

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD OCTOBER 14, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2024

Jim Gray
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 (A)
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 Operations Manager
 Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering
 Mitzi Hinds, Member Service Director
 Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager

F.G. Wiygul called the meeting to order and called on Buddy Palmer to open the meeting with prayer.

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

Mr. Wiygul asked Mr. Hendrix to introduce new employees and longtime employees. Each employee told a little about themselves and their work experience, along with what crew and job duty, they each had at Tombigbee EPA.

Mr. Wiygul stated there was a need for an executive session. John McFerrin made a motion to go into executive session and Malcolm Wesson second the motion, a majority vote was observed, and the board went into an executive session.

After exiting Executive Session, Mr. Wiygul asked if an attorney report was needed, Mr. Hendrix said there was no report needed at this time.

Mr. Wiygul explained that at September 2021 board meeting that the board had not hired a CPA firm. Don Knight made a motion to rehire Franks, Franks, Wilemon, Hagood, CPA for this physical year. Lynn Turner second the motion and a vote were duly taken. A majority vote was observed.

Committee Reports:

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

Executive Committee: F.G. Wiygul, Chairman, reported that the executive committee had meet and recommends that the board, like in previous years, give a bonus of one week's pay for everyone and prorated for those employees working less than a year. Also, the committee recommends giving a cost-of-living adjustment beginning January 2022 of three (3) percent for all employees. Since this was a recommendation to the board, no motion is needed, and a vote was duly taken. A unanimous vote was observed.

SmartGrid Committee: Buddy Palmer, Chairman, gave a report of the meeting of the committee that was held the week prior. Mr. Palmer expressed a need for the Tombigbee Fiber, LLC board of directors meet immediately following the Tombigbee Electric Board Meeting. Mr. Palmer made a motion and John McFerrin second the motion for the Tombigbee Fiber LLC board meet following the TEPA board meeting. A vote was duly taken, and a unanimous vote of the board was observed.

Louisiana Storm Recovery Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager and Jeff Godfrey, Tupelo Operations Manager, gave an update to the board on the storm recovery of Hurricane Ida that hit Louisiana the month prior. Ken and Jeff updated the board of the equipment used and processes involved in the storm recovery.

Charging Station Scott Hendrix reported to the board of a TVA and MDEQ grant program to help with an installation an EV charging station. Mr. Hendrix gave details of each grant and information on where the charging station would be placed. Steve Holland made a motion to pursue the grants for the EV charging stations, and T.J. Adams second the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

Fiber Update:

Mr. Hendrix, CEO gave an update of our broadband project. Mr. Hendrix stated that there was a total of 5,452 fiber customers connected, an increase of 689, from last month. 489 members are waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 33%, 1,432 total number of miles constructed. Mr. Hendrix also updated the board on the number of voice customers, 115 and revenue generated by both internet and voice customers.

Engineer Report:

Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering, updated the board on the Fulton Primary Substation rebuild, the Kirkville lightning strike and subsequent testing of transformer to ensure all damage was repaired. Mr. Mask also update the board on a new mapping product being used in TEPA's engineering department.

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 August 2021 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information where gross margins from electric sales are up more than 3% 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 2.14% less than the two months ending August 2021; and operating expenses are approximately 20% more than August of last year. Mr. Hagood further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

Member Services: Mitzi Hinds, Manager of Member Services, updated the board on the TVA and CoBank grants that have been received, and plans of dispersal of those grants in the coming days.

CEO Report: Scott Hendrix, CEO, gave an update on the employee poll for its annual employee Christmas Party. Steve Holland made a motion that the Annual Christmas Party be held this year. Lynn Turner second the motion and a vote was duly taken and a majority vote was observed. Mr. Hendrix updated the board on director orientation for new board members, 5000th Fiber Customer presentation, covid impact to Tombigbee EPA and potential networking with other coops in the state.. Mr. Hendrix also updated the board on two meeting that had taken place since last board meeting. One meeting was with the North MS Home Builders Assn. meeting on Oct 7 to discuss the fiber build. Also, Mr. Hendrix, Brandon Presley, Tommy Lee Ivy, Billy Joe Holland and staff had a community meeting in Shannon to discuss timeline and various aspects of the fiber build in their area.

Matters of Mutual Concern:

Lynn Turner brought up a need to investigate improving call center function afterhours. This will be brought back up at a later date.

Steve Holland made a motion to adjourn the board meeting; Lynn Turner seconded, and the board meeting was adjourned.

Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

F.G. Wiygul-President