

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, September 9, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2024

Jim Gray  
Steve Holland (P)  
Don Knight  
Andy Spradling  
Danny Riley

Class of 2022

Pat Carr (A)  
John McFerrin  
Buddy Palmer  
Malcolm Wesson  
T. J. Adams

Class of 2023

Lynn Turner  
Mike Irwin  
Chip Prestage  
Brenda Shumpert  
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

(A)—Not present

(P)—Phone/Zoom

Also, present were

Scott Hendrix, CEO  
Jonathan Hagood, Auditor  
Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager  
Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services  
Michael Dickinson, Fiber Construction/Operations  
Stevie Humble, Outgoing Tupelo Operations Manager  
Brian Wood, Manager of Fiber Operations  
Jeff Godfrey, Incoming Tupelo Operations Manager  
Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering  
Mitzi Hinds, Member Service Director

Scott Hendrix representing the Association as legal counsel, called the meeting to order and called on Buddy Palmer to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Hendrix acknowledge in the room, new employees recently hired and asked them to introduce themselves. Each employee told a little about themselves and their work experience, along with what crew and job duty at TEPA.

Mr. Hendrix called for nominations for the position of President of the Association. Lynn Turner was recognized and nominated F. G. Wiygul, Jr. for President. John McFerrin seconded the nomination and upon a vote taken a majority vote in support of the motion was observed.

Mr. Wiygul expressed his thanks to the board for the vote of confidence for being re-elected as board president. Mr. Wiygul then welcomed Danny Riley, newly elected Lee County Board Member, replacing Dr. Cecil Weeks. Mr. Wiygul congratulated incumbent directors for being re-elected to 3-year terms, Don Knight, Jim Gray, Andy Spradling and Steve Holland.

Mr. Wiygul then opened the floor for nominations for the position of Vice-president. Lynn Turner made a motion to leave the remaining of the board officers they way there are now. That

would be Buddy Palmer, Vice-President, Don Knight, Sec/Treasurer and replace Dr. Cecil Weeks on the Executive Committee, with Malcolm Wesson. Buddy Palmer second the motion, and a vote was duly taken, and a unanimous vote was observed.

Mr. Wiygul opened the floor for consideration of the August 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. **Chip Prestage made a motion that the August meeting minutes prepared and distributed be approved.** Don Knight seconded the motion for approval and upon vote taken, a majority vote was observed.

Mr. Wiygul asked Mr. Hendrix if there was a need for an Executive Session. Mr. Hendrix stated there was not a need for one.

**Attorney's Report:** Mr. Hendrix stated that there was no attorney report needed at this time.

**Committee Reports:**

Mr. Wiygul then called upon committee chairmen of various working committees to present their reports:

**Executive Committee:** President, F.G. Wiygul, asked Johnathan Hagood, with Franks, Franks, Wilemon, Hagood, CPA to present the election results to the full board. Mr. Hagood gave a general report of the election results, ballot process and other details associated with the director election process. Mr. Hagood answered general question that the board had concerning the election process. The Executive Committee gave a recommendation that the election results be approved, as this came as a recommendation, no motion being needed, a vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

**Public Relations and By-laws:** Steve Holland, Chairman asked John McFerrin to give the report of the committee. Mr. McFerrin reported TVA Community Grant Program and CoBank Sharing Success Program. Mr. McFerrin reported to the board the non-profit organization that would benefit from these programs and the match amount that TEPA would provide. General questions from the board were answered by Mr. McFerrin and other committee members present. Since this was a recommendation from the committee, no motion needed a vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

**Fiber Update:**

Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services, gave an update of our broadband project. Mr. Fennell stated that there was a total of 4,763 fiber customers connected, an increase of 343, from last month. 557 members are waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 34%, 1,307 total number of miles constructed. Mr. Fennell also updated the board on the number of voice customers, 87 and revenue generated by both internet and voice customers.

**Engineer Report:**

Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering, updated the board on the bids that came back on upgrades to the Fulton Primary Substation and the contractor that was awarded the contract. Mr. Mask informed the board of a lightning strike at the Kirkville Substation and the repairs have correct the problem, and that Kirkville was being fed normally with no problems. Mr. Mask updated the

damage caused by Hurricane Ida and at the high of members outages, we had around 670 members out of power.

**Auditor's Report:**

Mr. Hagood provided the board with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the month ending July 2021 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information were gross margins from electric sales are up more than 9% for the same period last year; net income for this month has increased as compared to the same period last year; kilowatt-hours sales are approximately 3.29% less than the twelve months ending July 2021; and operating expenses are approximately 19% more than July of last year. Mr. Hagood further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

**CEO Report:**

Scott R. Hendrix, CEO, reported to the board that the additional spraying requested by the ROW Foreman would be done this year, with information provided later to possibly change the way the ROW is maintained. Mr. Hendrix reported on the TEPA Christmas Party, Fulton roof repair and the extension of the TVA Pandemic Relief Credit. Mr. Hendrix discussed the possibility of internships, with the details being presented later. Mr. Hendrix presented to the board with details to offer employees the option of buying short term disability, accident, critical illness, and hospital indemnity insurance.

Malcolm Wesson made a motion to allow employees the option to purchase the above-mentioned insurance, payroll deducted if they choose too Lynn Turner second the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

No matters of mutual concern were observed.

Don Knight made a motion to adjourn the board meeting; Chip Prestage seconded, and the board meeting was adjourned.

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

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F.G. Wiygul-President