

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD AUGUST 12, 2021

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. The following directors were present:

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Jim Gray	Pat Carr (A)	Lynn Turner
Steve Holland	John McFerrin	Mike Irwin
Don Knight	Buddy Palmer	Chip Prestage
Andy Spradling	Malcolm Wesson	Brenda Shumpert (A)
Cecil Weeks	T. J. Adams	F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

(A)—Not present  
(P)—Phone/Zoom

Also, present were

- Scott Hendrix, CEO
- Bryon Wilemon, Auditor
- Bruce Williams, Tupelo Office Manager
- Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services
- Michael Dickinson, Fiber Construction/Operations
- Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager
- Stevie Humble, Tupelo Operations Manager
- Brian Wood, Manager of Fiber Operations

F.G. Wiygul called the meeting to order and called on Malcolm Wesson to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Wiygul opened the floor for consideration of the July 2021 Board Meeting Minutes. **Chip Prestage made a motion that the July 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 said there was a need for executive session but would be held later in the meeting.

**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:

**Nominating Committee:** Chairman Jim Gray, asked if any board member had questions about the ballot process. Some discussion ensued about the drop off process at the audit firm.

Bruce Williams showed the board a sample ballot and informed the board that the ballots would be mailed on time.

**Personnel/Smart Grid Committee:** Buddy Palmer and F.G. Wiygul, Chairman, discussion on the hiring of a new fiber tech a few months earlier than planned. Scott Hendrix, CEO, discussed with the board the reason why a new fiber tech should be hired a little early. Steve Holland made a motion to hire a new fiber tech, and Chip Presage second that motion. After a brief discussion, a vote was 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 4,420 fiber customers connected, an increase of 584, from last month. 546 members are waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 35%, 1,273 total number of miles constructed, with some additional information given about the Cares Act. The board was also shown the winner of the video contest, along with the presentation of the prize given to the winner.

**Engineer Report:**

Scott Hendrix, CEO, gave an update to the board of the progress of the Saltillo Street Light project at the intersection of Highway 45 and Highway 145. Mr. Hendrix updated the board on a large industry that is interested internet service and phone, along with an update on a power contract with another industry.

**Auditor's Report:**

Mr. Wilemon provided the board with a copy of the TEPA Monthly Highlights Report, prepared by Franks, Franks, Wilemon and Hagood for the month ending June 2021 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information were gross margins from electric sales are up more than 8% 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 1.05% less than the twelve months ending June 2021; and operating expenses are approximately 9% more than June of last year. Mr. Wilemon further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

**CEO Report:**

Scott R. Hendrix, CEO, reported to the board of a request by ROW foremen to spray an additional amount of ROW this year. Mr. Hendrix reported that ECM would like to know if any board member wanted to cancel their trip to the annual meeting this year, to please let us know. Mr. Hendrix reported to the board on his recent trip to Fiber Connect in Nashville and contacts made at the conference.

Mr. Wiygul ask for a motion to go into Executive Session after Mr. Hendrix's managers' report. Lynn Turner made a motion to go into Executive Session and Buddy Palmer second that motion. A vote was taken, and a majority vote was observed, and the board entered Executive Session.

After exiting Executive Session, Mr. Wiygul presented to the board a Covid-19 policy. Tombigbee EPA employees will be given a \$200 incentive to become fully vaccinated (whether previously or after this policy is implemented) against Covid-19. Also, no Tombigbee EPA employee will be allowed to go on storm or emergency work off system unless they are vaccinated for Covid-19. Chip Prestage made a motion to accept the policy and T.J. Adams

second the motion. A vote was duly taken and vote of seven (7) for the motion and four (4) against was observed. The motion passed.

After the vote, discussion ensued on amending the policy for an exception for legitimate medical reasons. Mr. Turner made a motion to add an exception to the rule if the employee has a legitimate medical reason, condition or the employee has been advised by a medical professional against taking the vaccine. Mr. McFerrin second the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a unanimous vote was observed.

**Matters of Mutual Concern:**

No matters of mutual concern were observed.

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

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Don Knight, Secretary-Treasurer

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F.G. Wiygul-President