

**BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

September 8, 2020

The Board of Directors of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation (BRMEMC) met in Regular Session on September 8, 2020. Board Chairman Ray Cook called the meeting to order at 6:11PM.

The invocation was led by Director Cook, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Director Ledford.

The following Directors were present as noted by Board Secretary Perren and were in attendance during the Board Meeting:

Ray Cook, President/Chair  
Danny Henson, Director  
Jack Lance, Director  
Jeff Ledford, Director  
Gene Mason, Director  
Cory Payne, Director  
Roy Perren, Director  
Bert Rogers, Director  
Gayland Trull, Director

The following Staff were recognized by the Chair and were present during Regular Session:  
Erik Brinke, Interim General Manager  
Jeremy Nelms, General Manager  
Charles Autry, Board Attorney

The following Staff were recognized by the Chair and were present during Regular Session via Zoom:  
Amanda Holdaway, Director of Finance and Acct.  
Daniel Frizzell, Director of Engineering  
Sonny Mahan, Director of Member Services  
Kelly Crawford, Manager of Communications

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the meeting agenda for September 8, 2020 was considered. A motion to approve the agenda was approved by unanimous vote upon motion by Director Lance, seconded by Director Perren.

Upon request of Chairman Cook, the minutes of the Board Meeting of August 11, 2020 were considered. A motion to approve the minutes was approved by unanimous vote upon motion by Director Rogers, seconded by Director Ledford.

Board Chair Cook asked for any declarations of conflicts of interest by the Directors and none were found.

Special Presentation by Woody Trimble of Jackson Thornton presented the FY2020 Financial Audit. BRMEMC had a clean audit with no findings.

Director Payne presented the Finance Committee Report of the committee meeting of September 8, 2020, at 5:00 PM, to the Board, which was noted by the Chair as received and to be filed with the minutes of the meeting for subsequent audit.

Director Rogers presented the Policy and Public Relations Committee Report of the committee meeting of September 8, 2020. No policy changes were presented to the full board.

Staff Reports were presented in the board packet as available for review by members of the Board.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the Financial Report.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented Outage Summary Report.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the construction report.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the safety report.

Daniel Frizzell, Director of Engineering presented the engineering report.

Sonny Mahan, Director of Member Services presented the member services report.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the contact summary.

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the economic development report.

Member Comments:

None

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Voting Delegates to NRECA Region 2. Director Perren made a motion to approve Erik Brinke as our voting delegate. The motion was seconded by Director Ledford. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Voting delegate to Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Director Payne made a motion to approve Erik Brinke as our voting delegate and Danny Henson as alternate. The motion was seconded by Director Ledford. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

2021 Health Insurance Renewal. NRECA will not be issuing a rate increase this year. Director Payne made a motion to approve NRECA Health Insurance for 2021. Director Henson seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

NGN Member Representative Appointment. Director Henson made a motion that Erik Brinke be named as member representative with Daniel Frizzell as alternate member representative. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board

Director Perren made a motion to nominate Daniel Frizzell to the NGN Board to replace Jeremy Nelms. The motion was seconded by Director Henson. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board

NGNC NOAA Acknowledgement (Asset Transfer) Director Perren made a motion to authorize Erik Brinke to sign and file the Department of Commerce letter regarding the transfer of grant assets from NGN and to negotiate and sign the MOU. Attorney Autry will outline steps to be taken before the actual transfer of assets. The motion was seconded by Director Rogers. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Hanging Dog Substation TVA Delivery Point Agreement: Director Henson made a motion to approve the agreement. The motion was seconded by Director Perren. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board

Fiber Splicing Trailer Replacement. This critical piece of equipment was replaced. The cost is below the \$50,000 threshold required for board approval. This item was not included in the budget. This was brought to the board for informational purposes.

Merchant Services/Payment Processing Study Report is brought to the board for information purposes. This will be brought to the board for action at the October meeting

TVA Pandemic Credit. BRMEMC will be receiving a Pandemic Relief Credit from TVA for twelve months beginning in October 2020. We are requesting the credit be applied to the power cost retail rate. Director Rogers made a motion to pass this credit on to the membership. Director Lance seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was approved by unanimous vote of the board.

Director Report

Director Cook discussed public comments on the term limit proposal.

Director Payne discussed the ongoing situation with the phone system.

Manager Report:

Interim General Manager Brinke presented the Manager's Report

TVA Approves Pandemic Relief Credit

The TVA Board, at their August 27, 2020 meeting, approved a \$200MM Pandemic Relief Credit as well as additional community support. TVA's Community Care fund, which matches TVA

financial contributions with contributions from local power companies, in support of critical community needs, was provided an additional \$2MM in funding. A Back-to-Business credit program reserved for TVA's largest consumers was also re-funded. Finally, TVA rolled out a Pandemic Relief Credit for the coming fiscal year (October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021), which will result in a 2.5% base rate credit for each month during the fiscal year. The total estimate savings passed through to BRMEMC is expected to be around \$1.1MM, based on TVA's initial calculations, but because these credits will be issued on future usage, it is impossible to project the exact amount of the credit. The Board and Staff will need to evaluate the preferred strategy on how we might utilize the credit since the credit will begin October 1.

#### Call Center Near-Record Activity in August

During the month of August, BRMEMC experienced a high volume of new memberships added, and extremely high volume of calls and walk-in's. For July and August combined BRMEMC had:

New Memberships 1,027

Memberships Cancelled 628

Net Memberships Added or (Reduced) 399

Walk-In's 1,231

Transfers 985

Calls Offered 23,792

Daily Average Calls Offered July = 521 / Aug = 587

#### Update on Cost Allocation Manual

Staff has been working closely with McNair, McLemore, and Middlebrooks to make appropriate edits to the Cost-Allocation Manual, and is on track to submit it (required to be approved by the GA PSC by the end of 2020) to the GAPSC by the end of the 3rd quarter, along with Habersham EMC. A final draft was sent last week to MMM, and we are awaiting final word on completion of the document.

#### Update on Fannin Broadband

Staff is adding the Aska Road project to the Neighborhood Networking program, and is in the final stages of preparing the information necessary to enable inclusion (including mapping relative to our "soon to be released" new website). As was discussed at last month's meeting, we have broken the project up into phases, and plan to proceed with the Neighborhood Networking Program once all information is prepared.

EMC Annual Meetings around the state. A map was displayed showing how Georgia EMC's are holding annual meetings due to the pandemic. Sawnee EMC has announced they will postpone their Annual Meeting until next October (2021), due to COVID safety concerns. Carroll and Rayle EMC's have decided not to hold an in-person Annual Meeting this year due to similar concerns. All will still offer voting options. North Georgia EMC held a virtual Annual Meeting, and Cobb and Greystone EMC's plan to do the same. Amicalola, Walton, Central Georgia, and Hart EMC's held or will hold Drive-thru Annual Meetings. Habersham EMC held a scaled-down Annual Meeting with a "business session only" format combined with social distancing. Jackson EMC will hold an alternative Annual meeting with open voting for three days at each of its

offices for both candidates and approval of the Annual Meeting Minutes from 2019 with all reports and presentations posted online.

#### BRMEMC Free Wi-Fi Sites

Management has conducted a review of free wi-fi sites that BRMEMC made available to students, which includes utilization reporting. We also discussed the need for additional sites across the region. With the limited utilization we are seeing at each of the free, open wi-fi sites, we have determined that additional sites are unlikely, although we will consider suggestions on additional locations. A reminder was sent out reminding the public about these free available sites via social media, which generated some positive comments, but no additional traffic.

#### Annual Meeting Preparation

Management met Friday, September 4, with Survey & Ballot Systems to discuss the logistics for voting at the Annual Meeting. We had a lengthy discussion about how and when the ballots will be gathered, and then how they will be processed once the onsite SBS employee receives the ballots. Counting of ballots should take no longer than one hour in total, but the goal will be to complete the count processing within 20 minutes. Ryan will be running the results from their computer network in their office. Dick Berg will have all mailed-in ballots with him, and will arrive about 2:30 pm in advance of the 3 pm C&E Committee members' arrival. Wireless internet access will need to be available to Mr. Berg while onsite.

#### Auditorium Floor Completed

The Auditorium floor has a new "polished concrete" finish, It looks good and most importantly it is "breathing" properly, which means we are not having any issues with moisture. I want to especially thank the Facilities Maintenance group for their diligent work coordinating the work, prepping the area, and returning the room back to its original state so that it can be used again.

We have sent Mutual Aid Crews to Louisiana to assist the restoration of power after the recent hurricane.

#### Carly Hopkins Magistrate Court Case

The case is closed and the EMC was found not responsible for damages.

#### Other Business:

None

The board adjourned at 8:31 before going into Executive Session

They came out of Executive Session. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:37PM

Respectfully submitted, this, the 7th day of October 2020.

Roy Perren,  
Secretary of the Board of Directors, BRMEMC

ATTEST: The undersigned EMC officers attest that the foregoing minutes of the Board Meeting on the 8th day of September, 2020, were approved in Regular Session of the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC Board of Directors' meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of October 2020.



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Ray Cook, Board Chairman



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Roy Perren, Secretary

# FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2020

The Finance Committee of Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation met, at 5 P.M. on September 8, 2020, for the regular meeting. Committee Chairman Cory Payne called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Cory Payne  
Jeff Ledford

Roy Perren  
Gayland Trull

Also attending: Jeremy Nelms, General Manager, Amanda Holdaway, Director of Finance & Accounting

The following reports were reviewed by the Committee:

- (a) **Operating Statement** for July 2020, giving a net loss of \$24,380.28.
- (b) **Cash Report – Source & Application of Funds—July 2020.**
- (c) **Cash Position** as of September 1, 2020.
- (d) **Disbursements-July, 2020**
- (e) **ACH Payment Report-July, 2020**

A motion was made by Jeff Ledford, seconded by Gayland Trull, to accept the reviewed reports. Also reviewed were the following reports:

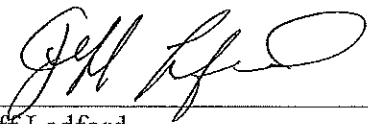
- (f) **Memberships Issued and Cancelled – August, 2020**
- (g) **Payment Contracts – Sena M Whitlow, 1025 Quail Cove Circle, Warne, NC, \$500.00 for Fiber construction**
- (h) **Aged Trial Balance – August, 2020**
- (i) **Accounts Written Off – None-due to suspension of disconnects for COVID-19 pandemic**
- (j) **Bankruptcy Report-July 2020 in the amount of \$102.73**
- (k) **Directors-Account Status**

A motion was made by Jeff Ledford, seconded by Gayland Trull, to accept the reviewed reports.

The Finance Committee reviewed the General Manager's expense report.

We, the Members of the Finance Committee, do hereby recommend acceptance of the Finance Committee Minutes, the reports and actions contained therein as action by the Board.

  
Cory Payne, Chairman

  
Jeff Ledford

  
Roy Perren

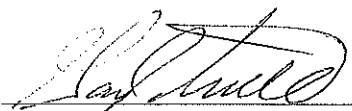
  
Gayland Trull

EXHIBIT "A"