

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD DECEMBER 14, 2023.

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, December 14, 2023, 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 2025

Sammy Reed
John McFerrin
Buddy Palmer
Randy Letson
T. J. Adams

Class of 2026

Lynn Turner
Mike Irwin
Chip Prestage
Brenda Shumpert (A)
F. G. Wiygul, Jr.

(A)—Not present

(P)—Phone/Zoom

Also, present were Scott Hendrix, CEO
 Jonathan Hagood, Auditor
 Bruce Williams, CFO
 Michael Dickinson, Safety, Loss, and Prevention
 Jeff Godfrey, Tupelo Electric Operations Manager
 Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services
 Ken Brown, Fulton Branch Manager
 Toby Mask, Manager of Engineering
 Mitzi Hinds, Manager of Member Services
 April Hood, Manager of Member Services(in-training)
 Brian Wood, Manager of Fiber Operations
 Thomas Groome, Fiber Sales

Lynn Turner called the meeting to order and called on Randy Letson to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Turner opened the floor for consideration of the November 2023 Board Meeting Minutes. **Chip Prestage made a motion that the November 2023 meeting minutes prepared and distributed be approved.** Don Knight seconded the motion for approval and upon vote taken, a majority vote was observed.

Attorney Report: Mr. Hendrix reported that the board needed to ratify an agreement between Three Rivers Planning Development and Tombigbee EPA on the sharing of information. This comes as a recommendation of the Executive Committee and no motion is needed. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

Committee Reports:

Smart Grid/Purchasing Committee: Chairman Andy Spradling and T.J. Adams.

Mr. Hendrix presented the 2024 Fiber Equipment Budget to the board. After a brief discussion a motion by Steve Holland to approve the budget. T.J. Adams seconded the motion, and a vote was duly taken, a majority vote was observed.

Buddy Palmer made a motion for the board to go into executive session and Don Knight seconded the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed. The board entered into executive session.

Buddy Palmer made a motion for the board to exit the executive session and Don Knight seconded the motion, and a vote was duly taken. A majority vote was observed, and the board continued the board meeting.

A motion was made by John McFerrin that Scott Hendrix have the authority to negotiate the purchase of land for a new Shannon Substation. F.G. seconded the motion and a vote was duly taken. A unanimous vote of the board was observed.

Fiber Update:

Matt Fennell, Manager of Fiber Services, gave an update on our broadband project. Mr. Fennell stated that there was a total of 22,316 fiber customers connected, an increase of 346 from last month. There are 328 members waiting to be installed. The board was also updated on the following: take rate of 42%, and Mr. Fennell also updated the board on the number of voice customers 1,301 and revenue generated by both internet and voice customers. Mr. Fennell informed the board of events that Tombigbee EPA and Fiber participated in since the last board meeting. These include Christmas Parades at Pontotoc, Fulton and Tupelo and a celebration of our 22,000 customer of Tombigbee Fiber LLC.

Mr. Hendrix updated the progress of Smart Home and Smart Town since implementation. Mr. Hendrix presented a plan to implement Smart Biz and the benefits to our commercial customers. After a brief discussion, Chip Prestage made a motion to implement Smart Biz in our service area. F.G. Wiygul seconded the motion, and a vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

Engineer Report: Toby Mask had nothing new to report on this month.

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 October 2023 and explained various details of the report. Specific details and information where gross margins from electric sales are down 2% 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 down 1.33%, compared to the month ending October 2022; and operating expenses have increased 2% from this time last year. Mr. Hagood further presented financial statements relative to Tombigbee Fiber, LLC.

CEO Report:

Mr. Hendrix presented a letter from TVA in response to Tombigbee EPA board of directors' resolution pertaining to TVA's latest rate increase. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of employment opportunities in electric and fiber departments and its postings at WIN Job Center. Mr. Hendrix informed the board of equipment for sale that was posted this week on our website.

Matters of Mutual Concern:

Chip Prestage made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike Irwin seconded the motion. A vote was duly taken, and a majority vote was observed.

Buddy Palmer-Secretary

Lynn Turner-President