

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD JULY 9, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, July 9, 2020, at 5:00 p. m. The following directors were present:

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Lynn Turner	Jim Gray	Pat Carr (A)
	Steve Holland	John McFerrin
Chip Prestage	Don Knight	Buddy Palmer
Brenda Goff Shumpert	Andy Spradling	Malcolm Wesson
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.	Cecil Weeks	

(A)—Not present

(P)—Attended by phone

Also present were: Scott Hendrix, Attorney  
Jonathan Hagood, Auditor  
Mitzi Hinds, Member Services Director  
Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager  
Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager  
Toby Mask, Engineering Manger  
Matt Fennell, SmartGrid Staff Support  
William Long, General Manager

F. G. Wiygul, Jr. called the meeting to order and called on Don Knight to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Wiygul then opened the floor for consideration of the June 2020, Board Meeting Minutes. **Steve Holland made a motion that the June meeting minutes prepared and distributed be approved except that certain Director names be corrected in the introduction of the minutes.** Buddy Palmer seconded the motion for approval and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

Mr. Wiygul then inquired of the Board and Mr. Hendrix if there was a need for an Executive Session. None was identified.

Hearing none, Mr. Wiygul continued and recognized Attorney Scott Hendrix for a report. Mr. Hendrix continued and provided the Board with information concerning the status of several broadband documents that he is editing including documents required to fulfill the CoBank loan recently closed.

**Committee Reports:**

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

**Executive:** F. G. Wiygul, Jr., Chairman, presented to the entire Board a group of guidelines that would be used at the upcoming annual meeting on August 8. These guidelines were studied by the committee and will be used to remain in compliance with the CDC and the

office of the Governor to minimize and an effort to prevent COVID-19 virus transfer. The guidelines will be revised as need to comply with virus conditions closer to the time of the annual meeting.

**Nominating:** Jim Gray, Chairman, provided information to the board concerning director election details for this year's ballot as studied and prepared by the committee. Among other details, Mr. Gray reminded the Board that the open seat of Jimmy Gray would appear on the ballot as a special 2-year election along with the seat vacated by Mr. Guy Harris, due to his recent death. Other details concerning the ballot were presented and discussed.

**Finance and Loan:** Brenda Shumpert, Chairman, presented information to the Board concerning the first draw taken on the CoBank loan to support our fiber construction project. Mrs. Shumpert summarized the terms of the loan and answered other questions.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Lynn Turner, Chairman, provided information to the Board concerning the sale and final details of the remaining old office building site at 1906 South Gloster Street, Tupelo. This sale completes the sale of all TEPA property at that location.

**Public Relations and Bylaws:** Steve Holland, Chairman, presented information to the Board concerning changes recommended by the committee since the Salvation Army had recently closed the Itawamba County Army office. After thorough study, **Mr. Holland stated that the committee recommends that all funds collected from the TEPA members served from the Fulton Area Office be contributed to the new organization, Samaritan Market.** Requiring no second due to the committee recommendation, a majority vote was observed.

In a related matter, Scott Hendrix explained that CoBank has a program for matching funds contributed by members for benevolent purposes. Scott stated that he would continue by making contact with the appropriate CoBank representative for obtaining the funds. Information will be provided to the committee for how to distribute the funds once obtained.

### **Auditor's Report:**

Mr. Hagood provided Directors with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the eleven (11) months ending May 2020. Mr. Hagood explained various details and information provided by the report. Even though energy sales for the year remain slightly (approximately 2.7%) less than the same period last year, net income for the same period is approximately 42% higher than for the same period last year. Our total number of customers/members continue a positive growth.

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

Electric Cooperative activities:

- 1) Provided the Board with general information concerning the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 virus:
  - a) Our lobbies remain closed to the public for electric bill payment and activities associated with obtaining new service and other service order activities.
  - b) We anticipate that lobbies will remain closed through August. Continued closure will be based upon the amount of COVID cases for the service region that is occurring.
  - c) We continue to exercise distancing and frequent handwashing among workers.
  - d) We have not begun to wear masks inside the work place
  - e) At the proper time, details associated with conducting the Annual Meeting will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.
  - f) We have two (2) employees affected by the virus. One employee has tested positive and is observing the proper quarantine period.
- 2) Power supply activities are ongoing and underway at the following locations:
  - a) Fulton Primary—replacement of the 161 kv-46 kv transformers.
  - b) Fulton District—a conversion of the station from 46 kV to 161 kV supply. Circuit breakers will be changed from oil breaker to vacuum breaker, where not already changed.
  - c) North Shannon—an additional 161 kV transmission feed is planned and must meet TVA One Ownership Approval. Power Supply meetings are planned with TVA to discuss.
  - d) East Shannon—a new delivery point to be added to replace the present 46 kV supply.
  - e) Nettleton—a power supply meeting to be held to prove-in the conversion of the transmission supply.
- 3) Provided the Board with an update for selection of an IT staff person. An offer has been made to an applicant.

Broadband Subsidiary activities:

- 1) Contract crews now amount to approximately 186 persons working throughout the Phase 1 area.
- 2) Through June 30, we have 154 miles of strand installed and 157 miles of fiber installed. The construction goal continues to install at least 20 miles of strand and fiber per week.
- 3) We have light supply at the Fulton Office. Details and adjustments are being made to tune the system to achieve the 1 gigabit speed.
- 4) Connection at our wholesale supply point in the Dorsey community is complete. We expect to connect several sites “the friendlies” for testing purposes in the next two weeks.
- 5) All details concerning registration have been completed for the RDOF. Bidding is scheduled to begin in late October. The bidding process will last approximately a month.
- 6) We are working to support the Accelerated RDOF legislation that has been introduced in the House in Washington.

- 7) Provided the Board with information concerning the COVID-19 Grant Program in the MS legislature. We submitted a special project for to be added to our First Phase effort of an additional 222 miles of fiber passing more than 3500 members at a cost of approximately \$7.5 Million.
- 8) Gave the Board a brief overview of the joint project between TEPA and TEMC in Alabama to share fiber infrastructure for light source supplier.

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

There being no further business, **John McFerrin made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and that the August 2020 Board meeting be held at the Tupelo Headquarters.** Brenda Shumpert seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

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F. G. Wiygul, Jr., President

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer