

# Unofficial Minutes until Board Approval

## April 11, 2019

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD MARCH 14, 2019

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at 5:00 p. m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2019

Pat Carr  
John McFerrin  
Jimmy Gray  
Buddy Palmer  
Malcolm Wesson

Class of 2020

Lynn Turner  
Guy Harris  
Chip Prestage (A)  
Brenda Goff Shumpert  
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

Class of 2021

Jim Gray  
Steve Holland  
Don Knight  
Andy Spradling  
Cecil Weeks

(A)—Not present

Also present were: Scott Hendrix, Attorney  
Jonathan Hagood, Auditor  
Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager  
Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager  
William Long, General Manager

The Board convened at the regular meeting time in the Association auditorium for the purpose of hearing a broadband feasibility study presented by FiberRise. General Manager Long introduced company representatives who presented an informational program to the Board. Many questions were asked by Directors concerning information and facts presented by FiberRise. After the presentation, the Board and presenters enjoyed a meal together while continuing to discuss broadband implementation matters.

After the presentation, the Board met in the Boardroom. Chairman Carr called the meeting to order and proceeded with the agenda for the meeting.

Mr. Carr then opened the floor for consideration of the February 2019 regularly scheduled Board Meeting Minutes. **Lynn Turner made a motion that the February 2019 meeting minutes be approved as prepared and provided to Directors for review.** Buddy Palmer seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

Mr. Carr inquired of Mr. Hendrix if there was a need for an executive session and Mr. Hendrix advised that there was not a need. Mr. Carr moved along with the agenda and asked Mr. Hendrix to provide his report. Mr. Hendrix stated that he had no matters to report at this time as well as no matters requiring board approval. Mr. Hendrix stated that his efforts for the Association

during the last month had been devoted to broadband guideline matter along with details of legal matters in progress.

### **Committee Reports:**

Continuing with the agenda, Mr. Carr then called on those committee chairmen having information to report to the Board.

**Public Relations and Bylaws:** Chairman Jimmy Gray, deferred to Bruce Williams who gave the Board an update on the installation of kiosk machines that will be used by members for making payments of their electric bills. Mr. Williams passed along to the Board the schedule that had been provided to the staff for the expected installation of the machines as well as the expected date to be activated for accepting payments.

Scott Hendrix continued with information provided to the Board from the Committee. Mr. Hendrix explained information studied by the committee that would provide an improved and more efficient procedure allowing the staff to complete member electric bill payment obligations when a member's electric power had been disconnected due to non-payment of the bill according to Association policy. After providing a brief review to the Board of Association service practice policies, Mr. Hendrix further reported that after committee study, a recommendation is made to the Board for approval that Association reconnection fees be consolidated into one charge....and that charge is recommended to be \$40.00 during work hours as well as after work hours. Hearing the recommendation of the committee, as presented by Mr. Hendrix, the recommendation was adopted upon the vote taken with a majority vote being observed.

**SmartGrid:** Chairman Palmer reported on matters being considered by the newly formed committee...and reminded all directors present that all regular meetings of the committee are open to the entire board. Mr. Palmer continued by reporting that plans are underway and that the staff has been directed to organize a series of meetings with area educators, economic developers and tele-medicine providers to better understand the need as well as the benefit to the community for improved high-speed broadband service. Meetings will begin as soon as possible and will begin with area educators. More information will be provided through the work of the committee as details develop.

**Auditor's Report:** Jonathan Hagood provided Directors with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the month ending January 2019. Mr. Hagood explained various details of the report and provided the following specific details and information:

- net income for the 7th month in FYE 2019 was \$760,118 which was \$441,811 more than the net income for the same period last year
- for the 7th month of FYE 2019, compared to the same period last year, kilowatt hours sold increased by 9,088,054 kilowatt hours or 1.33% more than the same period last year
- Mr. Hagood also highlighted other accounting details that affected our monthly report.

Directors had no questions or comments for Mr. Hagood.

**Manager's Report:** Long reported to the Board on the following matters:

- The AMI meter change-out project is complete and the new meter system continues to operate extremely well compared to the previous PLC system. A more detailed report will be provided at a later date comparing projected installation expenses compared to actual installed cost.
- The staff continues to perform the testing of components of the outage manager system before placing the system into full-time operation. When placed in service, the system will provide member outage information for the Fulton and the Tupelo service districts.
- Provided general information for employee retirements expected later this year.
- Provided the Board with information about internal planning being done by the engineering and operations staff for system planning and study. The result of the meeting will aid in the compilation of capital projects needed for providing power supply to members for the next 2-5 years.

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

There were no matters of Mutual Concern expressed. There being no further business, **F. G. Wiygul made a motion that the April 2019 Board meeting be held at the Tupelo Headquarters.** Don Knight seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

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Pat Carr, President

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer