Unofficial Minutes until Board Approval
July 9, 2020

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TOMBIGBEE ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION HELD JUNE 11, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Tombigbee Electric Power Association met at the Tupelo Headquarters Office, Tupelo, MS, on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at 5:00 p. m. The following directors were present:

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Lynn Turner	Jim Gray (A)	Pat Carr (A)
	Steve Holland	John McFerrin
Chip Prestage	Don Knight	Buddy Palmer
Brenda Goff Shumpert	Andy Spradling	Malcolm Wesson
F. G. Wiygul, Jr. (P)	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
Stevie Humble, Tupelo Operations Manager
William Long, General Manager
Toby Mask, Engineering Manger
Matt Fennell, SmartGrid Staff Support

Buddy Palmer Wiygul called the meeting to order and called on Lynn Turner Palmer to open the meeting with prayer.

Mr. Palmer then opened the floor for consideration of the May 2020, Board Meeting Minutes. **Chip Prestage made a motion that the May meeting minutes be approved as prepared and provided to Directors for review.** John McFerrin seconded the motion for approval and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

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

Hearing none, Mr. Palmer continued and recognized Attorney Scott Hendrix for a report. Mr. Hendrix continued and provided the Board with information concerning the status of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Mr. Hendrix provided general information about the already completed loan filing details. He further stated that the loan has already been approved

and the funds have been received and placed in a separate account to facilitate verification of use of the funds and other purposes.

Committee Reports:

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

SmartGrid: Buddy Palmer, Chairman, called upon Malcolm Wesson, committee member, to report the results of the committee meeting held just prior to the Board meeting. Mr. Wesson stated that he had two (2) matters to present to the board for action:

First, Mr. Wesson summarized information discussed in the SmartGrid Committee meeting held just prior to the Board meeting. The topic for consideration by the committee was the methods and details for payment and collection of member monthly broadband payments. The committee heard a second presentation by the staff to the committee due to the complexity of details contained in broadband collection methods. After a lengthy discussion of many details, **Mr. Wesson presented the recommendation of the committee is that the methods and procedures developed by the staff be utilized, as presented to the committee, except that the procedure and method for member payment of broadband bill shall include payment of broadband bill to a teller/cashier utilizing a teller window.** More discussion ensued among directors along with staff answers pertaining to processes and procedures. After all discussion was complete, and upon a vote taken, a majority vote was observed.

Secondly, Mr. Wesson called upon the staff to present information concerning the next topic—which is, what areas of the Tombigbee service territory will be included in Phase 2 of the SmartGrid construction. Mr. Wesson called upon Toby Mask who presented the proposal by the staff for the second phase. After the staff presentation and Director questions were answered, **Don Knight made a motion that the areas recommended by the staff be approved for Phase 2 of the SmartGrid system.** Andy Spradling seconded the motion and upon vote taken a majority vote was observed.

Finance and Loan: Brenda Shumpert, Chairman, called on General Manger Long to provide an update for the SmartGrid loan process with CoBank. Long reported that all loan processes have been completed for the purpose of completing draws for funds when we need them. CoBank will be provided the necessary paperwork and procedure for making the funds draws at our request. A brief statement of interest rates for fixed and variable funds was provided to the Board for their information.

Buildings and Grounds: Lynn Turner, Chairman, called on General Manager Long to give a report for the sale of the last property holdings at the old office building at 1906 South Gloster Street, Tupelo. Long stated that all details of the sale have been agreed upon and the sale and closing is scheduled to occur June 19.

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 ten (10) months ending April 2020. Mr. Hagood explained various details and information provided by the report. Even though energy sales are slightly (approximately 2%) less than the same period last year, net income for the same period is approximately 11% 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 July.
   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.

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) The TVA Community Care Fund funds have been received and presented to the Salvation Army. The Public Relations and Bylaws Committee will be reviewing the TEPA Round-up funds collected and any new methods of distributing the member contributions.

4) Provided the Board with an update for selection of an IT staff person

5) Provided general information concerning an industrial part company request to utilize a portion of TEPA present transmission line right of way. Further study is required.

Broadband Subsidiary activities:

1) Contract crews now amount to approximately 150 persons working throughout the Phase 1 area.

2) Through June 9, we have 101 miles of strand installed and 94 miles of fiber installed. The construction goal is to install 20 miles of strand and fiber per week.

3) Connection at our wholesale supply point in the Dorsey community is expected to occur in the next week or so. We expect to connect several sites for testing purposes in the next two weeks. The testing itself will last about 2-3 weeks. Due to COVID-19 and weather factors, our fiber project is still behind schedule but efforts are being made to get the project back on schedule.

Matters of Mutual Concern:

Director Prestage raised a question about reconnection of members served by the Fulton Branch after hours, which is generally the result of non-payment of electric bills and the disconnect policy being applied. The concern raised was one of safety to the TEPA worker associated with collecting money after regular business hours. During the discussion, it was pointed out that one of the uses of the kiosk machines previously installed was to alleviate that problem by requiring the member to pay all reconnection fees at the kiosk machines. Further study will be made of this issue and reported back to the Board.

There being no further business, **Steve Holland made a motion that the meeting be adjourned and that the July 2020 Board meeting be held at the Tupelo Headquarters.** Don Knight 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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Buddy Palmer, Vice-president