

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD JANUARY 13, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2024

Jim Gray(P)
Steve Holland
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(P)
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
 Michael Dickinson, Fiber Construction/Operations
 Brian Wood, Manager of Fiber Operations
 Jeff Godfrey, Tupelo Electric Operations Manager
 Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager
 Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services

F.G. Wiygul called the meeting to order and called on Danny Riley to open the meeting with prayer.

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

Mr. Hendrix proceeded with his attorney report. Mr. Hendrix gave information pertaining to lawsuit filed against Tombigbee EPA. This lawsuit involved a Tombigbee truck and another vehicle. The accident happened three years ago.

Committee Reports:

Mr. Wiygul reported no committee reports this month.

Mr. Hendrix reported that the Electric Coops of MS ACRE Program presentation will be postponed until a later meeting.

Fiber Hiring Schedule Update Mr. Hendrix gave an update to the board on previous approved hiring for fiber employees. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of modifications to the timeline of hiring of these employees for this year.

Fiber Update:

Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services, gave an update of our broadband project. Mr. Fennell stated that there was a total of 7,240 fiber customers connected, an increase of 705, from last month. 556 members are waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 35%, 1,550 total number of miles constructed. Mr. Fennell also updated the board on the number of voice customers, 211 and revenue generated by both internet and voice customers.

Engineer Report:

Scott Hendrix gave Toby Mask report, Manager of Engineering, updated the board on the Fulton Primary Substation rebuild and the arrival of steel for the project. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of fiber hut installations at Shannon, Fairview and Nettleton. Mr. Hendrix also informed the board of the bid packets for North Shannon.

Youth Leadership Program Mitzi Hinds, Member Service Manager, was not able to attend board meeting, Scott Hendrix gave a report to the board of the youth leadership workshop that was held at Tombigbee's Tupelo office on January 12. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of the students at each school in Tombigbee's service area, which was chosen by ECM to represent TEPA in Jackson and Washington D.C. for 2022.

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 November 2021 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information where gross margins from electric sales are up more than 4% for the same period last year; net income for this month has decreased as compared to the same period last year; kilowatt-hours sales are approximately .40% more than the five months ending November 2021; and operating expenses are approximately 17% more than November of last year. Mr. Hagood further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

Call Center update and discussion: Scott Hendrix is currently reviewing contracts with a call center business and is working with them on details.

CEO Report: Scott Hendrix, gave a report to the board on the bid process and winning bids on used equipment. Mr. Hendrix informed the board and furnished them a copy of an article in Today in MS regarding 'Broadband changing the quality of life in Mississippi'. Mr. Hendrix presented a handout on the progress statewide of the CARES ACT Grant Program. Mr. Hendrix gave an update on equipment purchases and health insurance cost increases for 2022. He also informed the board of an employee resignation and an upcoming trip to ECM for a Legislative Meeting. Mr. Hendrix presented to the board a request for exercise equipment to be purchased for Tombigbee EPA to be placed in the upstairs portion of the warehouse. After a brief

discussion, Steve Holland made a motion to purchase equipment and Brenda Shumpert second the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

Matters of Mutual Concern:

John McFerrin made a motion to go into Executive Session and Malcolm second and a vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed and the board went into Executive Session. Lynn Turner made a motion to come out of executive session and Buddy Palmer seconded and a vote was taken, and a majority vote was observed and the board come out of executive session. John McFerrin made a motion to eliminate to portion of Tombigbee's Covid Policy that required an employee to be vaccinated to go on storm or emergency work off system. Buddy Palmer second the motion and a vote was duly taken and a majority vote was observed. T.J. Adams made a motion to adjourn and Don Knight seconded and a majority vote was observed and meeting adjourned.

Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

F.G. Wiygul-President