 to help them survive the pandemic. Excellent police, fire and EMS services will remain a top priority for me.

**What are your priorities for the city as a whole?**

My first responsibility is to help keep Bryan a safe place to live and raise a family. I am a proud supporter of the Bryan Police

and Fire Departments, and will make sure they remain the best trained, best equipped public safety departments possible. As a City, we must continue to address infrastructure needs, both in the older parts of the community as well as infrastructure for new development. The City of Bryan is currently facing many tough economic decisions as our small businesses continue to suffer while trying to survive the pandemic. I believe my business background will be an asset to help guide the City during and after this COVID-19 climate. Helping to develop and implement COVID recovery methodologies will be a top priority. The City has attracted many job creators, so we must fight to retain those opportunities for our community. Workforce development is a top priority for me. I want to assist Bryan ISD in continuing to ensure all of our children have the best educational opportunities available. I worked with Bryan ISD to establish and raise funds for the 100+ acre Regional Workforce Career and Technical Education (CTE) Complex.

**What are you most looking forward to in serving on the City Council?**

I am excited to be a part of the forward movement of the City of Bryan. Again, I believe my strong business background will be an asset in making tough decisions moving forward. Bryan is a great community, a wonderful place to live and raise a family, enjoy senior living, etc. I want to use my knowledge and skills to keep us on the right path to a healthy local economy with safe neighborhoods, recreational opportunities, a diverse workforce, the best educational opportunities for all, and residents who truly enjoy "the good life, Texas style".

**Anything else you would like residents to know?**

I am deeply humbled and appreciative of this opportunity to serve the community. I pledge to be a Councilmember who listens and acts in the best interests of our community.